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Rs 3.00

SHEER WASTAGE OF PUBLIC MONEY

Rs 17.39 lakh new Gym building under MPLAD left abandoned

ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, NOV 28/--/ The newly constructed Gymnastic building located at Middle Point, Link Road at Ward No-6 constructed under the MPLAD Fund in July 2020 is left abandoned, to be relegated to the soil. The foundation stone of the Gym building was laid by the former Member of Parliament, Mr. B.P.Ray on 17th January 2019, in presence of former Deputy Commissioner (SA) and former Secretary, PBMC. According to sources, the former Ward

Councillor, Smt Protima Benarjee approached the former Member of Parliament requesting him to sanction funds for the Gym building so that youth of the city, especially youth of Ward No-6 can use the Gym facilities for regular exercise and stay fit. However, even after the completion of the Gym, the facility has not been thrown open for the use of the youth.

Completed in July 2020, the Gym building was constructed at a cost of Rs 17.39 lakh, has been laying locked for the past three years.



Ex-CS judicial custody extended by 14 days

PORT BLAIR, NOV 28/--/ The Judicial custody of former Chief Secretary, Mr. Jitendra Narain has been extended by 14 days.

Check leakages in LPG Cylinders: GK Indane Service urges consumers

PORT BLAIR, NOV 28/--/ GK Indane Service, Junglighi, Port Blair has requested its LPG customers that before purchasing an LPG refill, the consumers need to check any leakage and only after stratification that there is no linkage and the weight of the LPG Cylinder is proper, they should take the Cylinder. The trucks carrying LPG Cylinders of GK India have all equipment available for checking the cylinders.

MP sanctions Computers, Photo-Copiers & PA systems for various Schools of Middle Andaman

PORT BLAIR, NOV 28/--/ The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma during his recent visit to Swaraj Dweep, Rangat and Long Island has visited a number of schools of the region and interacted with students and teachers to understand their problems and the standard of education.

During the visit, Mr. Sharma observed that supply of certain electronic equipment and computer systems are required in various schools, which can help in running schools in a better way and also help

students of remote areas to get easy access to basic computer education. The Member of Parliament during his visit sanctioned purchase and supply of one Digital Photocopier machine for Government Primary School Sabari Rangat at the cost of Rs.85,000. Four Computer System and one Digital Photocopier Machine for Government Primary School Rangat at the cost of Rs two lakhs), Three Computer Systems and one Public Address System for the Government Senior Secondary School, Long Island at the cost of Rs one



lakh fifty thousand and five Computer Systems for GSSS Sabari, Rangat at the cost of Rs. one lakh fifty thousand from MPLADS fund.

Disha bags first position in folk song at Kala Utsav



BAKULTALA, NOV 28/--/ Disha Mondal, D/o Mr. Ashim Mondal, R/o Bakultala, studying in Govt. Senior Secondary School, Rangat has secured first position in the folk song category in the State level Kala Utsav-2022. The State level Kala Utsav has

been organized by the UT Mission Authority State Project Office Samagra Shiksha, A&N Islands held on November 24, 2022.

Disha Mondal has also been selected for performing in the National level Kala Utsav programme.

Unset over failed love, 30 yrs old man ends life

ARSHAD SYED

PORT BLAIR, NOV 28/--/ A 30-year-old man allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in a private building at Aberdeen Bazaar. As per reports, the dead body of 30 years old Jagdiswar Rao, R/o Garacharma was found hanging in the office building of Mallick Consultancy, Aberdeen Bazaar. Though the A&N Police have started the investigation on the matter, sources informed that failure in love is reported to be the reason for this young man taking the extreme step. The body was sent for the postmortem for further investigation.



In Today's Paper...

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Both leaders assets to Cong, says Rahul amid tussle between Gehlot and Pilot



INDORE, NOV 28 /--/ Amid the power tussle between Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Monday said both the leaders are assets to the party.

Addressing a press conference near Indore, Gandhi, the Lok Sabha member from Wayanad in Kerala, also said the decision to contest again from Amethi would be taken after one or one-and-a-half years. "At present, my focus is on the Bharat Jodo Yatra," Rahul said. Union minister Smriti Irani had defeated Rahul Gandhi in his family's bastion Amethi in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. To a query on different statements being given by Rajasthan leaders Gehlot and Pilot amid their power tussle, he said, "It will not affect the yatra and both the leaders are assets to the Congress party."

Gehlot on Thursday told NDTV that Pilot is a 'gaddar' (traitor) who cannot replace him as he had revolted against Congress in 2020 and tried to topple the state government, drawing a sharp response from his former deputy who said such "mud-slinging" would not help. Some reporters also asked Rahul whether he would like to contest again from Amethi if given an opportunity, as the road to power in Delhi goes via Uttar Pradesh and Prime Minister Narendra Modi also contested from Varanasi in UP. To this, Rahul said: "I don't want to give any headline to the media as at present my focus is on the Bharat Jodo Yatra." "See, once again these are all attempts to distract from the main idea. You want newspapers to say tomorrow whether I will contest from Amethi or not," the former Congress president said. "I want the newspapers to write about the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the ideas and philosophy behind the yatra," he said. "The answer to your question will come may be in a year or year-and-a-half," he said. To a query on plans for solving the unemployment problem in the country, Rahul said the main problem at present is that the entire wealth of the nation is confined in the hands of three-four industrialists.

The Congress will focus on creating small scale enterprises to generate more employment opportunities in the country, he said. "I want the government to participate in education and health care and pump in more money in these sectors," Rahul said. The government should sense the voice of the people, he added. The Congress leader also said his ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra, a mass contact initiative, was raising the voice of the nation. He claimed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) were not hearing the voice of the public and running the country by their "rigid structure". (PTI)

Mehrauli killing: Police recover weapon used by Aaftab to cut live-in partner's body

NEW DELHI, NOV 28 /--/ The Delhi Police has recovered the weapon allegedly used by Aaftab Amin Poonawala to cut the body of his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar, sources said on Monday. Police have also recovered a ring that belonged to 27-year-old Walkar, which Poonawala allegedly gave to another woman, they said. "The weapon used to cut Shraddha Walkar's body has been recovered by police," a source said. The remaining sessions of Poonawala's polygraph test are underway at the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Rohini, the sources said, adding that he arrived at the lab at 9:50 am and the sessions began around 11 am. Poonawala allegedly strangled Walkar, and cut her body into 35 pieces, which he kept in a 300-litre fridge for almost three weeks at his residence in Mehrauli in south Delhi, before dumping them across the city over several days. Poonawala was arrested on November 12 and sent to five-day police custody, which was further extended by five days on November 17. On November 22, he was sent to four more days of police custody. On November 26, the court sent him to judicial custody for 13 days. Police are yet to find Walkar's skull and some other body parts. (PTI)

Will ask Kerala HC to consider afresh anticipatory bail pleas in ISRO espionage case: SC

NEW DELHI, NOV 28 /--/ The Supreme Court said on Monday it will ask the Kerala High Court to consider afresh the anticipatory bail pleas of four people, including a former Director General of Police (DGP), in a case of alleged frame-up of scientist Nambi Narayanan in the 1994 ISRO espionage matter.

It was hearing the CBI's appeal against the high court order granting bail to former Gujarat DGP R B Sreekumar, two former police officers of Kerala -- S Vijayan and Thampi S Durga Dutt, and a retired intelligence official P S Jayaprakash. "What we propose is this... We will say High Court to consider the anticipatory bail applications afresh without in any way being influenced by any observations," said a bench headed by Justice MR Shah. Sreekumar was then the Deputy Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB). The bench, also comprising Justice CT Ravikumar, added it will, in the meantime, continue the protection from arrest granted to them. The apex court observed the High Court, in the order under challenge, committed certain errors including not considering and dealing with the individual allegations made by the accused.

"Two things High Court has committed wrong. The observation by the DK Jain

Gujarat polls: Cong counts on localised campaign, 'disappointment' with state govt amid AAP factor

DHORAJI/TANKARA, NOV 28 /--/ Sitting among party workers and supporters at his office, Lalit Vasoya, Congress MLA from Dhoraji, sounds unconcerned about the BJP's star-studded campaign compared to his party's low-key canvassing and expresses confidence of another win on the back of his constituency outreach and people's "anger" with the state government.

Star campaigners are a "waste" of time and the mainstream media is often "pro-BJP", Vasoya shrugs off queries about his party's visibly subdued campaign and says he has instead relied on visiting nearly all the 80 villages and three municipalities of his constituency besides using social media to reach out to his voters. Come December 8, and the Congress will again do well in Saurashtra region, he says. In Tankara, another constituency in the region won by the Congress last time, party workers say their MLA Lalit Kagathara is the biggest "star" in the constituency due to his work and accessibility to constituents. Party supporters Anil Bavaliya and Sikandar say the price of edible oil has more than doubled in recent years and a cooking gas cylinder is costing over Rs 1,100 and add that these are the real issues for people who will again vote for the Congress.

However, there is an acknowledgment about the presence of Aam Aadmi Party which has been able to create a buzz with its high-decibel campaign while a section of voters believe that the Congress has been unable to mount a strong enough challenge against the BJP and Arvind Kejriwal's party deserves a look-in. In

Tankara, BJP's candidate Durlabhji Dethariya, AAP's Sanjay Bhatasna and the Congress nominee are all from the Patidar community. Which way the AAP's vote will impact the poll outcome is anybody's guess but there is a view that across the region it may impact the Congress more than the ruling party which has a committed vote base underpinned by its ideological vigour. Riding on the Patidars' agitation against the BJP, the Congress had won 28 out of 48 seats in the region in 2017. The ruling party has since worked to bolster its strength by wooing over a number of local heavyweights from the Congress.

That the Patidar agitation has fizzled out with many of its key figures, including Hardik Patel, now in the BJP has given the party hope that it can leave its rival far behind in the largely rural region where its poor show had given it a scare last time. Local Congress leaders believe, a view shared by the BJP as well, that their party remains the foremost challenger to the incumbent and will also be helped by farmers' "woes" under the government. The Congress candidates are mostly seasoned organisational leaders who have been able to withstand the BJP's blitzkrieg, they say. "There may be no agitation like the (Patidar) quota stir seen last time but people's disappointment with the state government has deepened. I can't see the BJP doing any better than last time," the Dhoraji MLA says.

Saurashtra will go to the polls in the first phase on December 1 along with Kutch and south Gujarat. The second phase is scheduled for December 5 while the counting of votes is due on December 8. (PTI)



A rickshaw puller makes his way on a highway amidst fog on a cold morning in Amritsar

Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute: Coordinating ministers to visit Belgaum on Dec 3, hold talks

MUMBAI, NOV 28 /--/ Maharashtra ministers Chandrakant Patil and Shambhuraj Desai will meet activists of the Madhyavarti Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti in Belgaum on December 3 and hold talks with them on the decades-old border dispute with Karnataka.

Patil and Desai have been appointed as the coordinating ministers for the border row with a mandate to coordinate with the legal team regarding the court case on the border dispute between the two states. Taking to Twitter, Patil said there was a demand from the Madhyavarti Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti to hold discussions on the border issue. "Accordingly, coordinating minister Shamburaj Desai and I will visit Belgaum on December 3 and hold discussions. Let's meet up. Discussions surely will lead to a way," the minister tweeted with a letter

from the Samiti seeking a meeting with him and Desai. As per a recent government resolution, the ministers will be responsible for coordination with the Samiti that roots for merging of the Marathi-speaking areas in Karnataka with the state. Patil and Desai will also look into the problems faced by residents of 865 villages in Karnataka over which the Maharashtra government has staked its claim in this decades old issue, the resolution said.

Patil is a senior state BJP leader, while Desai is a member of the Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena faction of the Shiv Sena. Both hail from western Maharashtra. Maharashtra, since its inception in 1960, has been entangled in a dispute with Karnataka over the status of Belgaum (also called Belagavi) district and 80 other Marathi speaking villages, which are in the control of the southern state. (PTI)

PM targets Cong, says it needs to shun 'divide and rule' strategy to win back Gujarat's trust

AHMEDABAD, NOV 28 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday again targeted the Congress over the participation of Narmada Bachao Andolan activist Medha Patkar in the Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi, and said the opposition party must shun its "divide and rule" strategy to win back the trust of the people of Gujarat.

Addressing a poll rally in Palitana town of Bhavnagar district in support of the Bharatiya Janata Party candidates, Modi said the people of Gujarat have rejected the Congress because the state had suffered a lot due to the party's policy of inciting people of one region or community against another. The people of Gujarat are not ready to help those who support "elements wanting to break India", he said. Modi, during his previous campaign rallies in Gujarat, had also targeted Rahul Gandhi for walking with Medha Patkar during the Bharat Jodo Yatra. Elections for the 182-member Gujarat Assembly are scheduled on December 1 and 5 and the counting of votes will be taken up on December 8. On Monday, Modi accused the Congress of trying to disrupt the reach of the Narmada water to the parched region of



Saurashtra. Modi said the people of Gujarat will never forgive those who were walking with a person who was responsible for stalling the Sardar Sarovar dam project for 40 years. Further targeting the Opposition party, the Prime Minister said: "The Congress's ideology is to divide and rule. Before Gujarat became a separate state, it (Congress) made Gujaratis and Marathis fight against each other. Later, the Congress incited people of different castes and communities to fight against each other. Gujarat suffered a lot because of such sins of the Congress."

