

G20 delegates arrives to a rousing welcome, visits Cellular Jail



ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, NOV 25/--/ Delegates participating in the G20 India Briefing reached Port Blair on Friday in a chartered flight. On arrival, they were accorded a rousing welcome at the VSI airport with cultural troupes performing dance and music showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the country besides presenting a glimpse of the tribal culture of the islands. From the airport, the delegates visited Cellular Jail from where they proceeded to SwarajDweep-the main venue of the G20 meetings in private cruise ships. The much-awaited meetings of the G20 Presidency will be held tomorrow at SwarajDweep. After the meetings, the delegates will depart to the mainland on November 27.

BORDERLINE VIOLATION

Villagers in Sundergarh Panchayat unhappy with Jarawas entering their villages

KARTIK

BARATANG, NOV 25/--/ The villagers of Udaygarh (Bolcha) and Vijaygarh (Ranchi Basti) villages of Sundergarh Gram Panchayat under Baratang in Middle Andaman are unhappy that Jarawas, one of the six primitive tribes of the Islands are entry their villages on a frequent basis and forcefully taking away their agriculture produce. Villagers have been complaining about Jarawa consisting of 10-12 in groups entering their villages and looting agricultural produce like bananas, arecanuts, tubers and other agricultural produce of the farmers. Even the tribes don't hesitate to enter the houses of the villagers and take away cooked food. As the Jarawas are well conversant in Hindi language, they even talk in Hindi with the villagers threatening the villagers of dire consequences before leaving the villages to their abode deep inside the jungle.

The villagers have informed the authorities about Jarawas entering

Agriculture produce of farmers of Udaygarh (Bolcha) and Vijaygarh (Ranchi Basti) in Sundergarh Panchayat are snatched away by the primitive tribe



their villages and taking away their produce by force to the local Police. But the tribals have become so smart that the moment they feel that the Police are arriving, they flee from the spot, sources narrated.

This is not the first time that the Jarawas entered the house and farmland of the villagers. Baratang in the Middle Andaman is situated close to the Jarawa Reserve Forest of Middle and South Andaman, which is the abode of the primitive tribes of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. In the past too, reports of groups of Jarawas entering the houses of the villagers and carrying away their food items

have been reported in the Sundargarhpanchayat.

Some villagers raised this issue in the Gram Sabha meeting held on 16th November 2022, and the matter was even reported to the local Police. The SHO, PS Baratang Police Station has expressed his inability to initiate action against the Jarawa tribes without the consent of the Tribal Welfare department. Though the villagers have informally brought the incident to the notice of the Tribal Welfare department, no action is being taken from the department to prevent the entry of the Jarawa tribes into their villages.

In the recently held Gram Sabha meeting,

villagers have also demanded for setting up a Jarawa Post at Udaygarh (Bolcha) & Vijaygarh (Ranchi Basti), to monitor the movement of Jarawa in their settlement areas in order to avoid their entry in villages and also to avoid Jarawa-villagers conflicts. Smt Sarla Krishnan, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat, Sundergarh, Baratang in Middle Andaman has also written a letter to the Secretary (Tribal Welfare) apprising him about the situation and seeking action to prevent the entry of the Jarawa tribe members into their villages as also to stop them forcefully taking away the agriculture produce of the villagers.

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Nayana Eye Care opens new branch at Diglipur

DIGLIPUR, NOV 25/--/Nayana Eye Care has opened its new unit at Subhash Bazaar, Diglipur. At a simple event held on Friday, Retired Optometrist, Mr. Shyam Narayan & Mr. Sunil Sarkar inaugurated the new branch of Nayana Eye Care. The new unit of Nayana Eye Care will provide comprehensive eye care by assessing the visual needs of the patients and providing the much needed clinical assessment and management.



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BJP conspiring to assassinate Kejriwal, says Dy CM Sisodia; saffron party rejects charge

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 /--/ Amid intense campaigning for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi elections, senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia on Friday alleged a BJP conspiracy to "murder" his party's convener and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, a charge the saffron party denied saying Sisodia was reading an "old script".

Latching on to remarks by BJP MP Manoj Tiwari, the deputy chief minister also said his language "betrays the conspiracy being hatched to assassinate Kejriwal" and he should be investigated. The high-stakes MCD elections, which will be held on December 4, is being seen as a three-way contest between the BJP, the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Showing some old tweets by Sisodia claiming threat to Kejriwal's life, Tiwari at a press conference said, "He does this every year, claiming murder threat to

Kejriwal. I don't understand what is going on as Kejriwal claims Sisodia will be arrested, Sisodia himself prophesies that Kejriwal will be murdered." Citing the death of AAP leader Sandip Bhardwaj, the North East BJP MP also alleged that it was not suicide but "murder". The top leadership of the AAP, including Kejriwal, were responsible for it, Tiwari said. Fifty-five-year-old Bhardwaj was found hanging at his residence in west Delhi's Rajouri Garden on Thursday and the BJP had demanded a thorough investigation into the matter. Bhardwaj was assured a ticket by the AAP for the MCD polls, but it was later sold to someone, forcing him to end his life, Tiwari alleged.

The BJP leader reiterated that he was concerned about Kejriwal's security. On Thursday, Tiwari had triggered a row by saying that AAP's MLAs

and party leaders were being thrashed by their supporters over selling of tickets for the municipal polls. "I am concerned about the Kejriwal's security

should not happen with the chief minister of Delhi....," the MP had tweeted on Thursday. Citing Tiwari's remarks, Sisodia told a press conference that his language



Manish Sisodia

because people and AAP volunteers are angry over sustained corruption, selling of tickets, friendship with rapist and massage in jail incidents. Their MLAs too have been thrashed. It

"betrays the conspiracy being hatched to assassinate Kejriwal" and demanded the BJP MP's arrest. There should be a probe to unravel the conspiracy to kill Kejriwal, said Sisodia, who

on Thursday too had levelled the same allegations on the BJP and Tiwari. "The AAP is not scared of such petty politics," he asserted and added that "BJP MP Tiwari should be arrested immediately and strict action should be taken against him since he has openly threatened to kill Chief Minister Kejriwal". "He should be interrogated about this conspiracy to get the entire information about the entire plot," the deputy chief minister said.

Kejriwal's politics is based on good governance and it has the trust of people, and the BJP is ready to "cross all limits" by conspiring to kill him, he said. "The BJP has no faith in democracy and their open threat to kill Kejriwal shows the party cango to any extent for power," Sisodia said. In the midst of the war words between the BJP and the AAP, Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena, according to sources in his

office, has directed the Delhi Police commissioner to keep a watch on related developments and ensure that any "eventuality-orchestrated or otherwise" does not occur. On Sisodia's allegations of "murder conspiracy", the BJP said AAP leaders were "totally frustrated" and alleged that "Kejriwal for political gains and public sympathy" could "plan" an attack on himself.