The smart people of Gujarat understood this strategy of the Congress and came together to show the door to such "divisive forces", Modi said. The situation changed after the BJP came to power, he said, adding Gujarat has been on the path of development for the last 20 years. "The Congress is losing because the people of Gujarat have shown unity. The Congress must shun casteism, communalism, vote bank politics and divide and rule (ideology) to win back the trust of people of Gujarat, because they are not at all ready to help those who support elements wanting to break India," the Prime Minister said. (PTI)

Kerala govt terms mob attack on PS as unacceptable; church seeks judicial probe

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/ KOZHIKODE, NOV 28 /--/ The attack on a police station in Vizhinjam area by a large mob, allegedly of those protesting against the Adani port construction, was termed as "unacceptable" by the Left government on Monday, while the Latin Catholic church claimed "outside forces" were behind it and sought a judicial probe into it.

The ruling CPM said the recent incidents of violence in the coastal area were reprehensible and claimed that some "mysterious forces" with vested interests were trying to create a riot-like situation there. "In the name of protests, some were resorting to violence to create a conflict in the coastal areas and the state government should take strict action against the same," the CPM state secretariat said in a release. The Congress-led UDF Opposition, on the other hand, blamed the government for "deliberately provoking" the protesters to take up violence by lodging an FIR against at least 15 Latin Catholic priests, including metropolitan Archbishop Thomas J Netto and Vicar General Eugene Pereira, over the violence at Vizhinjam on Saturday.

and directly hold discussions with the protesting fisherfolk to convince them to end the agitation. Earlier in the day, Kerala minister of ports Ahammed Devarkovil said the government has been "very patient" till now in relation to the protests, but if the agitation attains a "criminal nature" -- where police personnel are attacked and injured and police property is destroyed -- that was "unacceptable."

"Especially in a secular state like Kerala, we will not allow any kind of communal conflict," the minister said and claimed that the mob attacked houses and establishments of those not belonging to their community. "We will go to any extent to ensure communal harmony in the state," the minister said while speaking to reporters in Kozhikode. On being told that the Latin Catholic church, which is leading the protest against the port construction, has claimed that external forces were in play and were the reasons for the violence during the last two days, Devarkovil said the government has received several reports and the same were being investigated.

Vicar General Pereira, who has been seen at the forefront of the protests, claimed "outside forces" were behind the port-related violence in the last two days and said there should be a judicial probe into the incidents. At the same time, he also said the attack on the police station, injuries caused to the police personnel and the damage to property were not justifiable.

State finance minister K N Balagopal said these unfortunate incidents of violence were happening when the project, an

important one for the state, was at the finishing point and hoped that the matter can be resolved amicably. Devarkovil too said that the project, which cost around Rs 7,500 crore, was important for the overall development of the state and therefore, its work cannot be stopped -- which is one of the seven demands of the anti-port protesters. He said five demands have been accepted and besides the stopping of the port construction, the only other demand that remained was providing kerosene at subsidised rates to fisherfolk.

The minister said kerosene was provided by the Centre and therefore, it was not up to the state to provide it at subsidised rates. He also said that when the protesters were not abiding by repeated orders of the high court not to obstruct construction work or movement of materials for the project, it makes no sense for them to seek a judicial enquiry into the violence. "So if there is an action, there will be a reaction," he said, but added that till date the government has not tried to suppress the protest by force in view of its public nature and presence of women and children at its forefront. "However, we will have to implement court orders," Devarkovil further said.

Satheesan said that while the Congress and UDF Opposition led by it would never encourage the violence that occurred in Vizhinjam on Sunday, it had given several warnings to the state government that if they do not resolve the issue, the situation could turn dangerous. He also alleged that the CPM and the BJP were working together to derail the protest. (PTI)

Raj Bhavan denies reports of Maharashtra Govt considering quitting amid row over Chhatrapati Shivaji remarks

MUMBAI, NOV 28 /--/ The Raj Bhavan on Monday termed "baseless" the reports of Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari considering quitting amid the mounting pressure for his removal over controversial remarks made by him against Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

The chorus for Koshyari's removal has become louder with Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP, and Congress raising the pitch. "The reports of the governor considering resignation are baseless," Raj Bhavan sources told news agency PTI. Reacting to it, former Maharashtra minister Aaditya Thackeray slammed the State for not speaking against the Governor's remarks. "Constantly insulting the State, its revered

icons, social reformers & being blatantly political is a feather in the cap of the current Governor in his establishment, like none in the past of his rank. Disgraceful that he hasn't been removed as yet and govt doesn't speak on it!" Thackeray tweeted. Earlier this month, Koshyari stoked a controversy by saying Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was an icon of "olden days", a remark which was dubbed an "insult" to the 17th Century king and the state by the Opposition. "Earlier, when you would be asked who your icon is Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi used to be the answers. In Maharashtra, you need not look elsewhere (as) there are so many icons here. (PTI)



committee (pertaining to the role of erring police officials in the 1994 espionage case) has not been considered at all. Individual allegations of each accused has not been dealt with and considered at all," the court said. "We will pass order accordingly. We will ask the High Court to decide. We are continuing the protection. Let the High Court consider everything afresh," stated the court. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for CBI, argued the case was serious and did not concern a "private offence" but an "offence against the nation", and the High Court could not have granted anticipatory bail to the accused. Raju said the CBI probe was initiated pursuant to the directions of the apex court to find

out whether foreign powers were involved.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal appeared for the then IB official and defended the high court order, saying there was no allegation against him in the FIR and there was no basis to seek his custody for investigation. The apex court had in November last year issued notice on the CBI's plea filed in the matter. The agency had said its probe found that some scientists were tortured and framed in the espionage case due to which the development of cryogenic engine was hit, setting back India's space programme by almost one or two decades. The CBI earlier alleged there was a clear indication that the accused were part of a team which had ulterior motives to torpedo the attempts of the ISRO

for manufacturing the cryogenic engine. While granting anticipatory bail to these four accused on August 13 last year, the High Court had said: "There is not even a scintilla of evidence regarding the petitioners being influenced by any foreign power so as to induce them to hatch a conspiracy to falsely implicate the scientists of the ISRO with the intention to stall the activities of the ISRO with regard to the development of the cryogenic engine." It had said unless there is specific material regarding their involvement, prima facie, it cannot be said that they were acting against the interests of the country. The CBI has registered a case against 18 people for various offences, including criminal conspiracy, in connection with the arrest and detention of former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan in the espionage case. The case, which had hit the headlines in 1994, pertained to allegations of transfer of certain confidential documents on India's space programme to foreign countries by two scientists and four others, including two Maldivian women. Narayanan, who was given a clean chit by the CBI, had earlier alleged the Kerala police had "fabricated" the case and the technology he was accused to have stolen and sold in the 1994 case did not even exist at that time. (PTI)

DoT's radiation emission tests within permissible limits in ANI

PORT BLAIR, NOV 28/--/ Telecommunication services have been playing an extremely important role in our economy and more so during pandemics/ disaster situations. During Covid-19 pandemic, telecom services played a major role in maintaining not only the continuity and the functioning of administrative machinery but also economic and industrial activities apart from facilitating 'work from home', education, news, entertainment, social networking, availing online services of A&N Administration such as state government portal, health, education, electricity, employment and keeping the friends and families connected.

The need for telecom services has gone up in an unprecedented manner in recent times. There is an immediate need for faster expansion of telecom infrastructure in A&N Islands. This calls for speedy deployment of towers to expand the coverage. DoT has planned to provide 4G mobile coverage by installing 124 towers for covering 85 uncovered villages and along NH-04 in A&N islands. However, due to misconceptions and misinformation, public at some locations are apprehensive whenever a tower is proposed in the vicinity of residence etc. Department of Telecom (DoT) has created a mechanism to ensure that radiation

limits from telecom towers are maintained by all telecom service providers (TSPs) within limits. All

Considering the mobile expansion plan for introduction of 5G, the number of towers are to be increased from 345 to 520 within 2 years.



TSPs have to give periodic self certificates to this effect and DoT field offices have been mandated to audit 10% BTS every year. During this week,

DoT A&N team surveyed BTS network working in Rangat, Mayabunder and Diglipur and measured radiation level of towers working of all telecom service providers (TSPs) therein and radiation level found well within permissible limits.

It is pertinent to note that so far, DoT A&N has tested 403 out of 821 BTS till 26th November 2022 in Andaman and Nicobar UT and found radiation level for all tested towers are well within the permissible radiation level.

Apart from this, DoT has created a portal www.tarangsanchar.gov.in wherein there is a provision for the General Public to see the radiation level of towers in their vicinity by entering their area postal PIN code.

Considering the mobile expansion plan for introduction of 5G, the number of towers are to be increased from 345 to 520 within 2 years. Therefore, DoT A&N Port Blair hereby requests for co-operation among every stakeholder including the general public to shed all misconceptions about mobile tower radiations and come forward to extend all possible support for faster roll out of telecom infrastructure to meet the unprecedented demand for telecom services and improve quality of telecom service in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Isles Jr. Scientist bags silver medal in IYIC

PORT BLAIR, NOV 28/--/ Islands' Jr. Scientist has proved her mettle by bagging Silver Medal in the recent India Young Inventors & Innovators Challenge (IYIC)-22 held at RavindraBhavan, Margao, South Goa from Nov. 16 to 20, 2022. A three member team from these Islands led by Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma, State Coordinator, Dr. LalithaRao, State Academic Coordinator and Child Scientist KumariYogita Singh of Navy Children School participated in the Expo. A stall representing Andaman & Nicobar Islands was set up on the theme 'Geographic Isolation Nurtures 1032 Endemic Species in Andaman & Nicobar Islands' which was awarded Silver Medal in the 'India International Innovation & Invention Expo-22'. The stall was set up by Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma, State Coordinator and Dr. LalithaRao, State Academic Coordinator of National Children's Science Congress of Port Blair. KumariYogita Singh, a student of Navy Children School, Port Blair created history by securing Silver Medal in her category for her presentation on the project titled 'The

Sea Weeds with Immense Potential' and shall compete for two project to be selected for the International arena to be held in December.

The dignitaries lauded the performance of the young budding talents of A&N Islands and appreciated KumariYogita Singh for



being selected among 2 other students, out of the 150 National and International Child Scientists who participated in the events.

The results of other projects presented at the National level in the Session-22 are Project 'Plastic waste to useful fabrics' of Naval Children School awarded 'A' grade; Project 'Working Model of Robot for cleaning' of R.G.T Public Vidyalaya awarded 'A' grade; Project 'Traditional Knowledge System for Sustainable living' of G.S.S.S Campbell Bay awarded 'B+';

Project 'Nicobari Tribes of A&N Islands-Saviour of Indigenous Knowledge System' of Naval Children School awarded 'A'; Project 'Artificial ecosystem stray animals' of Khalsa Public School, Port Blair awarded 'A' grade; Project 'Our Local Eco Cultural Tradition & Sustainable Living' of

VKV Lamba Line awarded 'B+' ;Project 'Understanding impact of human in different Ecosystem' of VKV Lamba Line awarded 'A' grade and Project 'Affordable & Clean energy Gadgets' of V.K.V Port Blair awarded 'A' grade. The State Level selection was held virtually on 17th January, 2022 by Andaman Nature Club in collaboration with the Directorate of Education, A&N Administration.

The Andaman Nature Club, Port Blair has been dedicatedly working in these Islands since 1999 and every year participates in the National Science Congress with 4 child scientists, in the Indian Science Congress with 2 child scientists. This provides platform to the aspiring and talented child scientists of A&N Islands for other science events organized in India from time to time.

Joint mock exercise with NDRF at Great Nicobar



CAMPBELL BAY, NOV 28/--/ A joint table top exercise will be held tomorrow and mock exercise on 30th November 2022, in association with NDRF in Great Nicobar Island. The table top exercise and mock exercise will be conducted on 03

types of disasters "Earthquake/ Tsunami, Cyclone and Fire". The first exercise will be conducted on Earthquake/ Tsunami in the morning 07:00 am at Kamal Basthi, Campbell Bay while the second exercise on "Cyclone" will be conducted on 10:00 am at

Vijay Nagar, Campbell Bay and the third exercise on "Fire" will be conducted on evening 03:00 pm at RPRS Colony, Campbell Bay. An announcement will be made about the Mock Drill for awareness of the general public through PA system and direction has also been

conveyed to all religious heads for announcement at their respective religious places about the conduct of the Mock Drill. The Mock Drill is being conducted to assess the preparedness of various stakeholders/ departments to work jointly on occurrence of natural calamities/disasters.

—SUBRATA

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ABERDEEN BAZAR | BATHU BASTHI

Red ribbon club state level quiz competition



PORT BLAIR, NOV 28/--/ The Andaman & Nicobar AIDS Control Society (ANACS) conducted state level Red Ribbon Club (RRC) Quiz competition for the youth of colleges/ Institution and Youth Clubs of A & N Islands on Monday at the seminar hall of JNRM college.

Ms. Jace Jackson & Ms. MeharpreetKaurBijjan of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Institute of Medical Science won the first prize, Ms. Sreelakshmi Lakshmanan & Ms. Nimya Narayanan M of Pondicherry University,

Port Blair campus bagged the second prize and Mr. Manish ManoharTopno& Mr. SuhailHussain of Atal Youth Club won the third prize. The winners of the state level quiz will be awarded prizes on 1st December 2022 at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Auditorium.

Teams for the quiz competition were selected at various levels. the competition was first conducted at college level and the best two teams from each college participated in the inter-college level quiz competition (Elimination round). 22 teams from 12

college participated in the inter-college level quiz competition and similarly 9 teams from 7 youth clubs participated in the elimination round. From the elimination round, 3 best teams from college and 2 best teams from youth clubs were selected for the State Level RRC Quiz competition.

The winning team of the State Level Red Ribbon Club (RRC) Quiz competition will participate in the regional level which will be conducted physically at Pondicherry.

Counseling for admission to M.A Bengali today

PORT BLAIR, NOV 28/--/ Due to non-declaration of result of B.A Bengali from Pondicherry University, the Counseling for admission to M.A Bengali scheduled to be held on 29th November, 2022 has been postponed till further orders. However, during this period, the candidates can submit their application form mentioning the result is awaited. Meanwhile, the provisional merit list in respect of admission to BCA (Lateral Entry) in JNRM has been uploaded in the Common Portal (CCAP) (<https://collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in>). The counseling will be held on 30th November, 2022 at 9.30 am in the Computer Science Department, JNRM after attending claims and objections, if any, at the spot during counseling itself. The college shall only be forwarding the names of candidates attending counseling and accord of admission shall be subject to approval from the university authorities.

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Too many people think only of their own profit. But business opportunity seldom knocks on the door of self-centered people. No customer ever goes to a store merely to please the storekeeper.

Kazuo Inamori

Will new govt in Nepal end political instability?

The formation of a new government in Nepal should end the political instability that has plagued the Himalayan nation for more than a decade. Nepal's Prime Minister SherBahadur Deuba and CPN-Maoist Centre chairman Pushpakamal Dahal Prachanda have agreed to continue their ruling five-party alliance as part of a new majority government in the country. The two leaders have discussed the current political developments and explored possibilities for the formation of the new government and have reached an understanding to continue the present ruling alliance. This means, the five-party alliance will have enough strength in parliament to form a majority government. Janata Samajwadi Party led by Upendra Yadav will also join the ruling alliance led by the Nepali Congress and, with the support from both the Madhesi parties, the government will enjoy a comfortable majority. The alliance includes the Nepali Congress led by Prime Minister Deuba, CPN-Maoist led by Prachanda, CPN-Unified Socialist headed by Madhav Nepal, Mahantha Thakur's Lokatantrik Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Janamorchha led by Chitra Bahadur. In the 275-member House of Representatives, 165 will be elected through direct voting, while the remaining 110 will be elected through a proportional electoral system. A party or a coalition needs 138 seats for a clear majority.

Political instability has been a recurrent feature of Nepal's Parliament since the end of the decade-long Maoist insurgency, and no prime minister has served a full term after the civil war ended in 2006. The frequent changes and fighting among parties have been blamed for the country's slow economic growth. There are two major political alliances that contested the polls - the ruling Nepali Congress-led democratic and leftist alliance and the CPN-UML-led leftist and pro-Hindu, pro-monarchy alliance. The next government will, no doubt, face challenges of keeping a stable political administration, reviving the tourism industry and balancing ties with neighbours - China and India.

The Nepali Congress led by Deuba, a five-time premier, in its election manifesto promised to maintain good governance, accountability, transparency and financial discipline if it wins the election. The party has also assured to generate 1.25 million jobs for the youths in the next five years and provide skill development training and career-oriented education to generate more employment opportunities and to encourage people to self-employment. The party aims to resolve border issues through dialogue and diplomatic efforts while giving high priority to neighbours in foreign policy. The CPN-UML, led by former premier KP Sharma Oli, in its manifesto, said nobody will die of hunger, and job and earnings will be ensured for all if the party wins the elections. While pursuing free and balanced international relations, the party pledged to develop friendly relations with the international community by giving priority to relations with neighbours. It also promised to get back the three territories of Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura from India if it comes to power. The CNP (Maoist Centre), in its manifesto, gave top priority to good governance, transparency, checking corruption and digitising government offices, and promised to maintain cordial, friendly and close relations with both the neighbours (China and India) keeping in view the geopolitical situation. The pro-Hindu, pro-monarchy Rastriya Prajatantra Party pledged to work for sustainable economic growth, quality education and health, and poverty reduction.

Hasina facing biggest challenge on economic front

REFLEX ACTION

Ashis Biswas

In Bangladesh the ruling Awami League (AL), battered by extremely difficult economic challenges in the present post Covid pandemic/Ukraine war period, faces an existential challenge as it braces up for general elections in 2024. With each passing day, the anti-Government rhetoric used by main opposition outfit Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) becomes increasingly extremist, as its leaders press for an immediate ouster of the Government. Veteran political leaders and some columnists feel that as Bangladesh has been impacted by a general crisis of unprecedented dimensions, a more consensual approach on part of both the AL and the BNP would have helped common people. However, given the long legacy of bitter acrimony between the two sides, there seems to be no possibility of the slightest concession on part of the BNP towards the AL. The BNP-led opposition, judging by the tenor of Dhaka-based media reports, is sensing a kill after a long spell out of power. What has complicated matters for the AL is the sullen mood among the majority of people, mainly because of raging inflation, recessionary economic pressures marked by low growth, rising unemployment and sharply declining incomes, -- with no relief in sight!

Not surprisingly, the ruling AL finds it increasingly difficult to exercise its political/administrative options effectively. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, up against the biggest political challenge of her career, has opted to play her cards in the open, without concealing the Government's difficulties from the people. She has warned of the possibility of a famine occurring in the country, for the first time since 1974, referring to fears expressed by eminent economists and reputed international authorities/organisations. Warning bells have been sounded for other countries as well. The

BNP lost no time to pounce on the PM's dismal admission. BNP General Secretary Mr Fakhrul Islam Alamgir asked why the PM was spreading such a scare now, having always claimed that Bangladesh was self-sufficient in foodgrains production. Common people were hurting from prices of cooking gas, power and drinking water rising several fold in recent months. The Government had failed abysmally in organising any relief for the suffering masses.

Worse, it had trampled on the democratic rights of the people, who wanted to protest against the Government's failures by organizing meetings and rallies. The police had been routinely refusing permission for opposition parties to hold their programmes systematically. The government had tacitly encouraged wildcat transport strikes by private bus operators in places, to make sure that people could not turn up for protest meets, the BNP leader said. According to the BNP leader, the best course for the AL would be to quit peacefully and prepare the country for immediate polls. A safe exit was the best option at present for the PM. While his words strike a responsive chord among people struggling to make ends meet, many are not ready to accept the BNP as a better political alternative yet -- judging by the tenor of posts in the in the lively social media in Bangladesh. AL leaders and think tanks sympathetic to them, seem to have little manoeuvrability in the present situation which has steadily turned from bad

to worse for most. An earlier announcement from the government that its forex reserves amounting to around \$36 billion, were safe, could not be sustained. The figure was a major drop from Jan/ Feb 2022 levels, when the reserves were considerably higher. The IMF and other authorities estimated that contrary to Dhaka's claims the reserves were lower. In any case the country is currently able to finance its imports for about three months, as against over six months some time ago. A recent loan advanced by the IMF has saved the financial situation for now, but apart from remittances which have not declined, there is not much to cheer for the export-driven economy of Bangladesh. The working class has been hurt the most. Trade Unions are now agitating for a nationwide minimum wage of at least taka 20,000 a month, to help workers survive. As one TU leader was reported to have told a public rally, even simple dal-chawal (dal bhaat) now costs tk 8000/9000 a month, unaccompanied by any protein-based item like fish, meat, eggs or milk! Dhaka-based media recently reported the distress of some workers at Bogra. They mostly work for daily wages in the real estate sectors or agricultural farms, small factories in the private sector and sundry odd jobs. Most do not find work more than three/four days in a working week, as before. The going daily minimum wage of tk 500 gets reduced to tk 400 at times, as both employer and employees acknowledge their own problems to arrive at a compromise. Despite the recent increases in wages for labourers, the average worker cannot feed himself or his family adequately with what he ends up earning every month!

The months ahead promise to be turbulent and tension-packed for Bangladesh. (IPA)



A man walks past a under sculpting idol of Hanuman in Kumartuli--Arijit Ganguly

Conventional Crossword

1		2	3	4		5		6
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8	9			10		11		
			12		13			
14		15		16			17	
18				19		20		
		21		22				
23				24		25		26
				27				
28				29				

ACROSS

- Pick out
- Plant juice
- Drink
- Obstruct
- Corded fabric
- Stop
- Suite of rooms
- Wash lightly
- Church office bearer
- At hand
- Embellish
- Drinking vessel
- Swarmed
- Choler
- Distress call
- Part of the foot

DOWN

- Snow runner
- Scoop up with tongue
- Chosen by vote
- Yield
- Calm
- Condiment
- Shopping complex
- Corn spike
- Wrongoers
- Receivers of stolen property
- Makes suitable
- Of sound mind
- Decay
- Check
- Encountered
- Immerse

SUDOKU:3710

			6		3	4	5	
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	7			5		8	9	
	5	6	8		7			

Yesterday's Solution 3709

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

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1718

R	A	D	A	R		B	E	G	S
A		A	M	U	S	E	D		E
G	A	M	E	S		L	I	L	T
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U	R	N				S	O	B	S
T	E	A	R	S			N	E	T
		T	O	O	L				A
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L	I	E	S			H	E	E	D

DISCLAIMER

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Sunak under attack by Tory elites

Ever since Rishi Sunak became the Britain's new prime minister, a section of the super elite Britishers and Tory leaders owing allegiance to Boris Johnson, have been desperately trying to project Sunak as a failed leader. They were planning to wreck his image of being an astute economic strategist and good administrator who can be trusted to deliver on the promises.

These people have tried to feed the impression that Sunak's becoming prime minister was not end of Brexit but of Brexitism. This tactical shift from Brexit to Brexitism has been a design to create panic amongst the Britons. Brexitism is a version of Conservatism. It is inherently unstable and volatile, predicated on a contradiction between the promise of liberty and the maintenance of instability and uncertainty. Incidentally it is now the central feature of Britain's political landscape. The opponents of Sunak tried to create an impression that Britain under him would lose its ability to go alone. Across the world Modern politics has been intrinsically concerned with the future: with the way actions and decisions taken today could make tomorrow better or worse, safer or more threatened.

The core sentiment of Brexitism has been the worry that unless we change our ways, in the future 'Our children won't know who they are any more.' It is expression of worry about the loss of tradition as well as a personal anxiety about the shape of a future. There is a lingering threat perception that white English kids will lose their identity when

they are forced to become cosmopolitan citizens of the world. The issue has come to such a stage that Hunt had to tell the Chairwoman Harriett Baldwin who put it to him: "It sounds like the hares that suddenly set off onto the front page of The Sunday Times may have started their run from the Treasury", that she should have to talk to the Sunday Times. He said "I want to be clear about what I have said in public and in private and be absolutely clear that my position and the Government's position has been and has always been to support the TCA, full regulatory independence and I think you can look at the autumn statement to see that is what I believe, because it's what I actually did."

"If you are saying do I believe that we could remove the physical barriers to trade in the way that happens on the Franco-Swiss border, the Norway-Sweden border, maybe in a way that is relevant for the Northern Ireland Protocol issues ... that's been my public position for some time."

Curiously the Conservative Eurosceptics are up in arms over reports the UK could move to arrangements similar to Switzerland's to ensure access to the EU's single market. The sole intention behind raising this information is to divert the attention of the Britons from the ill-conceived actions on Brexit by previous

prime ministers. There is strong evidence that the current difficult Brexit relationship brokered by Boris Johnson is causing serious economic damage to Britain and hampering trade. Obviously As such, it has not come as a big surprise to read reports that some in government wanted the UK to go down the road to a Swiss-style Brexit deal.

This move has also been triggered keeping in view the 2024 elections. The manner in which Sunak has been moving ahead has given rise to belief that he would succeed in overcoming the economic crisis. This would prove to be a major setback to his detractors. The next two years are going to be extremely difficult as voters will expect ministers to be focused on the cost of living and other bread-and-butter issues. Tories engaging in secret disputes about the technical details of relationship with the EU, aims at creating confusion and shift the goal post, from defining and prioritising the issues. It move also aims at maligning Sunak's impeccable Brexiteer bonafide which is the matter of much appreciation amongst a significant number of party members. Meanwhile close aides of Sunak have initiated the move to clear any misconception from the minds of the people. It is argued that Switzerland's relation with EU has been completely of different nature. The

arrangement with bilateral contracts has so far allowed Switzerland to have a close but direct relationship with the EU tailored to Swiss needs. One of the best-known political analysts in Switzerland, Claude Longchamp, sees direct democracy as the most obvious hurdle to EU membership. He points out that a majority of the Swiss electorate and a majority of the cantons would have to approve EU accession. The latter, especially, would be difficult to secure.