AAP police spokesperson and MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj said a delegation will meet the Delhi State Election Commissioner to submit a complaint over the BJP "conspiracy" to "assassinate" Kejriwal. There have been attacks on Kejriwal earlier also even in presence of Delhi Police personnel, he claimed at a press conference. Later, the AAP filed a complaint with the State Election Commission against BJP MP Tiwari and other leaders over alleged death threats to Kejriwal. (PTI)

Rise in measles cases: Kerala govt urges children to get vaccination

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 25 /--/ In the wake of a rise in measles cases among children in Malappuram district, the Kerala government on Friday urged parents to ensure that their children are vaccinated without any fail.

Known as 'ancham pani' in local parlance, measles mainly affects children. The Union Health Ministry on Wednesday had asked states to consider administering an additional dose of measles and rubella vaccines to all children aged nine months to five years in vulnerable areas. Health Minister Veena George said the department is taking stringent measures for prevention of the disease and an Additional Director (public health) has already been sent to the district for coordinating preventive measures. The health officials, including the Additional Director, would visit the site where the cases were reported, on Saturday and Sunday and would also oversee the preventive measures, she said in a statement. Besides them, a representative of the World Health Organisation (WHO) is also camped in the district for the mission, she detailed.

The Health Department is already implementing preventive measures with the participation of people's representatives, she said, adding that a special campaign would be launched to encourage vaccination. "There is no need for any worry... Everyone should ensure that their children are vaccinated without any fail. Measles, Rubella or MR vaccine can prevent this disease. The MR vaccine is generally given to children under the age of five years," George said. Adequate amounts of MR vaccine and Vitamin A syrup have been made available in the district, the minister said, adding that the vaccine is available free of cost in all government health centres. Over 100 measles cases have been reportedly registered recently among various age groups, including toddlers, in the district.

A virus infection that mainly affects young children, measles is mostly seen among those belonging to the age group between six months to three years. However, the disease affects teenagers and adults as well, the minister added. Earlier this week, the Centre deployed high-level teams to Malappuram, Ranchi (Jharkhand), and Ahmedabad (Gujarat) to assess and manage increase in number of measles cases among children in these cities. (PTI)

SC closes suo motu proceedings initiated in 2016 after Centre tells 23 members appointed in AFT

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 /--/ The Supreme Court on Friday closed the suo motu proceedings it had initiated in 2016 for filling up the vacancies in the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) after the Centre informed 23 members have been appointed to the panel including 11 judicial members earlier this month.

A bench of Justices MR Shah and MM Sundresh took on record the Centre's notification dated November 15 appointing 11 judicial members and 12 administrative members to the Tribunal. The bench said, "At the relevant time, this court took suo motu cognizance of non-appointment of judicial members which has resulted in denial of justice in the absence of judicial members and orders of AFT were not enforced". It said the Centre has informed the court about the notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on November 15, 2022 giving effect to these appointments. "We take note of the notification dated November 15, 2022, and close the proceedings. If the bar association of the principal bench has any grievance, it should be raised before the appropriate forum to be considered as per law," the bench said.

On September 20, 2016, the top court had received two letters from the President of Indian Ex-Services League and Secretary of Armed Force Tribunal Bar Association, Lucknow about non-availability of Chairperson and Judicial Members in the Armed Forces Tribunal. It had ordered the letters to be treated as writ petitions and initiated suo motu (on its own) proceedings. (PTI)

BJP releases 'Sankalp Patra' for Delhi MCD polls Online services, 100 per cent garbage processing promised

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 /--/ Union minister Piyush Goyal on Friday released the BJP's party manifesto 'Sankalp Patra' for Delhi MCD polls which includes bringing all services online and 100 per cent garbage processing. Reading out the 12-point manifesto, Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta said all services of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will be brought online through a mobile application within 100 days. "Hundred per cent garbage will be processed through waste-to-energy conversion for a green and clean Delhi. Every slum dweller will be provided flats and 17,000 flats are ready for allotment. The BJP will also do away with trade and health licenses, and also abolish factory licenses," he said. Gupta also announced that 50 'jan rasoi' run by women will be opened in the city at Rs 5 per meal. "Free cycles will be provided to meritorious girls in MCD schools and all such schools will be upgraded as smart schools by 2027," he added.

The saffron party also promised to construct 1,000 permanent Chhath ghats in MCD parks if it is voted back to power in the civic body polls. Addressing the event, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said Delhi is an important city, but the AAP government's corruption has dented the image of politicians in the country.

"The AAP government has failed to reply on selling of MCD tickets, massage received by its jailed minister and excise policy irregularities," he said. The minister also accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of depriving the municipal corporations of their due funds. He alleged that the AAP government's achievements are nothing except publicity and advertisements, adding that the party has been exposed and "people betrayed by it will no longer be misled". "... Delhiites will support the BJP in the MCD polls," Goyal emphasised. The civic body polls will be held on December 4, while counting of votes will take place on December 7. (PTI)

More than 100 shops gutted in fire at wholesale market in Delhi's Chandni Chowk

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 /--/ Around 100 shops were gutted in a massive fire in the wholesale market of Bhagirath Palace area in Chandni Chowk here even as the cooling operations are currently underway, police said on Friday.

No injuries have been reported so far, they said. Five major buildings got affected during the fire-fighting operations out of which three collapsed, they said. According to the fire department, a call about the blaze was received at 9.19 pm on Thursday and 40 fire tenders were rushed to the spot. At present, 22 fire tenders are engaged in the cooling process as the fire has been brought under control after more than 12 hours, a fire department official said. The fire broke out in a shop in Mahalaxmi Market and soon spread to adjacent ones, all dealing in electrical appliances, officials said. White smoke billowed high in the sky as the toxic stench of burning plastic and rubber polluted the air. Director of Delhi Fire Service Atul Garg told PTI, "Fire is under control. Now, 22 fire tenders are working on cooling operations. The cause of the fire is not yet known." Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh

Kalsi said as soon as information about the fire was received, the fire department, NDRF, MCD, reserve force from police rushed to the spot. Senior officials also reached the site of the incident, he said. "Every effort was put in to douse the fire. There is no casualty at present. Five major buildings were affected and these housed around 100 shops which got incinerated. Of the five affected buildings, three have collapsed," he added. Ignoring the intermittent sounds of blasts and policemen warning of boned-out portions of buildings collapsing, dejected traders, who had their noses and mouths covered with handkerchiefs to prevent the stench, waited impatiently to enter their incinerated shops to recover whatever they could.

A trader whose shop was gutted in the blaze sat down in the lane adjacent to one of the burning buildings as he tried to come to terms with the "loss of several crores" that he had suffered. "Our shop is destroyed. We are waiting for the fire to be extinguished completely but I don't think anything is left... We have suffered a loss of several crores," Sanjay Kumar said. Among those

eagerly waiting for the fire to die down was Balwinder Singh who has a shop in the building opposite to one of the affected buildings. "As of now our shop is safe. I got to know about the fire at around 11 pm and my father was in the shop. He told me that our shop is safe but I am here to check," Singh said. The fire officials said that weak structures, shortage of water and narrow lanes posed a major challenge for them to carry out fire-fighting operations.