Incidentally the EU bloc has been pushing for years for Switzerland to move towards a more standardized association agreement and even recently started paying a diplomatic blow, excluding Switzerland from its Horizon research program. From a UK perspective, the Swiss deal simply includes too much that the UK government simply does not want. UK government is not interested in EU model as it does not intend to align with the EU and this incidentally is the integral part of the single market and the Swiss model. Most of Britain's trade is with Europe, and Brexit has crippled it. There is a long way to go to resolve this fallout

Rishi Sunak in his speech at the CBI conference in Birmingham on Monday had said: 'It is hard to see what conceivable harm repairing six years of hostility towards Europe can do to British interests. Britain's relations with the EU have been soured. The reason is simple, you cannot erect a barrier against the 40% of trade that is with your closest neighbour without pain'. (IPA)

FOCUS

Arun Srivastava

National Seminar on 'Agricultural Transformation & Rural Development' concludes



PORT BLAIR, NOV 28/--/ The Department of Home Science, JNRM, in association with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Andaman and Nicobar Islands organised a National Seminar on "Agricultural Transformation and Rural Development in India with special reference to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Issues, Challenges and Possibilities". The valedictory function for the seminar was held on 25th November 2022, in seminar room, JNRM and Dr.RidhamDhirajlalBhadja, IA&AS, Deputy Director, O/o the Director General of Audit (Central) Kolkata graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering Dr.Ridham Dhirajlal Bhadja, IA&AS congratulated the efforts taken by the faculty members of home science and said this topic of deliberation is close to his heart since its related to agriculture and rural development. The researchers should come forward to educate the farmers for crop diversification and technological advancement for making profit in agriculture and allied sectors. The farm economics has changed drastically with the support of various programmes for

agri business development activity. The impacts on agricultural production and marketing will bring changes in the rural households, including reduction of poverty, unemployment and rural migration, he opined. Smt. PrAMILAKUMARI, Adhyaksha, Zilla Parishad, South Andaman District informed the gathering that Gardening in the backyard of our houses has changed into kitchen gardening and now there is a shift to Nutrition Gardening. The food and nutrition security should be achieved through agriculture for which this seminar outcome will be highly beneficial, she opined. Shri S Bhuvarahan, Deputy General Manager, NABARD, Port Blair spoke on the islands potentiality on organic farming and the availability of coconut, arecanut and organic spices. The speakers from various domain has shown the way for scientific farming to boost agriculture transformation in the islands, he added. The farmers with the assistance of the Home Science faculty members of JNRM should identify food product development to attract the consumers. Shri S Bhuvarahan, said that the agripreneurship and food

processing will have great opportunities in the future. Lead Papers on Paradigm Shift of Rural Development from Beneficiary to Community Based Approach was presented by Dr.K.S.Pushpa, Professor & Head, Department of Home Science, Gandhigram Rural Institute. The Role of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) in Rural Development was presented by Dr.S.KavithaMaithily, Associate Professor, Department of Home Science, Gandhigram Rural Institute. Dr.H.K.Sharma, Principal, JNRM spoke about the ways and means to achieve and bring prosperity in rural areas. The Higher Educational Institution like JNRM is always ready to help the rural women and farm women for food processing and development activities, he said. Dr. K. Venkatesan, HOD, Homescience and Convener of the programme spoke on the access to, and use of, digital technology in rural areas for agriculture and farm management in recent times and the role of different technologies in promoting sustainable rural and agricultural development. Earlier Smt. NidhiShekhawat, Assistant Professor welcomed the gathering while Ms.P. Bhuvaneshwari, Resource Person, Department of Home Science proposed vote of thanks. Smt.Poonam Ajay Singh, Resource Person, Department of Home Science moderated the entire programme and Ms.VarshaLakra has served as Rapporteur. Altogether 130 participants from ICAR-CIARI, Andaman College, JNRM, NGO, SHGs, farmers, Agricultural field workers and students participated in this programme.

Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances under ADIP scheme

PORT BLAIR, NOV 28/--/ Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme) is one of the major initiatives of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India to assist the needy Divyangjan in procuring durable and scientifically manufactured standard aids and appliances to promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation. Assistive devices are given to PwDs with the aim to improve their independent functioning, to arrest the extent of disability and occurrence of secondary disabilities. A person with disabilities fulfilling the conditions mentioned would be eligible for assistance under ADIP Scheme viz. an Indian citizen of any age, holds a 40% Disability Certificate, his monthly income from all sources is up to Rs. 22,500/- per month, he or she shall be eligible for getting an assistance the full cost of the Aids and Appliances under ADIP Scheme. And if the total income is between Rs. 22,501/- to Rs. 30,000/- per month, he or she shall be eligible for getting 50% subsidy of the cost of Aids/Appliances under ADIP Scheme. Income certificate from Revenue Agencies / BPL Card / MGNREGA Card / Disability Pension Card / Certificate by M.P./MLA/ Councillor/ Gram Pradhan failing which Notarized Affidavit C/o Implementing Agencies may be accepted for providing aids/ appliances to PwDs. Income certificate of beneficiaries staying in orphanages and half-way homes etc. may be accepted on certification of District Collector or Head of the organization concerned. The documents required for availing the benefits under ADIP Scheme are recent colour passport size photograph (2 Nos), Disability Certificate (photo copy) and original for verification and entry purpose, Ration Card/ Voter ID/ Driving License (any one photo copy)- (of Parents/ beneficiaries), Aadhaar Card (photo copy) for (beneficiaries/ parents), valid mobile number (for beneficiaries/ parents) and photocopy of Income Certificate. The Income Certificate should be valid as on date of distribution camp. The aids & assistive devices provided under ADIP Scheme for Locomotor Disability are Tricycle, Wheel Chair (Adult), Wheel Chair (child), Auxiliary crutch (Large), Auxiliary crutch (Medium), Elbow crutch (Large), Rollator (Child), Walking Stick, CP Wheel Chair and Corner Chair. For hearing impairment, the equipments provided are Mild Class (BTE), Moderate Class (BTE) and Extra Strong Class (BTE). For visual impairment, the devices provided are Smart cane. Universal Braille Slate, Braille Slate, Tylors Frame, Abacus, Hand Magnifier, Cricket Ball, Daisy Player & Android Tablet. Under intellectual disability, the aids provided are Teaching Learning Material TLM for 0-3 years, Teaching Learning Material TLM for 4-6 years, Teaching Learning Material TLM for 7-11 years and Teaching Learning Material TLM for 12-18 years. Composite Regional Centre (CRC), Port Blair is implementing ADIP Scheme in this UT. The Centre has facilities for providing speech therapy, physiotherapy, vocational training, prosthetic and orthotic assessment, special education assessment and intellectual assessment by Psychology Department. Eligible and interested Divyangjan have been requested to contact the Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Brookshabad, A&N Islands.

MV Chuglam to sail for Nancowry

PORT BLAIR, NOV 28/--/ The cargo vessel 'MV Chuglam' will sail for Nancowry via Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa&Katchal on 1st December 2022 (Thu) at 0900 Hrs from Haddo/Chatham Wharf and will sail for Port Blair immediately after discharging/loading of Cargo at respective ports. Booking of cargo for the above sailing will commence from 29.11.2022 onwards between 0900 Hrs& 1300 Hrs at Commercial Wing. All the consignors are further advised to book the actual quantity of cargo to be transhipped, as no excess cargo will be allowed.

Mukta Swadhyaya Peetham
(Institute of Open and Distance Education)
Central Sanskrit University
56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058

Adv. No.-01/2022-2023

Dated: 29/11/2022

Notification

In the subjects of Vyakarana, Jyotisha, Sahitya and Darshan etc., Assistant Professor (Contract / Guest) Educational Associate, Trained Sanskrit Language Teacher and Senior Consultant (ICT Expert) are to be selected as Contract. Applications are invited for this purpose. You can visit our website <http://www.sanskrit.nic.in/msp/> from 30 Nov., 2022 for prescribed application form and details.

CBC-21212/12/0003/2223

-Director

e-TENDER NOTICE

No. DB-Tender/Elect/WSD/2022-23/4532dt.25/11/2022

The Executive Engineer, Workshop Division, APWD, Port Blair invites on behalf of President of India, online Item Rate tenders from authorized dealer, manufacturer & execution of similar works, having Office at Port Blair for the following work.

- Name of Work:-**Up-Gradation of Online UPS System dedicated for network equipment, Server and Desktop PC of Section and Data-center of Directorate of Shipping Services Office at Port Blair. **Estimate Cost Put To Tender:-** ₹ .31,05,084/-, **EMD:** Rs.62,102/-&**Time of Completion:-** 45 Days**TENDER ID:2022 APWD 8244 1**& last time & date of Submission of bid:**09/12/2022 (10:00 hrs).**

The Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the web site eprocure.andaman.gov.in.

Executive Engineer
Workshop Division
APWD, Port Blair

9362/22

47th National Sub-Junior (U-15) & 38th National Sub-Junior Girls (U-15) Chess Championships begins



PORT BLAIR, NOV 28/--/ The MPL 47th National Sub-Junior (Under-15) & 38th National Sub-Junior Girls (Under-15) Chess Championships-2022 begins today at Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, New Delhi. Altogether 350 players, across India are participating in the prestigious event in which 8 young chess players, foreach in Boys and Girls from Andaman&

Nicobar Islands are taking part. The girls team consists of R KashthuriBhai, GDMS Port Blair, S Vidhya, Kamaraj EM, B Kavya, Nirmala Sr. Sec. School Port Blair Meghaadarsh, VKV Lambaline while the Boys team comprises D Shrestha Vijay, Carmel Sr.Sec. School Port Blair, M A DinakarKamaraj EM School, VYashwant,

GMSSS Port Blair &SesuSudarshan Krishna, NCS Port Blair. The event will be held for 9 days over 11 rounds under Swiss System in Classical time control from 28th November 2022 to 6th December 2022. The total Prize money for the championship is rupees Nine Lakhs which will be awarded among top twenty players in Boys & Girls Category.

Public hearing for preparation of Draft Island Coastal Regulation Zone plan for SA

PORT BLAIR, NOV 28/--/ The public hearing for preparation of Draft Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ) Plan for South Andaman is scheduled to be held on 30TH November 2022 at 11 am in the Auditorium of Tagore Govt. College, Port Blair. In this regard suggestion were invited from public and other stakeholder within a period of 30 days of the publication and also soft copies of the Maps were made available in the Office of the Chairman, ANCZMA

(Chief Secretary, A & N Administration), Member Secretary, ANCZMA [APCCF (CRZ&FC)], Van Sadan, Haddo, Deputy Commissioner (South Andaman), Assistant Commissioner (South Andaman), Tehsildar (Port Blair/ Ferrargunj), Member Secretary (Pollution Control Committee), Director (Tribal Welfare), Divisional Forest Officer (South Andaman) and Range Officer (Garacharma/ Manglutan/ Tusnabad/ Jirkatang) & Range Officer

[(SSU)South Andaman]. Further, with respect to the request received from PRIs to extend the period for furnishing the claims/objections/views/comments on the draft ICRZ Plan, the period of receipt of claims/ objections/ views/ comments was extended by Department of Environment and Forests vide Public Notice dated 20.11.2022 till a revised date of public hearing was notified by Pollution Control Committee, Andaman & Nicobar Administration.

Counselling for admission in TGCE today

PORT BLAIR, NOV 28/--/ The final merit list for admission to Two Years B.Ed. Degree Programme for the session 2022-23 in Tagore Government College of Education, Port Blair in the subjects/categories Hindi, English, Political Science, Chemistry, Commerce, Computer Science, Botany/Plant Science, EWS and PwD have been published in the onlineportal on 28th November 2022andis available at[http:// collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in](http://collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in) under "Announcements" for information of all concerned. The counselling for admission to these subjects and categories and for all the remaining seats will be held on 29th November 2022 from 9:30 a.m. at Tagore

Auditoriumin the TGCE premises. If any candidate is unable to attend the above scheduled counseling in person due to unforeseen reason are requested to either represent their candidature through an authorized person or send their details showing Application No., Name, Subject, Category etc. through WhatsApp or text message @ 9531831281, 9531808308, 9933277071 before 8:00 a.m. on 29/11/2022. All such messages will be acknowledged. Those who fail to attend the counselling in person or fail to send their willingness through message will not be considered for admission to the course and the next eligible candidate in the merit list will be considered for admission.

Application invited for construction of Ice Plant/Cold storage Release- 3

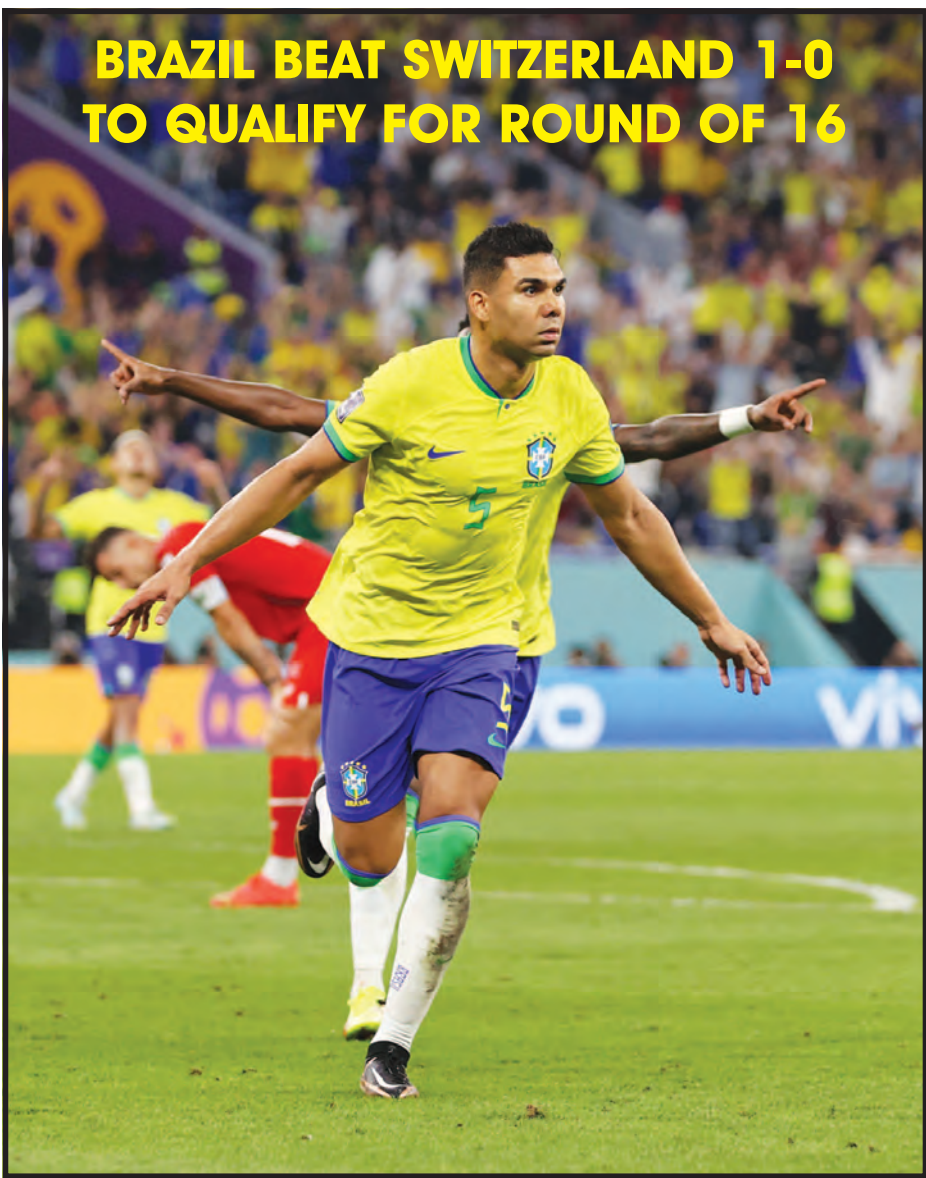
PORT BLAIR, NOV 28/--/ Application has been invited for construction of Ice Plant/ Cold Storage in pro-rata basis with minimum capacity of 3 MT and above in the prescribed proforma from Fishers/ Fish Farmers/ Fish Workers/ Fish vendors / SHGs/ JNGs / Fisheries Development Corporations / Fisheries Federation/ Entrepreneurs / Private firms / ST / Women/ Differently abled persons for availing subsidy under PradhanMantriMatsyaSampadaYojana(PMMSY). The approved Unit Cost for 01 MT Ice Plant/ Cold Storage is Rs.4.00 lakh. The approved pattern of assistance for General Category is 40% of the 01 MT unit cost with a ceiling of Rs.1.6lakh and for ST/Women is 60% of the Unit Cost with a ceiling of Rs.2.4 lakhs for construction of Ice Plant/ Cold Storage. Interested applicants may obtain application forms from the Directorate of Fisheries/ Zonal Fisheries Office/ Fisheries Sub Station and submit their application along with necessary documents (Identity Proof, Address Proof, Land particular, etc) to the respective Zonal Fisheries offices or nearest Fisheries Sub Stations within 15thDecember, 2022. For any query, they may contact helpline number 03192-240095 from 10 am to 5 pm.

PRESS NOTE	
Applications are invited from fishers/ fish farmers/ Fish workers/ Fish vendors / Fisheries Development Corporations/ Self Help Groups/ Joint Liability Groups in Fisheries / Fisheries Co-operatives / Fisheries Federation/ Entrepreneurs / Fish Farmers Producers Organizations/ Private firms / ST / Women/ Differently abled persons for availing financial assistance under the following beneficiary oriented activities of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana(PMMSY) in the North and Middle Andaman District.	
1.	Ice Plant/ Cold Storage of capacity 3 MT and above.
2.	Refrigerated / Insulated Vehicle (02 MT and above)
3.	Motorcycle with Ice Box.
4.	Three wheeler with Ice box including e-rickshaws for fish vending.
5.	Mini mills (Fish Feed Mills) of production capacity 2 tons/ day.
6.	Construction of Fish Kiosks including kiosks of aquarium / ornamental fish.
7.	Fish Value Add Enterprises Units.
8.	Support for acquisition of Deep-Sea fishing vessels for traditional fishermen.
9.	Upgradation of existing fishing vessels for export competencies.
10.	Establishment of Bio-toilets in Mechanized Fishing Vessels.
11.	Establishment of new freshwater fin fish hatchery.
12.	Construction of new rearing ponds (nursery / seed rearing ponds).
13.	Construction of New Grow-out ponds.
14.	Inputs for freshwater Aquaculture including Composite fish culture, Scampi, Pangasius, Tilapia etc. for newly constructed ponds.
15.	Construction of new ponds for Brackishwater Aquaculture.
16.	Inputs for Barckishwater Aquaculture.
17.	Construction of Bio-floc ponds for Brackishwater / Saline/ Alkaline/ areas including input.
18.	Construction of Boi-floc ponds Freshwater areas including inputs cost.
19.	Establishment of Small Marine finfish Hatcheries
20.	Establishment of Open Sea cages (100-120 cubic meter volume)
21.	Bivalve cultivation (mussels, clams, pearl etc.)
22.	Backyard Ornamental fish Rearing unit (both Marine and Freshwater)
23.	Establishment of small RAS culture system.
Interested applicants may contact the Zonal Fisheries offices, N&M Andaman, Mayabunder or nearest Fisheries Sub Stations of N&M Andaman for further details of the activities and submit applications in prescribed format along with relevant document to the respective Zonal Offices/Fisheries Sub Stations on or before 30.11.2022.	
सहायक निदेशक (मत्स्य) Assistant Director of Fisheries क्षेत्रीय मत्स्य कार्यालय, उत्तरतथा मध्य अण्डमान Fisheries Zonal Office, N&M Andaman	
9353/22	

2 NPP MLAs, 1 TMC legislator resign from Meghalaya Assembly, set to join BJP

SHILLONG, NOV 28 /--/ Two MLAs of the ruling NPP in Meghalaya and one of the Opposition TMC resigned from the Assembly on Monday, dealing a blow to their parties. The trio, who also quit the membership of respective parties, announced that they would soon join the BJP, an ally in the NPP-led Meghalaya Democratic Alliance. According to Assembly commissioner and secretary Andrew Simons, NPP legislators, Ferlin Sangma and Benedic Marak, and TMC's HM Shangpliang submitted their resignations to Speaker Metbah Lyngdoh during the day, which got accepted around two hours later. Shangpliang, who represented Mawsynram constituency, said all three of them would be visiting Delhi soon to join the BJP.

"We have resigned today to join the BJP. There is a need to work hand in hand with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the development of the state. People in Meghalaya, especially the farmers and the youth, should also support the PM in his endeavour to bring about development in the state," Shangpliang, who had last year quit the Congress to join the TMC, said. Only a chief minister from the BJP can ensure the welfare of people and the progress of this northeastern state, he added. Ferlin Sangma was the MLA from Selsella and Marak represented Raksamgre. Welcoming the development, a senior BJP leader, who did not wish to be named, said all three of them will be joining the saffron party in the first week of next month. "They have realised that the BJP is the only party that is focussed on the development of their constituencies as well as the entire state," he said. The resignations on Monday reduced the number of MLAs to 57 in the 60-member House. Currently, the NPP has 21 members in the House, the UDP has eight MLAs, the PDF has four members, the BJP two, HSPDP two and the IND seven. Opposition TMC has 11 legislators, KHAM one and NCP one. (PTI)



BRAZIL BEAT SWITZERLAND 1-0 TO QUALIFY FOR ROUND OF 16
Casemiro struck a beautiful goal to give Brazil a 1-0 lead against Switzerland in the 83rd minute. Earlier, Vinicius Jr. seemed to have put Brazil in front in the 65th minute but VAR intervened and saw his opener being chalked off because of an offside call in the build-up. The first half ended without many clear goalscoring chances for either side

Delhi Police van carrying Mehrauli killing accused Aaftab Poonawala attacked, 2 detained

NEW DELHI, NOV 28 /--/ A police van carrying Aaftab Poonawala, accused of killing his live-in partner, was attacked by some weapon-wielding people outside the Forensic Science Laboratory in Rohini where he was taken for a polygraph test on Monday, sources said. A car stopped the police van in the evening after overtaking it. A few people came out of the car and started attacking the van carrying Poonawala, they said. The van was driven out of the spot while two attackers were detained, the police said, adding the incident took place around 6.45 pm. In videos of the purported incident circulating on social media, a police personnel could be seen pulling out his service revolver to disperse the attackers carrying swords. In one of the clips, a few attackers claimed that they belonged to a right-wing group and that their intention was to avenge the killing of Shraddha Walkar by chopping Poonawala into pieces. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Rohini) G S Sidhu said: "Two persons have been detained for questioning." According to the police, the two detained have been identified as Kuldeep and Nigam. Further legal action will be taken as per the law, they said. Reacting to the incident, Hindu Sena national president Vishnu Gupta, said, "Whatever these activists have done is by reacting to their personal feelings. The whole country got to know how Poonawala cut a Hindu girl into pieces." "The organisation does not support any such work which is against the Constitution of India. We believe in the law," he said. (PTI)

JAMNAGAR/ANJAR, NOV 28 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday alleged the erstwhile Congress government had stopped armed forces from taking action against terrorism due to the party's vote bank politics. Addressing a rally in Jamnagar town in the Saurashtra region of poll-bound Gujarat, the prime minister appealed to the people to not allow "urban Naxals" to enter the state. Polling for 182 Assembly seats in the state will be held in two phases on December 1 and 5. The counting of votes will be taken up on December 8. "Anarchy, terrorism, nepotism and vote bank politics were rampant during the Congress rule. Congress leaders used to remain mum against those who were involved in spreading anarchy and terrorism. People were feeling insecure. Bomb blasts used to kill people in different parts of the country," he said. The Prime Minister said due to the vote bank-oriented politics, Congress had even "tied the hands of our armed forces". "Congress created hurdles in their work. You cannot fight terrorism with such an approach. You have to take a tough stand against terrorism and give them a befitting reply,"

Terrorism thrived under Cong rule due to appeasement politics, PM Modi stamped it out: Assam CM

AHMEDABAD, NOV 28 /--/ Assam Chief Minister and BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said terrorism couldn't be contained under Congress' rule because of "appeasement politics."

Sarma also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi stamped out terrorism in the last eight years with resolute actions by ending the appeasement politics and giving a befitting reply to Pakistan. Referring to the Shraddha Walkar murder case involving her live-in partner Aaftab Poonawala, Sarma called for a law to tackle the incidents of "love jihad" (a term coined by right-wing parties which claim a plot to lure Hindu women into marrying Muslim men and converting them) "Attacks by terrorists were rampant during the Congress rule. But, why have such attacks stopped today? Because, terrorists are being given a befitting reply under PM Modi," Sarma told a press conference in Ahmedabad.

The Assam Chief Minister campaigned for BJP candidates for the next month's Gujarat Assembly elections, scheduled to be held in two phases on December 1 and 5. "After 2014, you must have observed, the word terrorism has become almost obsolete. Why terrorism was not contained under Congress' rule? Because of the party's appeasement politics. People from a particular community were actively involved in terrorist activities. As soon as Modi ji ended appeasement politics and gave a befitting reply to Pakistan, terrorism also came to an end," he said.