Garg had on Thursday tweeted, "Fire in Chandni Chowk. Total 40 fire vehicles and 200-plus fire personnel were deployed. Major concern weak structures, shortage of water and narrow lane, building started collapsing." Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal expressed grief over the incident and said he is taking stock of the situation from the district administration concerned. "This incident of fire in Bhagirath Palace market of Chandni Chowk late last night is very sad. Since last night, the fire brigade personnel are working hard to douse the flames. I am taking information about this from district administration," he tweeted in Hindi. (PTI)



President Droupadi Murmu with a group of women from Hanu-Aryan village of Indus valley of Ladakh, who are on a National Integration Tour organised by the Indian Army, in New Delhi

G20: 1st tourism track meeting to be held in Rann of Kutch

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 /--/ Preparations for the G20 meetings in India are on course and the first meeting under the tourism track will be held in the picturesque Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, a top official said here on Friday.

Union Tourism Secretary Arvind Singh also told reporters on the sidelines of an event at the

UN House that sustainability will be one of the priority areas when India hosts the G20 events. India will assume the yearlong presidency of G20 on December 1 and more than 200 meetings of the bloc will be held across 55 locations in the country. The first G20 meeting will be held in the first week of December in Rajasthan's

Udaipur when the G20 Sherpa meet will take place, officials had earlier said.

From painting walls to depicting the Indian culture to decking up heritage sites with lights--hectic preparations are underway in Udaipur for the first G20 Sherpa meeting.

The first meeting of the

G20 under the tourism track will take place in Rann of Kutch of Gujarat late January or early February, Singh said. "The second meeting (in this category) will be held in Siliguri, the third one in Srinagar and the fourth one in Goa," he added.

Asked about the preparations for the G20 meetings, Singh said "it is

absolutely on track". Earlier, Singh took part in the CEO Roundtable on Sustainable Tourism hosted by the Ministry of Tourism at the UN House, which brought industry leaders and other stakeholders and participants from the environment conservation sector and NGOs together to discuss the way forward. (PTI)

Mangaluru blast accused got ISIS training, taught same to over 40 people: Union minister

BENGALURU, NOV 25 /--/ Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shobha Karandlaje on Friday said the Mangaluru blast accused had got 'Islamic State training' and had imparted the same to more than 40 people.

Terming the information available about the blast accused Mohammed Shariq (24) as scary, she said the accused came out on bail in the anti-India graffiti case because intense investigation did not take place. The graffiti case refers to slogans praising terror groups that had surfaced on some public walls in Mangaluru city in November 2020. Shariq was arrested in connection with the case and later released on bail. "He (Shariq) had given ISIS training to more than 40 people. There is information that he himself got ISIS training," Karandlaje told reporters here. According to her, the suspected cooker bomb that exploded in a moving autorickshaw was meant for targeting the Kadri Manjunatha Swami Temple in Mangaluru. Maps of many temples in Mangaluru and its surrounding areas were found from Shariq, the Union Minister said adding that the accused had charted out a plan for it.

The objective of the blast accused was to create communal clashes in coastal Karnataka, explosion in temples and create problems for various leaders, Karandlaje claimed. The BJP leader also said that in the coastal region of Kerala and Karnataka, people trained by ISIS in Syria and the members of the banned outfit Popular Front of India are involved in terrorist activities. The minister appealed to the state police to cooperate with the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in providing them necessary infrastructure and desired information to arrest the terrorists.

On November 19, an explosion took place in an autorickshaw which the police called a terror act after the probe. The state government has handed over the case to the NIA for further investigation. (PTI)

NCP mocks Shinde for reportedly meeting astrologer, says his future lies in Fadnavis' hands

MUMBAI, NOV 25 /--/ The Nationalist Congress Party on Friday ridiculed Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for reportedly meeting an astrologer and said superstition would not help him as his future lay in the hands of his deputy Devendra Fadnavis.

Shinde's rebellion in June had brought down the Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government, and he was sworn in as chief minister with the support of the Bharatiya Janata Party, which has a far higher number of legislators than his faction. As per reports, Shinde went to meet an astrologer to learn about his future but the fact is his future seems to lie in the hands of Deputy Chief Minister Fadnavis, said NCP national spokesperson Clyde Crasto. "This is visible in their behaviour in the past few months since their government was formed. It is evident who is calling the shots," Crasto said. (PTI)

Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case: SC rejects NIA's plea challenging bail granted to Anand Teltumbde

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 /--/ The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed NIA's plea challenging the bail granted by the Bombay High Court to scholar-activist Anand Teltumbde in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli refused to interfere with the high court's November 18 order granting bail to 73-year-old Teltumbde, who was arrested in the case in April 2020. "We will not interfere," the bench said, while dismissing the plea filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) challenging the bail granted to him. "The petition is dismissed. However, the observations contained in the impugned judgement of the high court shall not be treated as conclusive final findings at the trial," the apex court noted. During the hearing, the bench asked Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the NIA, about the "specific role" attributable to Teltumbde in the case. "What is the specific role attributable to him which will bring the provisions of the UAPA (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act) into operation?" the bench asked. Referring to the scheme of the Act, Bhati said it is not necessary that a terrorist act is required to be committed and that there are a number of activities in the nature of preparation, association in any manner, coordinating with these proscribed organisations which could be considered an act of terrorism. "You say that he is involved in Dalit mobilisation. Is that really preparatory to a terrorist act?" the bench asked.

The ASG said he is an academician and a "front face". "It is not the front face which is the problem. It is what is going in the garb of front face that really is the problem," said Bhati, who referred to several documents collected by the probe agency as well as statements of some witnesses recorded during the investigation. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Teltumbde, said the documents which the ASG referred to were not recovered from the activist. "Wherever there is an issue of Dalit, he is out there as an academician to deal with it. If in the process there is some organisation which, according to them, is closely associated with some other organisation and I am speaking there as an academic, that does not make me (Teltumbde) a terrorist," Sibal argued. The bench referred to certain provisions of the UAPA including section 15 which deals with terrorist act and section 16 that pertains to punishment for a terrorist act. "There is no terrorist act," the bench observed.

The high court had on November 18 granted bail to Teltumbde noting prima facie the only case made out against him relates to alleged association with a terror group and the support given to it, for which the maximum punishment is 10 years in jail. It had also noted there was no evidence to show he was an active member of the banned CPI (Maoist) or had indulged in any terrorist act. The high court had, however, stayed its bail order for a week so the National Investigation Agency could appeal its order in the Supreme Court. Teltumbde is the third accused among 16 arrested in the case to be released on bail. Poet Varavara Rao is currently out on bail on health grounds, while lawyer Sudha Bharadwaj secured regular bail. (PTI)



G20 Sherpa, Government of India, Mr. Amitabh Kant, alongwith Chief Coordinator for India's G20 Presidency in 2023, Mr. Harsh VardhanShringla on arrival to Andaman & Nicobar Islands to conduct of the briefing session for the Head of Missions of Resident Missions of G20 Member Countries at SwarajDweep met Admiral D K Joshi (Retd.), Lt Governor, A&N Islands at Raj Niwas on Friday. They discussed the feasibility of scheduling further G20 India events.



A delegation of the newly elected Executive Committee of Andaman Chamber of Commerce & Industry led by President, Mr. SurendraPrahadka called on Admiral D K Joshi (Retd.), Lt Governor at Raj Niwas on Friday. The delegation discussed various development projects & business issues related to Infrastructure, Tourism, Fisheries and Shipping for Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

AC, Campbell Bay conducts surprise inspection



CAMPBELL BAY/--/ A surprise inspection was done by the Assistant Commissioner, Campbell Bay at MagarNallah and found some illegal activities by some anti-social elements. Taking cognizance, the Assistant Commissioner formed a joint inspection committee, composed of officials of Revenue department, Police department and Forest department of Campbell Bay. On the recommendation of the committee, a truck found on the spot was seized and necessary action was initiated against the accused as per the relevant section of the law. —SUBRATA

Vishal hoists BJP flag at Champion village



PORT BLAIR, NOV 25/--/ Mr. Vishal Jolly, BJP's National Executive Member hoisted the BJP party flag at Champion village (Nancowry) on Thursday for the first time in the history of A & N Islands. Inspired by the leadership of BJP, the tribal communities enthusiastically participated in the flag hoisting event. During the event, Mr. Aslam Majeed, President, BJYM, Nicobar Dist., SmtiBethcy 2nd Captain, Champion, Smti Sabena 3rd Captain, Shri.J.S.Paul, Former Captain, Mr. Able, 5th Captain, Mr. Pilgrim Atkinson, Secretary (Chairman Tribal Council Nancowry). BJP's Party's ideology reaches out to the tribal communities even to the remotest part of the Country.

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National Seminar on 'Agricultural Transformation & Rural Development' at JNRM

PORT BLAIR, NOV 25/--/ The Department of Home Science, JNRM, in association with the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), A&N Islands organised a National Seminar on "Agricultural Transformation & Rural Development in India with special reference to Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Issues, Challenges and Possibilities" on Firday.

During the inauguration, the chief guest Dr. R.S.C. Jayaraj, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) A&N Islands spoke on the Andaman diversity which is eminently suitable for horticulture- especially with coconuts. The Islands come within the area of natural distribution of coconuts, with a large amount of genetic variation. This provides scope for breeding for productivity, pest tolerance, disease resistance and a host of desirable traits. The germplasm of these islands can be used for improving the productivity of coconuts in the mainland also and the cultivation of fruit crops can ensure food security in the islands and also spur growth of food-processing industries, he added.

Dr. S.Senthil Kumar, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Department of Environment & Forests spoke on the Island ecosystem and its comparative nature with the mainland. The Agriculture Transformation has reached from convention to scientific farming through aeroponics and hydroponics. Further he has stressed the need for adopting vertical farming in

Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The guest of honour, Mr. H.Manoj, General Manager, NABARD informed the gathering about NABARD and as a Development Bank, is mandated for providing and regulating credit and other facilities for the promotion and development of agriculture through which touch almost every aspect of ruraleconomy. Further NABARD is providing refinance support to building rural infrastructure, preparing district



level credit plans to guiding and motivating the banking industry in achieving agriprenurship, he added.

Dr.K.S.Pushpa, Professor & Head, Department of Home Science, Gandhigram Rural Institute dwelt in detail about the livelihood development of women through rural farm based activities. The participatory approach towards education and social welfare is important for achieving the SDG. Dr. S. Kavitha Maithily, Associate Professor, Department of Home Science, Gandhigram Rural Institute spoke on the rural development and agriculture transformation through integrating the technologies. The grassroot and decentralised planning

is required for transfer of technologies to the rural areas.

Dr.H.K.Sharma, Principal, JNRM spoke on the importance of technology on improving the livelihood based on agriculture. He said that development of food processing has to be improved in Andaman and Nicobar Islands so that the farmers of these islands get benefitted and earn more capital. Dr. K.Venkatesan, HOD, Homescience and Convener of the programme spoke on the role of Home Science Extension Activities for promoting entrepreneurial development programmes. He also focused on Atmanirbhar Bharat mission so that the Islands farmers will get benefit on product development and marketing. Further he has described that under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan the village development activities are being carried out the Department of Home Science for promoting livelihood development of the rural agricultural farm and non-farm women. Earlier Smt. Nidhi Shekhawat, Assistant Professor welcomed the gathering while Dr Shilpa Kaushal, 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. P. Bhuvaneshwari, Resource Person and Ms.VaraLakra has served as Rapporteur. Altogether 130 participants from ICAR-CIARI, Andaman College, JNRM, NGO, SHGs, Agricultural field workers and students participated in this programme.

Voluntary blood donation camp at JNRM

PORT BLAIR, NOV 25/--/ The Andaman & Nicobar AIDS Control Society (ANACS) coordinated the voluntary blood donation camp which was organized by Naval Unit 1 (AN), NCC, Junglighat, Port Blair on 25th November 2022 at JNRM Lecture Gallery, Port Blair. A total of 32 units of blood were donated by voluntary donors.



Mr. Ankit Pant, Lt Cdr, Commanding Officer, office of the Commanding Officer, Naval Unit 1 (AN), NCC, Junglighat, Port Blair to organize the camp and made arrangements for conducting the camp successfully.

The technical team from Blood Bank, G.B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair and A & N AIDS Control Society ensured that the donated blood units are screened for the blood transmissible diseases. They also examined the donors for eligibility. Donors' certificates were also distributed to the voluntary donors.