Referring to the Shraddha Walkar murder case, Sarma alleged "love Jihad" incidents became normal in India because of an "eco-system created by Congress". "Because of the appeasement politics of Congress, a particular class of people have started thinking that authorities will not touch them no matter what they do. That is why we are now seeing such cases. Love Jihad incidents



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

became normal in India because of an ecosystem created by Congress. "People like Aaftab are still under the impression that they can do whatever they want and nothing will happen to them. I believe the country needs a strong law to deal with 'love jihad' and it can be done only under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi," he added. Sarma also stressed the need for the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code in the country and claimed BR Ambedkar was in favour of the UCC but Jawaharlal Nehru (the first PM of independent India) stalled his plans. In its election manifesto, the BJP has promised to implement the recommendations of a committee which

will be formed to assess various aspects related to the UCC implementation in Gujarat. "Though BR Ambedkar was in favour of UCC, Jawaharlal Nehru stalled his plans. Before Gujarat, BJP had raised this issue during the polls in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. This will build an atmosphere in favour of a pan-India implementation. UCC will serve as a befitting reply to Congress as Nehru did injustice to Muslim women by not implementing UCC back then," Sarma added. Referring to the BJP's promise to start an 'anti-radicalisation cell' in Gujarat, Sarma said this step will boost India's fight against radicalisation and work as a "vaccine against radicalisation". Queried on his remarks that Rahul Gandhi looks like Iraqi dictator "Saddam Hussein" with his thick beard, Sarma said at least he has not compared the former Congress president with Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last Mughal emperor of India. "Some Congressmen were upset with me because I

had said Rahul Gandhi looks like Saddam Hussein nowadays. I don't see any reason why they should feel offended. He (Rahul) should know that one cannot become mature by growing a beard. You must have seen his latest video wherein his own party's leaders can be seen laughing at him," said Sarma. "I don't know why Congressmen are angry. I haven't called him (Rahul) Bahadur Shah Zafar at least. I just said he looks like Saddam Hussein. If you shave off the beard, you will once again look like Rahul. If you choose to troll me instead of doing that, my comments will get more publicity," the BJP leader said. (PTI)

Cong govt had tied hands of armed forces in acting against terrorism due to vote bank politics: PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing an election rally ahead of Gujarat assembly election at Palitana in Bhavnagar on Monday

he said. The Prime Minister said his government has taken a tough stand against such activities. "Armed forces now kill enemies after entering their territories. The BJP government has a zero-

costly. Had Congress been in power today, your monthly mobile bill would have been around Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,000 instead of Rs 300- Rs 400. Today, you can make calls for free," Modi added. (PTI)

tolerance policy for Naxalites and terrorists," he added. Modi also spoke about "urban Naxals" who he said will try to disturb Gujarat's peace if they get a chance. "Nowadays, urban Naxals are planning to enter Gujarat. If they get a chance, they will destroy Gujarat's peace. Please make sure they do not get the chance," he said. Modi alleged the 2G scam under the UPA-2 regime led to higher Internet charges for the people. He said India has become the second largest manufacturer of mobile phones and crores of 'Made in India' phones are exported every year to other countries. "Due to the low cost (of mobile phones), poor people of India can now afford them. Mobile phones have become a tool to empower the poor," the Prime Minister added. "And what happened under Congress rule in the mobile phone sector? 2G (spectrum allocation) scam. Because of that scam, the Internet has become

Elector making false complaint over EVM malfunction must know consequence: SC

NEW DELHI, NOV 28 /--/ The Supreme Court observed on Monday a person making a "false statement" "must know the consequence" as it leads to stalling the electoral process. It was hearing a plea against an election rule relating to the malfunctioning of an EVM which the petitioner claimed was unconstitutional. A bench headed by Justice Ajay Rastogi told the petitioner to file a written note explaining why

vacation. "If somebody makes a false statement, then he must know the consequence. The whole further electoral proceeding is stalled. You are informing the election officer then he is taking the call, this and that," the bench, also comprising Justice Bela M Trivedi, said. "If we find that some riders, strict riders have to be there who is making the complaint and who has to take a call (it would be considered). Otherwise the

under rule 49M alleges that the paper slip generated by the printer has shown the name or symbol of a candidate other than the one he voted for; the presiding officer shall obtain a written declaration from the elector as to the allegation, after warning the elector about the consequence of making a false declaration. The plea has alleged that putting the onus on the elector in cases of arbitrary deviant behaviour of machines used in election process infringes upon a citizen's right to freedom of expression under the Constitution.

It when an elector is asked to cast test vote as prescribed under Rule 49MA, he may not be able to reproduce the same result, which he was complaining about, one more time in a sequence, because of the pre-programmed deviant behaviour of the electronic machines. "In the course of reporting the deviant behaviour of an electronic machine used in the election process, an elector has to cast two votes; first one in secrecy and the second a test vote in the presence of the candidates or polling agents. A test vote cast subsequently in the presence of others cannot become a conclusive evidence of the deviant behaviour or otherwise of the previous vote cast in absolute secrecy," the plea said. It said holding an elector accountable for deviant behaviour of EVMs and VVPATs could deter them from coming forth and making any complaint which is essential for improving the process. (PTI)

Scuffle between workers of AAP and BJP during Kejriwal's Surat road show; Delhi CM says stone hurled

SURAT, NOV 28 /--/ A scuffle broke out between supporters of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday during Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's roadshow in Surat city in poll-bound Gujarat.

The incident occurred in Katargam locality in the evening after BJP workers chanted 'Modi, Modi' when the convoy of vehicles in Kejriwal's roadshow was passing through the area. Kejriwal claimed a stone was hurled when the roadshow was passing. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone-3), Pinakin Parmar, said Kejriwal was provided Z-plus security in the 4-km roadshow with CAPF (Central Armed Police Force). "The rally passed off peacefully. No incident of hurling of stones took place. A minor scuffle broke out between party workers but the police controlled the situation," he said. (PTI)

Cong sacrificed 2 PMs in terror fight: Kharge counters Modi

AHMEDABAD, NOV 28 /--/ A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused Congress of playing vote bank politics over terrorism, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday said his party had sacrificed two prime ministers in the fight against terrorism. Kharge questioned whether any leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had fought for the freedom of the country. "We have done the work to fight against terrorists. To maintain peace in the country, we have sacrificed our leaders. Indira Gandhi sacrificed her life to keep the country united. Rajiv Gandhi was martyred for the unity of the country. Is there a leader in the BJP who at least fought for the freedom of the country," Kharge asked. Addressing a rally in Kheda in poll-bound Gujarat on Sunday, the Prime Minister had said Congress views terrorism from the prism of the vote bank". He also said, "terrorism was not over yet and the politics of the Congress has also not changed". "Here (in Congress), we have lost our two famous and world-respected prime ministers to strengthen and unite the country. This is an election of the state Assembly and not of Parliament. We are here before you with the issues affecting the state. It is better if he (Modi) talks about the successes and failures of the state," Kharge said. On the BJP's poll promise of implementing the Uniform Civil Code in Gujarat, Kharge said it was an attempt to divide society and create controversy for votes. "They (BJP) are provoking Congress and other leaders to speak up and get angry. Their aim is to provoke us and divide society,

but we are not going to fall into their trap," he said. Slamming Modi for seeking votes in his name and claiming only he contributed to the progress of Gujarat as if there were no leaders before him, Kharge said the prime minister keeps talking about the Congress has done nothing in the past 70-odd years. "If any party built the country in 70 years, it was Congress," Kharge said, adding, unlike Modi, he does not take credit for the several thousand crore worth of projects sanctioned when he was Union minister. Attacking the BJP's 'Gujarat model' of development, the Congress president said there were five lakh vacancies in government departments, including that of 28,000 teachers. "The state's debt is rising sharply. When we went out of power, we left a debt of Rs 10,000 crore. Today it has swelled to Rs 3.40 lakh crore, and is going to increase further to Rs 4.60 lakh crore during the current fiscal," the Congress president said. "The so-called 'Gujarat model' is about 4 lakh COVID-19 deaths. They changed three chief ministers in six years. If you change three CMs, it means that you did nothing here. Otherwise, there was no reason to change them," Kharge said. He expressed confidence in Congress winning the Gujarat elections. "The BJP has understood the people of Gujarat are deciding in favour of Congress. Despite being in power for 27 years, it has become necessary for the BJP to bring in the prime minister, Union home minister, four to five chief ministers to make inflammatory speeches to mislead people," he claimed. (PTI)



the provision was problematic and observed, at this stage, it was not in agreement with his stand. "We tell you very frankly, we don't find any reason to consider your request for Rule 49MA. What is wrong in the provision according to you? Bring your written note (on) why this is provision to be succumbed," the court said and asked the case to be listed for hearing after

system will not work," it added. The court was hearing a petition by Sunil Ahya alleging that Rule 49MA of "The Conduct of Elections Rules" was unconstitutional as it criminalises reporting of malfunctioning of Electronic Voting Machines and Voter Verified Paper Audit Trails. Rule 49MA reads: Where printer for paper trail is used, if an elector after having recorded his vote

Polio is back in Indonesia, sparking vaccination campaign

PIDIE, NOV 28 /--/ Children in school uniforms and toddlers with their parents lined up Monday for polio vaccinations in the Sigli town square on the northern tip of the Indonesian island of Sumatra, after four children were found infected with the highly contagious disease that was declared eradicated in the country less than a decade ago. The virus was first detected in October in a 7-year-old boy suffering from partial paralysis in the province of Aceh near Sigli, and since then three other cases have been detected, prompting the mass immunisation and information drive. Official say that polio immunisation rates in the conservative province are well behind the rest of the country, with efforts hampered by widespread disinformation the vaccine is incompatible with religious beliefs, among other things. The government has also been prioritising Covid-19 vaccinations since they became available. The campaign that started Monday aims to vaccinate some 1.2 million children in the province, said Maxi Rein Rondonuwu, the Health Ministry's director general for disease control and prevention. "There is no cure for polio, the only treatment is prevention and the tool for prevention is vaccination," Rondonuwu said, adding that the child is still able to walk, albeit with a limp. With some 275 million people, Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous, and the largest Muslim-majority nation.

Aceh is particularly conservative, and is Indonesia's only province allowed to practice Shariah, which was a concession made by the national government in 2006 to end a war with separatists. False rumours that the polio vaccine contains pork or alcohol, prohibited according to Muslim beliefs, have proliferated, especially in rural areas, complicating vaccination efforts, said the head of the Aceh Health Office, Hanif, who only goes by one name like many Indonesians. "We cannot work alone, we need support from all parties,

including religious leaders, to that people understand the importance of immunization," said Hanif.

Azhar, the father of the 7-year-old who contracted polio, said he had opted not to immunise his son after other villagers where he lived told him the vaccines may cause harmful chemicals or non-halal substances. "My neighbours said that my son doesn't need to be immunised and I didn't want my son get sick because of harmful chemicals that are against Islam," the 45-year-old said. For Dewi Safitri, a mother of three who was getting them vaccinated on Monday, it was simply a matter of not knowing it was necessary. She said she was convinced after health workers spelled out the risks of paralysis or death if her children were to go unvaccinated. "I didn't even know about immunisation," she said. The World Health Assembly adopted a resolution for the global eradication of polio in 1988 and since then, wild poliovirus cases have decreased by more than 99 per cent, according to the World Health Organisation. It was eradicated in Indonesia in 2014, and is today only still endemic in two countries - Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Polio primarily affects children under the age of 5, according to the WHO. Unvaccinated people of any ages can contract the disease, however, and sporadic cases continue to crop up. In September in New York, for example, the state stepped up its polio-fighting efforts after the disease was detected in the wastewater in the New York City area. Officials began checking for signs of the virus there after the first case of polio in the United States was identified in July in Rockland County, which is north of the city. It was confirmed in a young adult who was unvaccinated.

The statewide polio vaccination rate is 79 per cent but Rockland's rate was lower, and New York health officials urged all unvaccinated residents, including children by 2 months of age, to get vaccinated immediately. (AP)

Pak Army's decision to remain apolitical will shield it from 'vagaries of politics', says Gen Bajwa

ISLAMABAD, NOV 28 /--/ A day ahead of his retirement, Pakistan's Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa has said that his decision to keep the military establishment "apolitical" will shield it "from the vagaries of politics" in the coup-prone country.

Gen Bajwa, 61, will retire on November 29 after a three-year extension. Pakistan has appointed Lt Gen Asim Munir, a former ISI chief, as the new Army chief to succeed Gen Bajwa.

He emphasised that the Pakistan Army has restricted its role "to its constitutional mandated task only by deciding to make it apolitical." "This decision, though being viewed negatively by a segment of society and led to personal criticism, will facilitate in reinvigorating and strengthening democratic culture, assisting in supporting state organs to effectively perform and deliver. Above all, this decision will help enhance the army's prestige in the long term," Gen Bajwa said in an interview with the UAE-based newspaper Gulf News.

On Wednesday, in his final public address as Pakistan's Army chief, Gen Bajwa said the military establishment's "unconstitutional" interference in politics over the past 70 years was the reason why it drew criticism from the general masses and politicians.

"The Pakistan Army had always remained a dominant player in national



decision-making. Due to its historic role in the country's politics, the military drew criticism from the public and politicians alike," he said in the interview.

His statement comes as the military establishment has in recent months reiterated that it has decided to remain apolitical. The statements from the Army's top brass came amid accusations that it meddles in the country's politics, often favouring one political party or the other. Gen Bajwa opined that public support and affinity towards the armed forces tended to erode when the military was seen to be involved in political affairs. "Therefore, I considered it prudent to shield [the] Pakistan Army from the vagaries of politics in Pakistan," he said.