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5.	PRE - PRIMARY EDUCATION	1YEAR	10 TH / 12 TH
6.	PRIMARY EDUCATION	1YEAR	10 TH / 12 TH
7.	X - RAY TECHNOLOGY	1YEAR	10 TH / 12 TH
8.	SANITARY INSPECTOR	1YEAR	10 TH / 12 TH
9.	MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN	2YEARS	12 TH
10.	OPERATION THEATER ASSISTANT	2YEARS	12 TH
11.	AIRFARE & TICKETING	6MONTHS	10 TH
12.	AIRPORT GROUND STAFF TRAINING	6MONTHS	10 TH

➤ **ADMISSION GOING ON JAUNARY - 2023 BATCH.**

➤ **ADMISSION FORM SUBMISSION LAST DATE 28/12/2022.**

➤ **FOR INTER ISLAND STUDENTS ONLINE CLASSES ALSO AVAILABLE**



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Peace of mind is that mental condition in which you have accepted the worst

Lin Yutang

Abortion rights in French constitution

The resolution adopted by lawmakers in the lower house of parliament in France to enshrine abortion rights in the country's constitution is no doubt the first step in a lengthy and uncertain legislative battle prompted by the rollback of abortion rights in the United States. The measure was approved with 337 lawmakers voting for and 32 against in the 557-member National Assembly. To be approved, any measure must be first approved by majorities in the National Assembly and the upper house, the Senate, and then in a nationwide referendum. Authors of the proposal, from a left-wing coalition, argued that the measure was aimed at protecting and guaranteeing the fundamental right to voluntary termination of pregnancy and to contraception by inscribing it into the Constitution. Abortion in France was decriminalised under a key 1975 law, but there is nothing in the constitution that would guarantee abortion rights. French Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti said the centrist government supports the initiative and referred to the US Supreme Court's decision in June, which eliminated the federal constitutional right to abortion and left the decision to the states. Dupond-Moretti said he was "hopeful" that some senators could change their mind and form a majority in favor. He and other proponents of constitutional change argue that French lawmakers should not take any chances on fundamental rights, since it is easier to change the law than the constitution. Another bill to inscribe the right to abortion into the constitution, initiated by a group of lawmakers from French President Emmanuel Macron's centrist alliance, Renaissance, will also be debated in the lower house, the National Assembly. That text does not include a mention to the right to contraception. Both proposals are only the first step of a lengthy process without a certain result. The Senate, where the conservative party, The Republicans, has a majority, rejected a similar proposal in September. The Republican senators argued the measure is not needed since the right to abortion is not under threat in France. The right to abortion enjoys broad support across the French political spectrum, including from Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally. Yet Le Pen in recent days said she is opposed to the leftist proposal because she thinks it could potentially lead to extending or abolishing the time limit at which a pregnancy can be terminated. A recent poll showed that over 80% of the French population supports the right to abortion. The results were consistent with previous surveys. The same poll also showed that a solid majority of people are in favor of enshrining it into the constitution.

Biden slow-walks punitive move against Saudis for oil defiance

REFLEX ACTION

James M Dorsey

Recent Saudi efforts to appease the Biden administration in the wake of the kingdom's backing of last month's OPEC+ oil production cut take on added significance in the wake of this week's US midterm elections that have strengthened Joe Biden and weakened former President Donald J. Trump. Saudi insistence on a two million barrel a day cut in the wake of Biden's failed effort to persuade Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to delay the cut, if not increase production, in advance of the elections, was widely seen in Washington as an effort to bolster Trump's Republican Party. If that was the Saudi strategy, it backfired. Biden's Democratic Party fared far better in the elections by holding onto control of the Senate and losing the House of Representatives to the Republicans by a much smaller margin than expected. Saudi Arabia has consistently denied the allegation, insisting the cut was economically prudent and constituted neither an attempt to sway US voters nor support Russia despite its invasion of Ukraine. In the six weeks since the cut, Saudi Arabia has made several conciliatory gestures, including a vote in the United Nations General Assembly in favour of a resolution declaring Russia's annexation of swathes of eastern Ukraine illegal, and significantly increased humanitarian aid for Ukraine. However, that didn't stop the Biden administration from simultaneously seeking to bolster fledgling confidence in its commitment to the kingdom's defence by flying two B-52 bombers over the Middle East in a show-of-force message to Iran. The demonstrative act was intended to deter Iran from acting on alleged plans to attack Saudi Arabia to distract attention from two months of anti-government protests that Iran claims were instigated by the kingdom, the United States, and Israel. The overflight also followed reports that Saudi Arabia had broken off Iraqi-sponsored talks with Iran designed to prevent differences between the two regional rivals from spinning out of control. It remains unclear whether the US demonstration has deterred Iran. Moreover, it has not stopped tensions between Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Israel and Iran's domestic strife from potentially

spilling into the Qatar World Cup. Israel this week advised the up to 20,000 Israelis expected to attend the World Cup in a country that generally refuses to grant them entry to exercise caution, in part because of Iranian participation in the tournament. The expected presence has also sparked the ire of some Qataris because of Israel's policy towards the Palestinians. Former Qatari race driver Hamad Al-Suwaidi sparked outrage on social media by declaring that Israeli fans would be welcome as "brothers" in Qatar, which is "also their country." The outrage raised questions about what kind of reception Israelis can expect. Al-Suwaidi made his remarks shortly after becoming a media sensation in Qatar because he had installed a gigantic stone replica of the World Cup soccer trophy outside his home in Doha. In response, Ahmed Al Binali, a Qatari national, tweeted that "recently, there have been some lone voices calling for normalisation with the Zionist entity and welcoming settlers to visit Doha! Since when was Qatar their country? Since when were they our brothers and friends? We neither welcome nor will be friends with those who kill the people and children of Palestine." For his part, Carlos Queiroz, the Iranian football squad's manager, insisted that players would be allowed to protest. Some Iranian footballers, including the squad's star player Sardar Azmoun, have supported the anti-government protests in Iran. More than 300 protesters are believed to have been killed in the past two months in brutal efforts by security forces to squash the unrest. Breaking with FIFA's fictional separation of politics and sports, Queiroz said that "players are free to protest as they would if they were from any other country as long as it conforms with the World Cup regulations and is in the spirit of the game." Ironically, the crackdowns in Iran and Saudi

Arabia share similar goals. They aim to avoid risks inherent in what political scientist Barbara F. Walter describes as anocracy, a regime that is neither fully autocratic nor fully democratic. Ms. Walter noted that "civil wars almost never happen in full, healthy, strong democracies. They also seldom happen in full autocracies. Violence almost always breaks out in countries in the middle." The political scientist was discussing domestic tensions in the United States, but her insights are equally valid for Iran and Saudi Arabia. The recent harsh sentencing of Saudi and US nationals to decades in prison for their tweets was widely seen as a way for Bin Salman to poke a finger in Mr. Biden's eye after he warned that the oil production cut would have consequences for the already strained US-Saudi relationship. In recent months, Bin Salman's escalating crackdown on dissent has sent two women to respectively 34 and 45 years in prison and a 72-year-old American who was returning to his native Saudi for a vacation to 16 years behind bars for tweeting critically about the regime. Additionally, Saudi authorities recently detained a 34-year-old American woman, Carly Morris, after she posted on Twitter that she and her young daughter had been lured to the kingdom and trapped there since 2019. If Ms. Walter is correct, the repressive legal moves may have more to do with Bin Salman's sense of regime survival than with a shadow boxing match with Biden. Even so, Biden may feel he is winning the match on points. A senior US official asserted that "our displeasure has already been clearly stated and has already had an impact. We've seen the Saudis react in ways that are constructive." As a result, the administration is slow-walking efforts to make Saudi Arabia pay the price for the oil production cut. This week, the administration has told a US court that Bin Salman should be granted sovereign immunity in a civil case involving the 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The advice effectively ended a last-ditch attempt to hold the crown prince legally accountable for the killing in the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul. (IPA)



Fifa World Cup themed sweets being sold at a sweetmeat shop in Bhowanipur----Arijit Ganguly

Sunak govt's autumn budget signals new era of austerity in Britain

The British Government led by the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak government has marked a "new era of austerity" in its Autumn Statement, unions warned November 17 as the Chancellor Jeremy Hunt was accused of "picking the pockets" of the entire country. Jeremy Hunt set out a package of around £34 billion of spending cuts and £24bn in tax rises over the next five years, leaving households more vulnerable and facing increased energy bills, high inflation and tax payments. And he confirmed that the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) announced that Britain was now in recession and that it was facing an increase in unemployment. Mr Hunt blamed Russian President Vladimir Putin for a global economic crisis, but TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady said that the recession was "made in 10 Downing Street" and hit out at the Tories for "making working people take the hit." She said: "The Chancellor talked about everyone making sacrifices, but the super-rich have once again been let off the hook — token tweaks to tax will do little to dent their bank balances.

"This is a government more interested in rewarding wealth than work. "This is a government choosing to hold down the wages of nurses and teachers while it allows bankers unlimited bonuses." On the cuts to public services, Ms O'Grady said that the Tories "seem hell-bent on breaking Britain." She also criticised ministers for announcing "the bare minimum" on the national minimum wage and universal credit. Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said that Britain was "stuck in an economic straightjacket. "Our political class repackages the same failed approach crisis after crisis, choosing to put a sticking plaster on a wound that needs surgery," she said. "Austerity and tax rises for workers will do nothing to create decent jobs or put money in our pockets. TSSA interim general secretary Frank Ward slammed the government for "clobbering working people," arguing the measures were "a squeeze

on people who are already struggling." He criticised the "deafening silence" on public-sector pay and wages, adding: "This government appears oblivious to the industrial unrest across our country." GMB general secretary Gary Smith said the statement "sticks two fingers up" at workers, adding: "This disgraceful Tory government is out of ideas, out of time, and should be out of office." Unison general secretary Christina Mc Anea said: "The government acts like there's no public-sector pay or workforce crisis. "Nothing was said today to change the minds of NHS staff currently voting on strike action." The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) said it is giving the government five days to open "detailed negotiations" on pay or it will announce strike dates for December. In Commons, immediately after the statement, shadow chancellor

Rachel Reeves said Mr Hunt was attempting to "take the British people for fools" by seeking to claim the Conservatives are not responsible for the "last 12 years of failure." She said: "In the last hour, the Conservatives have picked the pockets of purses and wallets of the entire country as the Chancellor has deployed a raft of stealth taxes taking billions of pounds from ordinary working people." Scottish Green finance spokesman Ross Greer said Mr Hunt had "evoked the ghost of Christmas past" in his speech. He said: "There is nothing compassionate about this Tory government or its economic vision. "Hunt has succeeded only in returning the UK to the Victorian era when families were allowed to go hungry, homelessness was rife and poverty caused death and devastation." Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon accused the government of "repeating past mistakes. "The UK is almost unique among wealthier countries in reintroducing austerity, it is the wrong approach and will have a significant adverse impact on people and public services across Scotland," she said. (IPA)

FOCUS

Ceren Sagir

Conventional Crossword

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8
9						10		
11							12	
				13		14		
15	16		17					
						18	19	20
21		22			23			
24					25	26		27
28					29			
30				31				

ACROSS

- Shrewd
- Fuel
- Earth (Lat)
- Vocal sound
- Mock
- Mature
- Morose
- Ship's company
- Singer
- Cavalry swords
- Metal-bearing rock
- Got up
- Fasting period
- Even
- Strange
- Regret

DOWN

- Top room
- Expanse of water
- Suspension of hostilities
- Container for ashes
- Makes lace
- Target
- Divine messengers
- Observed
- Bowl with slow underhand movement
- Brought up
- Armed conflict
- Over
- Kind of wheat
- Alone
- Curve
- Auction
- Corded fabric
- Indonesian monetary unit

SUDOKU: 3707

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

Yesterday's Solution 3706

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

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1715

D	E	A	R		E	S	P	Y
E		P				I	R	E
A	M	P	L	E		E	R	I
R		L	E	M	O	N		
T	R	E	S	S		T	A	C
H	I	S	S		R	I	V	E
P		E	D	U	C	E		U
S	P	A	N		M	E	R	I
I	L	L				S		H
P	E	L	T			L	E	N
S								S

DISCLAIMER

The views in the articles published here are absolutely the views of the author and The Echo of India does not stand liable for them.

SEVA SUCHNAYEIN

All the sailings are subject to weather conditions

INTER ISLAND SECTOR:

MV Campbell Bay will sail for Campbell Bay via Nancowry on 04.12.2022 (Sun) at 1000 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 06.12.2022 (Tue) at 0900 Hrs from Campbell Bay via Nancowry. Passenger Tickets for the above sailing will be issued to the general public from 01.12.2022 (Thu) onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters,

LITTLE ANDAMAN:

? MV Campbell Bay will sail for Little Andaman on 26.11.2022 at 0900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Little Andaman.

. MV Campbell Bay will sail for Little Andaman on 28.11.2022 (Mon) at 0900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Little Andaman.

Nalanda will sail for Little Andaman on 30.11.2022 (Wed) at 0900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Little Andaman. Nalanda will sail for Little Andaman on 03.12.2022 (Sat) at 0900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Little Andaman. Note: Passenger tickets for the above sailings Le. (for 28", 30th Nov., & 3 Dec., 2022) will be issued to the general public from 26.11.2022 (Sat) onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters.

DIGLIPUR & MAYABUNDER:

? MV Dering will sail for Diglipur via Mayabunder on 26.11.2022 (Sat) at 1900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 27.11.2022 (Sun) at 1230 Hrs from Diglipur via Mayabunder.

MV Dering will sail for Diglipur via Mayabunder on 30.11.2022 (Wed) at 1900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 01.12.2022 (Thu) at 1230 Hrs from Diglipur via Mayabunder. Passenger tickets for the above sailing will be issued to the general public from 28.11.2022 onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters.

MV Dering will sail for Diglipur via Mayabunder on 03.12.2022 (Sat) at 1900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 04.12.2022 (Sun) at 1230 Hrs from Diglipur via Mayabunder. Passenger tickets for the above sailing will be issued to the general public from 01.12.2022 onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters.

FORESHORE SECTOR:

Note: Passenger tickets for the Foreshore Sector vessels will be issued to the general public at STARS Ticketing Counters two days prior to her scheduled departure date.

26.11.2022 (SAT)

SHAHEED DWEEP & SWARAJ DWEEP

MV Bambooka will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 26.11.2022 (Sat) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0900 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep. MV Chouldari will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 26.11.2022 (Sat) at 0630 Hrs. from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.