During his final public address at the Defence and Martyrs' Day ceremony in Rawalpindi to pay tribute to martyrs, Gen Bajwa extended an olive branch to those targeting the army by saying that "I want to move forward by forgetting it". He urged all stakeholders to move ahead by learning

lessons from the past mistakes. "This is why in February last year the army, after great deliberation, decided that it would never interfere in any political matter. I assure you we are strictly adamant on this and will remain so," he explained. In the interview, Gen Bajwa acknowledged that while terrorism had abated in Pakistan, "we continue to make meaningful efforts to overcome the menace of extremism and residue of terrorism".

He, however, cautioned against "streaks of political intolerance in our society is a worrisome new trend." "We will keep striving for a society which is tolerant, rational and does not discriminate on the basis of political orientation, faith, ethnicity or creed," he said.

He also termed Pakistan's "economic frailty" as a cause for concern, saying it tended to "exacerbate other issues concerning human security such as health, education, access to food and clean water and mitigating threats posed by climate change". (PTI)

14 years on, NATO to renew a vow to Ukraine

BUCHAREST, NOV 28 /--/ NATO returns on Tuesday to the scene of one of its most controversial decisions, intent on repeating its vow that Ukraine now suffering through the 10th month of a war against Russia will join the world's biggest military alliance one day.

NATO foreign ministers will gather for two days at the Palace of the Parliament in the Romanian capital Bucharest. It was there in April 2008 that US President George W. Bush persuaded his allies to open NATO's door to Ukraine and Georgia, over vehement Russian objections. "NATO welcomes Ukraine's and Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations for membership in NATO. We agreed today that these countries will become members of NATO," the leaders said in a statement. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was at the summit, described this as "a direct threat" to Russia's security. About four months later, Russian forces invaded Georgia.

Some experts describe the decision in Bucharest as a massive error that left Russia feeling cornered by a seemingly ever-

expanding NATO. NATO counters that it doesn't pressgang countries into joining, and that some requested membership to seek protection from Russia as Finland and Sweden are doing now. More than 14 years on, NATO will pledge this week to support Ukraine long-term as it defends itself against Russian aerial, missile and ground attacks many of which have struck power grids and other civilian infrastructure, depriving millions of people of electricity and heating. "NATO will continue to stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes. We will not back down," the organisation's top civilian official, Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, vowed last week. North Macedonia and Montenegro have joined the US-led organisation in recent years. With this, Stoltenberg said, "we have demonstrated that NATO's door is open and that it is for NATO allies and aspirant countries to decide on membership. This is also the message to Ukraine." This gathering



in Bucharest is likely to see NATO make fresh pledges of non-lethal support to Ukraine: fuel, electricity generators, medical supplies, winter equipment and drone jamming devices.

Individual allies are also likely to announce fresh supplies of military equipment for Ukraine chiefly the air defence systems that Kyiv so desperately seeks to protect its skies. NATO as an organisation will not offer such supplies, to avoid being dragged into a wider war with nuclear-armed Russia. But the ministers, along with their Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba, will also look further afield. "Over the longer term we will help Ukraine transition from Soviet-era equipment to modern NATO standards, doctrine and training," Stoltenberg said. This will not only improve Ukraine's armed forces and help them to better integrate, it will also meet some of the conditions for membership. That said, Ukraine will not join NATO

anytime soon. With the Crimean Peninsula annexed, and Russian troops and pro-Moscow separatists holding parts of the south and east, it's not clear what Ukraine's borders would even look like.

Many of the 30 allies believe the focus now must be uniquely on defeating Russia. But even as economic pressure high electricity and gas prices, plus inflation, all exacerbated by the war mounts on many allies, Stoltenberg would not press Ukraine to enter into peace talks, and indeed NATO and European diplomats say that Putin does not appear willing to come to the table. "Most wars end with negotiations," he said. "But what happens at the negotiating table depends on what happens on the battlefield. Therefore, the best way to increase the chances for a peaceful solution is to support Ukraine." The foreign ministers of Bosnia, Georgia and Moldova three partners that NATO says are under increasing Russian pressure will also be in Bucharest. Stoltenberg said NATO would "take further steps to help them protect their independence, and strengthen their ability to defend themselves. (AP)

Ukraine on edge for more attacks, West eyes humanitarian aid

KYIV, NOV 28 /--/ Ukraine prepared for more Russian strikes on Monday and warned of the possibility for a new round of evacuations from the capital during a relative lull from the airstrikes on energy facilities and other key infrastructure in recent weeks.

In the West, meanwhile, preparations were stepped up to boost humanitarian aid to Ukraine so that the population can enjoy some warmth during their coldest months of need and keep the resolve of the nation as high as possible. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned that Russian troops "are preparing new strikes and as long as they have missiles, they won't stop." "The upcoming week can be as hard as the one that passed," he said. In the capital, Kyiv, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said that part of the city's 3 million people might well have to be evacuated to places where essential services would be less prone to shutdowns caused by missile attacks. Russia has pounded energy facilities around Kyiv with a barrage of missile strikes, resulting in power outages and halts

in water supplies to the city. And with temperatures hovering around freezing, and expected to dip as low as minus 11C (12 Fahrenheit) in little more than a week, international help was increasingly focused on items like generators and autotransformers, to make sure blackouts that affect everything from kitchens to operating rooms are as limited and short as possible.

Russian President Vladimir Putin "continues trying to make Ukraine a black hole no light, no electricity, no heating to put the Ukrainians into the darkness and the cold," said European foreign policy chief Josep Borrell. "So we have to continue our support providing more material for the Ukrainians to face the winter without electricity." Borrell was leading a meeting of EU ministers that would have specifically "look at the Ukrainian war from the point of view of a humanitarian crisis." Over the next three days NATO top officials and foreign ministers will be gathering in Bucharest, Romania, where such humanitarian

aspects will also be assessed. Ukraine's energy provider Ukrenergo said Monday that it is still short 27 per cent of output after Russian strikes on energy infrastructure. "The scale and complexity of the damage are high, and repair works have continued around the clock," the company said in a statement. Power supply was restored to 17 per cent of residents in the southern city of Kherson, which Ukraine reclaimed earlier this month. The Russians have continued pounding the city with artillery barrages.

Ukraine's presidential office said Monday that at least four civilians were killed and 11 others wounded in the latest Russian attacks. It said intense fighting is continuing along the front line in the east, with the Russians shelling Bakhmut and Toretsk at the epicentre of the fighting.

"People are sheltering in the basements, many of which are filled by water," said Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko. "They have been living in catastrophic conditions without power or heating." (AP)

Biden boosts US effort to stem sexual violence in war zones

WASHINGTON, NOV 28 /--/ President Joe Biden is strengthening US policy aimed at stemming sexual violence in war conflict zones, elevating the problem increasingly documented in Ukraine and elsewhere to the level of a possible serious human rights abuse that triggers sanctions and other actions against foreign perpetrators.

Biden, a Democrat, on Monday will sign a presidential memorandum that seeks to combat the use of rape by both foreign governments and individuals as a weapon of war, according to a senior administration official, who insisted on anonymity to discuss the decision ahead of the announcement. The memorandum directs for the first time that the State and Treasury departments and other agencies give equal consideration of acts of sexual violence to other serious human rights abuses in leveraging sanctions and other punishment against foreign actors and to respond to the full extent possible, the official said. Currently, US policy allows for the imposition of sanctions for conflict-related sexual violence, but it is not commonly used. Biden's action comes when the United Nations has warned that sexual violence in Ukraine, especially against women and

girls, remains prevalent and underreported. US Ambassador Linda Thomas Greenfield has previously cited "a mountain of credible reports of atrocities committed by Russia's forces against civilians," including "horrific accounts of sexual violence."

The Biden administration on Monday pointed to a proliferation of sexual violence cases in Ukraine, Ethiopia and elsewhere. It cited a UN report that found 3,293 verified sexual violence cases in 2021 across 18 countries, an increase of about 800 compared with the previous year. The UN has estimated that for each rape reported in connection with a conflict, about 10 to 20 cases go undocumented. The administration had previously pledged USD 400,000 in addition to its annual contribution of USD 1.75 million to the Office of the UN Special Representative to the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. The State Department plans an added investment of USD 5.5 million over the next two years to civil society projects and survivor groups seeking sexual violence accountability and will expand programmes to help survivors and investigate and document acts of such violence. (AP)



WHO renames monkeypox as mpox, citing racism concerns

LONDON, NOV 28 /--/ The World Health Organisation has renamed monkeypox as mpox, citing concerns the original name of the decades-old animal disease could be construed as discriminatory and racist.

The UN health agency said in a statement Monday that mpox was its new preferred name for monkeypox, saying that both monkeypox and mpox would be used for the next year while the old name is phased out. WHO said it was concerned by the "racist and stigmatising language" that arose after monkeypox spread to more than 100 countries. It said numerous individuals and countries asked the organisation "to propose a way forward to change

the name". In August, WHO began consulting experts about renaming the disease, shortly after the UN agency declared monkeypox's spread to be a global emergency. To date, there have been more than 80,000 cases identified in dozens of countries that had not previously reported the smallpox-related disease. Until May, monkeypox, a disease that is thought to originate in animals, was not known to trigger large outbreaks beyond central and west Africa.

Outside of Africa, nearly all cases have been in gay, bisexual or other men who have sex with men. Scientists believe monkeypox triggered outbreaks in Western countries after spreading via sex at two raves in Belgium and Spain.

Vaccination efforts in rich countries, along with targeted control interventions, have mostly brought the disease under control after it peaked in the summer. In Africa, the disease mainly affects people in contact with infected animals such as rodents and squirrels. The majority of monkey pox-related deaths have been in Africa, where there have been almost no vaccines available. US health officials have warned it may be impossible to eliminate the disease there, warning it could be a continuing threat mainly for gay and bisexual men for years to come.

Mpox was first named monkeypox in 1958 when research monkeys in Denmark were

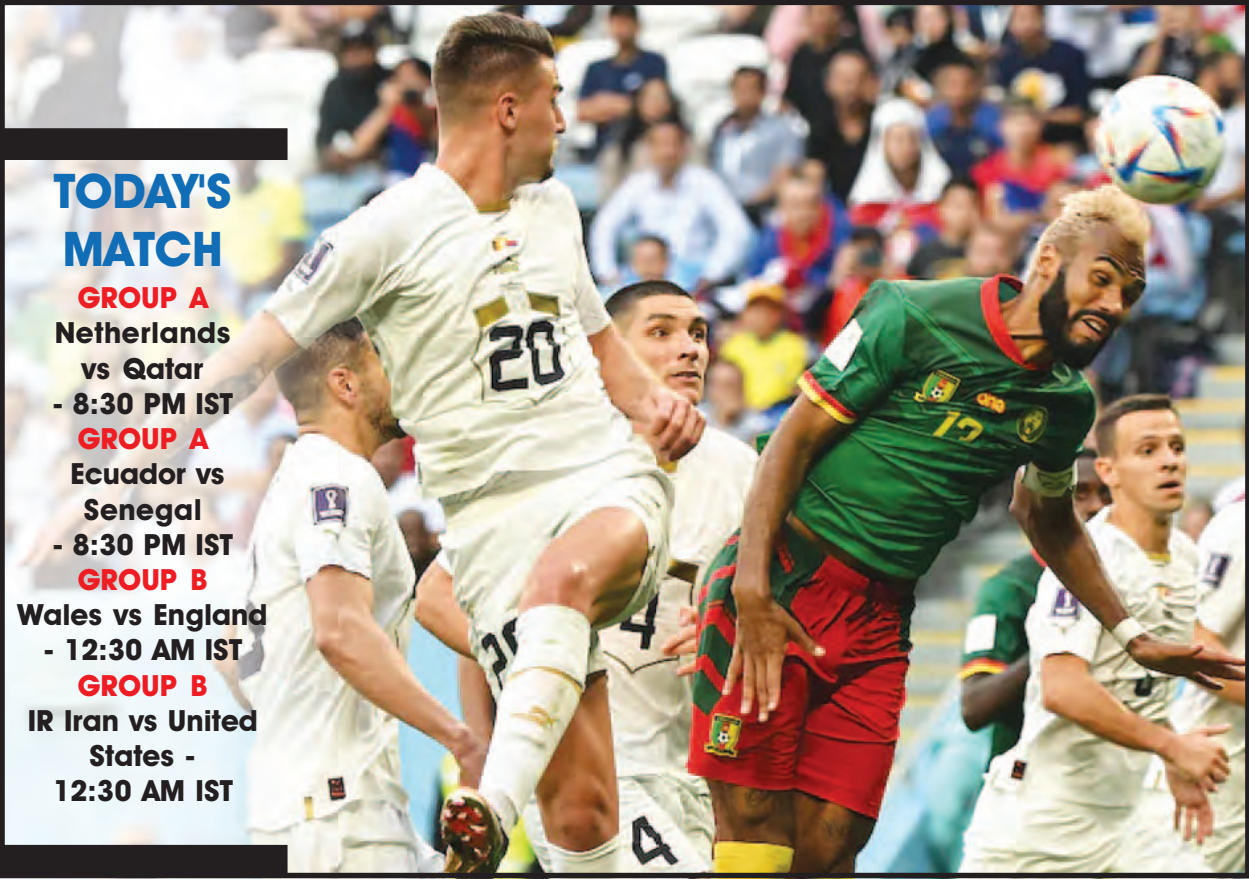
observed to have a "pox-like" disease, although they are not thought to be the disease's animal reservoir. Although the WHO has named numerous new diseases shortly after they emerged, including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS and Covid-19, this appears to be the first time the agency has attempted to rechristen a disease decades after it was first named. Numerous other diseases, including Japanese encephalitis, German measles, Marburg virus and Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome have been named after geographic regions, which could now be considered prejudicial. WHO has not suggested changing any of those names. (AP)