MV Baratang will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 26.11.2022 (Sat) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.

? MV Baratang will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 26.11.2022 (Sat) at 1300 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep Jetty and will sail back to Shaheed Dweep on the same day at 1430 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep. MV Bambooka will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 26.11.2022 (Sat) at 1400 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1630 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.

MV Rani Lakshmi will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 26.11.2022 (Sat) at 1700 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail back to Port Blair on 27.11.2022 (Sun) at 0600 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.

RANGAT MV Strait Island will sail for Rangat via Shaheed Dweep. Swaraj Dweep, Strait Island & Long Island on 26.11.2022 (Sat) at 0700 Hrs. from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on 27.11.2022 (Sun) at 0700 Hrs from Rangat via same route.

27.11.2022 (SUN)

SHAHEED DWEEP & SWARAJ DWEEP

? MV Bambooka will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 27.11.2022 (Sun) at 0830 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1100 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.

? MV Baratang will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 27.11.2022 (Sun) at 0630 Hrs, from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.

? MV Chouldari will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 27.11.2022 (Sun) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.

. MV Chouldari will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 27.11.2022 (Sun) at 1300 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep Jetty and will sail back to Shaheed Dweep on the same day at 1430 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.

MV Bambooka will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 27.11.2022 (Sun) at 1400 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1630 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep. MV Strait Island will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 27.11.2022 (Sun) at 1700 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jelly and will sail back to Port Blair on 28.11.2022 (Mon) at 0600 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.

28.11.2022 (MON)

SHAHEED DWEEP & SWARAJ DWEEP

? MV Bambooka will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 28.11.2022 (Mon) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0900 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.

MV Kamorta will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 28.11.2022 (Mon) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep. MV Strait Island will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 28.11.2022 (Mon) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.

MV Strait Island will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 28.11.2022 (Mon) at 1300 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep Jetty and will sail back to Shaheed Dweep on the same day at 1430 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep. MV Bambooka will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 28.11.2022 (Mon) at 1400 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1630 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep. MV Kamorta will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 28.11.2022 (Mon) at 1700 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail back to Port Blair on 29.11.2022 (Tue) at 0600 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.

RANGAI MV Chouldari will sail for Rangat via Shaheed Dweep. Swaraj Dweep, Strait Island, Kadamtala & Long Island on 28.11.2022 (Mon) at 0700 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on 29.11.2022 (Tue) at 0700 Hrs from Rangat via same route.

3-Days training-cum-hand holding prog



PORT BLAIR, NOV 25/--/

A three-day residential training-cum-hand holding program for Middle Management (L-2) Laboratory Staff of Water Quality Testing Laboratories of A & N Islands was organized by Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, Delhi from Nov. 22 to 24, 2022 at Chief Engineer Office, APWD, Port Blair. The training program is a part of capacity building program under JaJeevan Mission funded by National JaJeevan Mission MoJS to strengthen Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance in rural area to ensure safe drinking water to rural area of A & N Islands.

Training program was attended by the Chief Engineer, other higher officials of APWD and resources persons from Shriram Institute. Director (Water), NJJM, MoJS, New Delhi and Director, Shriram Institute of Industrial Research, Delhi also attended the inaugural program online.

During inaugural ceremony, the Director, NJJM, New Delhi expressed happiness for organizing this training program at Port Blair and requested all participants to learn from experts team during training session and implement in the field so that they can lead in water quality surveillances in the country. Dr Mukul Das, Director, Shriram Institute for Industrial Research in his introductory speech elaborated on the need of regular training and role of his institute being played in this field.

He expressed happiness over appointed of Shriram Institute as KRC by MoJS, New Delhi for the challenging task for organizing training on water quality all over India.

The Chief Engineer, APWD in his address thanked Shriram Institute for Industrial Research for organizing the program at Port Blair said Engineers of APWD will be greatly benefitted from rich experience, deep knowledge and understanding of subject on water quality of the KRC.

The key resource persons/course coordinator from SIIR, Delhi who imparted the training were Dr. Vivek Narayan Singh, Head, Environment Division, SRI, Dr. Jagdish Kumar, Senior Assistant Director and Shri Gaurav, Scientist, SRI.

The training programme comprises of theoretical lectures on standard laboratory procedures for testing of 11 parameters of water quality as per IS 10500 and hand holding session was organized at State Laboratory, CE's Office, APWD, Port Blair. About 42 Engineers and Laboratory Staff from different Divisions of APWD participated in the program. The participants expressed their happiness over the content of the training programme, especially the hand holding part which will help them in keeping their knowledge updated in the laboratory procedure. During the concluding session, certificates were distributed to all the participants.

Scientist, SRI.

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2-Days State Conference of CITU begins

PORT BLAIR, NOV 25/--/ The two-day Andaman & Nicobar State Conference of CITU will be held on 26th and 27th November, 2022 at Port Blair. The Open Session of the Conference will be inaugurated by Mr. AK Padmanabhan, All India Vice President of CITU on 26th November, 2022 at Tiranga Park. A massive procession will be taken out from Tiranga Park at 3.30 p.m. which after making a round of the town will culminate in a public meeting at Tiranga Park. The public meeting will begin at 4.30 p.m.

On 27th November, 2022, the Delegation Session will begin at Atul Smriti Samity (Bengali Club) at 9.30 a.m which will continue till 5 p.m. More than 125 delegates will attend the delegate session.

Constitution Day celebration by DBRAIT students

PORT BLAIR, NOV 25/--/ As a part of observance of "Constitution Day" on 26th November 2022, to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India, a session was organized by the students of DBRAIT, a day earlier, to make aware the intention of its framers, the history behind its creation, and the core values and principles of the nation. The basic idea of the preamble highlighted were Nature of Indian State, Statement of its objectives and dte of its adoption. The session started with a brief presentation on these three organs followed by reading out the preamble by the Principal (i/c) for all the faculties & staff.

Serum Institute WhatsAapp duping case: 7 held from various states, main accused on the run

PUNE, NOV 25 /--/ Seven people have been arrested for allegedly using the image of Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla and getting a director of the leading vaccine-producing firm to transfer Rs 1.01 crore to various bank accounts, Pune police said on Friday.

As per the First Information Report registered with Bundgarden police station in the second week of September, the accused had used Poonawalla's image in a Whatsapp account and sent messages about money transfer to Satish Deshpande, one of the directors of the firm, an official said. Believing the messages were from Poonawalla, the director transferred Rs 1.01 crore of the firm's funds to eight bank accounts mentioned in the Whatsapp conversation, he said. "The eight bank accounts belonged to eight persons. Seven of these persons have been arrested from different states, while the hunt is on for the main accused.

We have seized 40 accounts into which money from these eight accounts was transferred," said Zone II Deputy Commissioner of Police Smarthna Patil. "We have managed to confiscate Rs 13 lakh in these accounts. The accused are B.Tech and B.Sc graduates hailing from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. One of them works in a commercial bank," the DCP added. (PTI)

work of the students, teachers and parents.