Volunteers deliver aid to villagers after a 5.6-magnitude earthquake in Cianjur, West Java, Indonesia



Cameron rally to salvage 3-3 draw against Serbia



TODAY'S MATCH
GROUP A
Netherlands vs Qatar
- 8:30 PM IST
GROUP A
Ecuador vs Senegal
- 8:30 PM IST
GROUP B
Wales vs England
- 12:30 AM IST
GROUP B
IR Iran vs United States
- 12:30 AM IST

DOHA, NOV 28 /--/ Cameroon kept their hopes of making the last 16 of the World Cup alive on Monday after fighting back from two goals down to draw a thrilling Group G encounter with Serbia 3-3. Rigobert Song's team looked almost dead and buried after goals from Strahinja Pavlovic, Sergej Milinkovic-Savic and Aleksandar Mitrovic gave Serbia a 3-1 lead early in the second half. But substitute Vincent Aboubakar and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting snatched a draw with two quick-fire strikes just after the hour mark to leave both Cameroon and Serbia on a single point, two behind group leaders Brazil and Switzerland. Had they lost, Cameroon would have been relying on the Swiss beating Brazil in order to not be eliminated with a game to spare, but instead the west Africans still have a chance of getting out of the group stage for the first time since 1990. Cameroon have a tough task ahead as they play Brazil in their final match, which according to reports they will play without first-choice goalkeeper Andre Onana who was dropped from the matchday squad just hours before kick-off following an unspecified disciplinary issue. Media reports suggest that Onana has been sent home from the World Cup after a

disagreement with Song, but that pre-match turmoil didn't stop Cameroon putting in a fighting display against a Serbia team who probably deserved to win on the balance of play. Mitrovic was almost invisible in Serbia's defeat to Brazil but here he was involved from kick-off, the Fulham forward unlucky not to give Serbia the lead in the 11th minute when he crashed a shot off the post from a tight angle following a neat exchange of passes with Dusan Tadic. But Mitrovic only had himself to blame for not opening the scoring six minutes later, shanking an awful first-time finish wide when, after a mix up in the Cameroon defence, the ball dropped at his feet with only Onana's replacement Devis Epassy to beat. And Castelletto punished the Serbs for Mitrovic's miss in the 29th minute with the simplest of finishes after ghosting in at the back post to meet Nicolas Nkoulou's flick-on at a corner. Pierre Kunde then passed up a golden opportunity to double Cameroon's lead in the 43rd minute when he first shot straight at goalkeeper Vanja Milinkovic-Savic and then smashed the rebound wide. It was Cameroon's turn to be undone at a set-piece as the half crept into first-half stoppage time when Pavlovic

brilliantly headed home Dusan Tadic's floated free-kick. The Serbs' tails were up and Sergej Milinkovic-Savic flipped the match on its head two minutes later with a superb left-footed finish after Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa sloppily gave the ball away just outside his own penalty area. Mitrovic finally had the goal his strong display deserved seven minutes after the break, tapping in Andrija Zivkovic's pass unopposed at the end of beautiful move guided by Milinkovic-Savic and Tadic. The match looked over but from nowhere Cameroon sprung back into life thanks to Aboubakar's odd goal. The Al Nassr forward raced through onto Castelletto's launched pass over the top and scooped an improbable finish over the Serbia 'keeper, beaming with delight after his goal was awarded following a VAR check. Aboubakar's pace caused Serbia all kinds of problems and he laid on Choupo-Moting's leveller, bursting down the right and laying on a simple finish for the Bayern Munich forward which sparked wild celebrations on the pitch and in the stands. Neither side could find a winner in an end-to-end finish to the game and their bids to make the knockouts will go down to the final game. (AFP)

Riots erupt in Brussels after Morocco stun Belgium at FIFA World Cup

BRUSSELS, NOV 28 /--/ Police used water cannon and teargas after coming under attack from football supporters who brought havoc to the centre of Brussels on Sunday following Morocco's shock 2-0 World Cup win over Belgium in Qatar. Dozens of fans smashed shop windows, threw fireworks and torched vehicles. Police said that 11 people had been arrested with one remaining in custody. Even before the end of the match, "dozens of people, including some wearing hoodies, sought confrontation with the police, which compromised public safety," Brussels police said in a statement. A spokeswoman said some fans were armed with sticks and a journalist "was injured in the face by fireworks". Around a hundred police officers were mobilised while residents were warned to avoid certain areas of the city centre. Metro stations were closed and streets sealed off to limit the spread of the violence. (AFP)

Mohammed Kudus brace helps Ghana beat South Korea 3-2 to keep World Cup hopes alive

DOHA, NOV 28 /--/ Mohammed Kudus scored twice as Ghana beat South Korea 3-2 in a pulsating World Cup encounter on Monday to keep their World Cup hopes alive and leave Paulo Bento's side facing an early exit. Mohammed Salisu opened the scoring against the run of play midway through the first half at Education City Stadium and Ajax midfielder Kudus doubled the Black Stars' lead. But the Asian side, who looked toothless in the first half, roared back after the break, pulling level through a quickfire double from forward Cho Gue-sung either side of the hour mark. Ghana looked shell-shocked as the Korean fans celebrated wildly but they were back in front in the 68th minute when Kudus finished calmly at the back post after Inaki Williams failed to connect with a cross from the left. The result takes Ghana into second in Group H on three points. Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal will have six points and secure qualification for the last 16 if they beat Uruguay in the later kick-off in Qatar. Despite their efforts, South Korea look likely to crash out of the tournament at the group stage for the third straight World Cup. The Asian side, captained by Son Heung-min, were quicker to settle, forcing a succession of corners as they dominated possession but they were unable to fashion a shot on target in the entire first half. Son looked uncomfortable in the black face mask he is wearing after having surgery for a facial injury he suffered while playing for Spurs, constantly readjusting it. Ghana, who lost their opener 3-2 to Portugal, struggled to gain a foothold in the game. But the match totally changed complexion in the 24th minute when the impressive Jordan Ayew, playing down the left for Ghana, swung in a cross following a free-kick. South Korea failed to clear and Southampton centre-back Salisu finished with his left foot, sparking wild scenes of celebration among the Ghana fans decked out in red, white and green. The goal revitalised the African

nation, who reached the quarter-finals in 2010, with South Korea struggling to deal with their physicality and direct approach. Now playing with flair and confidence, Ghana poured forward and doubled their lead in the 34th minute when Kudus powered a header home after a pinpoint Jordan Ayew cross from the left. Captain Andre Ayew - the brother of Jordan - called his men into a team huddle on the pitch and the players got soaked by the sprinklers before they went off for their half-time break. The Koreans at last produced an effort on target in the 53rd minute, when goalkeeper Lawrence Ati Zigi punched away a header from Cho. But the Korean found the net just minutes later, heading

home a cross from substitute Lee Kang-in, who had just been brought on by Bento. And they were level just three minutes later when Cho headed home Kim Jin-su's ball from the left, sparking scenes of delirium among the Korean fans. Now Ghana were rocking but they restored their lead midway through the second half through Kudus. South Korea came back again. Zigi was forced into a scrambling save to push away a free-kick while Salisu cleared off the line. The fourth official held up a board for 10 minutes of added time. South Korea continued to pour forward but they could not find the net and a number of their players collapsed to the turf at the final whistle. Bento was sent off for protesting at the end of the match. (AFP)



Mohammed Kudus (L) celebrates scoring Ghana's third goal vs South Korea

GAME NOTES

Morata, Füllkrug on target as Spain, Germany share spoils in 1-1 draw

DOHA, NOV 28 /--/ Germany forward Niclas Füllkrug salvaged a 1-1 draw against Spain on Sunday at the World Cup. The Germans still need to win their last group match to have a chance of advancing to the knockout stage. The four-time champions were eliminated in the group stage four years ago in Russia. Germany will next face Costa Rica, which defeated Japan 1-0 earlier Sunday. Even a win may not be enough for the Germans, who are in last place in Group E and need the other result to go their way. Spain can reach the last 16 with a draw against Japan. Alvaro Morata put Spain ahead in the 62nd minute and Füllkrug equalized for Germany in the 83rd. The match between the pre-tournament favorites was one of the most anticipated in the group stage. Spain tried to control the pace of the game with ball possession but wasn't able to create many opportunities, while Germany was able to threaten sporadically with breakaways and set pieces. (AP)

US has clear FIFA World Cup task against Iran: win or go home

DOHA, NOV 28 /--/ The task is clear for the United States: beat Iran in a politically charged World Cup match or go home. US players have been praised as the best generation of American football. But they finished third behind Canada and Mexico in World Cup qualifying and now face a must-win final group stage match. "The most important thing is that we control the outcome of our journey in this tournament with the last game against Iran," midfielder Weston McKennie said. "So the next thing is just to go out and get three points against Iran." A draw or a loss would eliminate the Americans, who tied Wales 1-1 and England 0-0. England leads the group with four points, followed by Iran with three, the US with two and Wales with one. "We got to win the game," midfielder Gio Reyna said. "We're not really thinking about anything else, just three points and then we're through." Iran famously beat the US 2-1 in a 1998 World Cup match in France that eliminated the Americans and caused thousands of flag-waving fans to greet the Iranians when they returned home. In the leadup to the rematch on Tuesday, the US Soccer Federation angered Iran's government by briefly displaying Iran's flag on social media without the emblem of the Islamic Republic. (AP)

Netherlands under Van Gaal on cusp of advancing at Qatar WC

DOHA, NOV 28 /--/ The Netherlands is on the verge of reaching the knockout stage at the World Cup and an overwhelming favorite in its final Group A match on Tuesday against host nation Qatar. If the Dutch advance it will put more focus on 71-year-old coach Louis van Gaal, who stepped out of retirement just over a year ago to take over the national team while being treated for aggressive prostate cancer. Host nation Qatar has lost its first two matches and already missed its chance to move on from the group stage. For the Netherlands a draw will suffice to advance and put the Netherlands into contention again in a World Cup after failing to qualify four years ago. The Dutch could even get through with a loss if Ecuador beats Senegal in the other Group A match. In the round of 16, the Netherlands would face one of the top two teams from Group B, where England is the favorite with Iran, Wales, and the United States scrambling for a spot. Van Gaal said before the World Cup that the Netherlands can win it all, although few see this as one of the country's best teams. No powerful football nation has come up short at the World Cup as often as the Dutch, who have been the runners-up three times: in 1974 against West Germany, in 1978 facing Argentina, and in 2010 vs. Spain. (AP)

World Champion Boxer threatens Lionel Messi for 'disrespecting' Mexico Jersey after World Cup match win



DOHA, NOV 28 /--/ With Argentina needing a win against Mexico to stay in contention for the Round of 16 at the 2022 FIFA World Cup, an inspirational Lionel Messi rose to the task with a fine strike in the 64th minute of the Group C match on Saturday. After a largely mundane display by Argentina in the first half, it required a work of magic by Messi to lift the two-time champions. Defeat to Saudi Arabia in their opening Group C match had left Argentina on the brink, knowing another loss would spell the end of their tournament chances. However, the goal by Messi changed the complexion of the match. After the mercurial Messi fired home a low shot from 20 yards, Enzo Fernandez added a thunderbolt second goal for Argentina three minutes from time. Those two goals were enough for Argentina to register a 2-0 win over Mexico. After such a relieving win, the mood in the Argentina camp was upbeat. In a video of their dressing room celebration, which has gone viral on social media, a joyous Messi can

be seen shouting with joy. A green coloured shirt, which many Twitter users said was a jersey of Mexico, could be seen lying at his feet. This has led to fury among some Mexico supporters, including multiple world boxing champion Canelo Alvarez, who said that Messi was disrespecting the Mexico jersey. "Did you see Messi cleaning the floor with our shirt and flag?" Alvarez wrote in a tweet in Spanish. In following tweets, also in Spanish, he wrote, "He'd better pray to god that I don't find him. Just as I respect Argentina, you have to respect Mexico!! I'm not talking about the country (Argentina) I'm talking about Messi." The tweets have become viral now. Messi's goal against Mexico meant he is tied with the late Diego Maradona on eight goals and 21 appearances at the World Cup for Argentina. It came a day after Argentines marked the second anniversary of Maradona's death. (AFP)