Earlier, the Principal, VKZPV, Port Mout, Mr. S. Rajkumar welcomed the gathering. A total of 98 models were exhibited in the ASTHRA for competition which were evaluated by Post Graduate Teachers of GSSS, Port Mout. Large number of visitors from neighboring school students, parents and the public visited the fair.

Counseling for BALLB in ALC

PORT BLAIR, NOV 25/--/ Admission counseling for B.A.L.L.B., (Five Year Integrated) Degree Course offered in Andaman Law College will be held on Dec. 2 at 9 am in Andaman Law College Auditorium. Interested candidates who had already applied for the course have been requested to be present for the counseling at the designated time, date and venue with all original certificates. Failure to attend the counseling on the date mentioned above will forfeit their claim for admission.

Special show at Science Centre

PORT BLAIR, NOV 25/--/ The Science Centre at Goodwill Estate, Corbyn's Cove Road will be organizing a Special 3D show at 5pm 6pm on 26th November, 2022 with entry fee of 20/- per head. Further, there will be a 'Bubble show' on 26th November, 2022 at 5.30pm. This is a fun filled show specially designed for all age groups to enjoy with their kids. During the programme, the demonstrator will prepare varieties of bubbles right from tiny bubble to giant bubble, children's most favorite doraemon bubble to the cubic bubble caterpillar bubble, fire bubble & many more. The entry fee for the bubble show is Rs. 10/- per head.

10-Days workshop for teachers teaching Hindi

PORT BLAIR, NOV 25/--/ The Central Institute of Hindi, Hyderabad Centre in collaboration with State Institute of Education, Port Blair will be conducting a 10-days workshop for teachers teaching Hindi (GTTs) under Education Department A & N Administration on the Topic 'Navikaran Patyakram' to be held from 28th November to 8th December 2022 in the conference Hall of Shiksha Sadan Port Blair from 8:30 am to 4pm. Fifty-six GTTs from nine Educational Zones will be participating in the training programme. As a resource person-cum-coordinator, Dr. Gangadhar Vanode, Regional Director and 2 other resource persons of Central Institute of Hindi, Hyderabad Center will be performing their duties. The objective of this programme is to introduce modern techniques related to language teaching. Various aspects related to the state-of-the-art tools and techniques of language teaching will be discussed during the workshop covering the courses viz. General linguistics; Structure of Hindi Language; Teaching of linguistic skills; Language Comparison Method and teaching and lesson planning; Textbook analysis and project work etc.

Punjab seeks Rs 2,500 crore special industrial package to develop border districts

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 /--/ Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Cheema on Friday sought a border-area special industrial package of Rs 2,500 crore for the development of the state's border districts, besides the resolution of the Cash Credit Limit issue in line with recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission sub-committee. Submitting a comprehensive memorandum of demands for the 2023-24 Union Budget in a meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Cheema sought Rs 1,125 crore in budgetary support for assistance to farmers quitting stubble burning, Rs 1,000 crore special assistance for modernisation of the police force and policing infrastructure in sensitive border districts, Vande Bharat trains from the 'holy city' of Amritsar to New Delhi and Bathinda to New Delhi, and a railway link between Rajpura and Chandigarh.

During the pre-Budget meeting at Manekshaw Centre here, Cheema said Punjab, being a border state with a high stake in national security, needed to be considered as "special cases", along with other such areas in India, to attract investors and industries. "A special package of Rs 2,500 crore be provided to the state of Punjab for the development of the industrial sector in the border districts of Punjab, being a border state with a high stake in national security, needed to be considered as "special cases", along with other such areas in India, to attract investors and industries. "A special package of Rs 2,500 crore be provided to the state of Punjab for the development of the industrial sector in the border districts of Punjab, being a border state with a high stake in national security, needed to be considered as "special cases", along with other such areas in India, to attract investors and industries. 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Mamata meets Suvendu over tea at her Assembly chamber



Just a courtesy call, says LOP; Cong, CPM smell TMC-BJP patch-up

KOLKATA, NOV 25 /--/ In a first since last year's state elections, chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday held a "courtesy meeting" with Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari at her chamber in the state Assembly, raising eyebrows in political circles. Later, during a discussion on 'Constitution Day' in the House, the chief minister said that she had at one point adored him like a brother. Adhikari and Mamata had been at loggerheads since the end of 2020 when he switched over to the BJP from the TMC and defeated the TMC supremo in Nandigram in the Assembly polls. The meeting came

close on the heels of Adhikari complaining that his name was not included in the invitation letter for the 'Constitution Day' programme in the Assembly. The BJP leader had also said that he would "boycott" the programme. The Nandigram MLA was seen entering Mamata's chamber accompanied by BJP leaders Manoj Tigga and Agnimitra Paul, shortly after the Assembly session broke for recess in the afternoon. "I called Suvendu for tea," the chief minister said after the meeting. Adhikari, talking to reporters, said, "It was just a courtesy call. Nothing else should be read into it. I did not have tea."

Reacting to the "courtesy meet", Congress leader Kamurzzan Chowdhury claimed that the process of "Didi-Modi patch-up" is underway, with eye on 2024 Lok Sabha elections. "The Centre released funds for Pradhan Mantri Gram Awas Yojana yesterday, and Mamata is scheduled to meet PM Modi on December 5. Today, the CM met Suvendu. All these point to the fact that the process for Didi-Modi patch-up" is underway," he said. Echoing similar sentiments, CPM leader Sujan Chakraborty told PTI that "it became clear from today's meeting that there is an understanding between the TMC and the BJP." (PTI)

There should be mutual respect among political rivals: Mamata

KOLKATA, NOV 25 /--/ Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday stressed on the need to have mutual respect among political rivals despite differences, lamenting that an era of intolerance prevails in the country.

Mamata, who was speaking in the Assembly on the eve of Constitution Day, also alleged that the BJP-led government at the Centre was running the country through Central agencies, and called for safeguarding the democratic rights of people. "An era of political intolerance now prevails in the country... which is unfortunate. As per the Constitution, representatives of people should work for the welfare of people. There should not be any division on the basis of religion, community or cast, and polarisation. "But, what are we experiencing? On the contrary, we are witnessing the rights of people being taken away," the chief minister said. Earlier taking part in the discussion, Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari said the Trinamool Congress government has snatched the democratic rights of people, politicised the education sector, made the bureaucracy partisan and did not believe in giving respect to the Opposition.

Mamata countered the charges, saying her government accorded due respect to the Opposition, and offered chairmanship to BJP MLAs of nine assembly panels out of 41 committees. "There has to be mutual respect even if we are political rivals. That keeps democracy functioning," she said. "We invite you to business summits and film festivals but you do not attend," the chief minister said, referring to the BJP members in the Assembly. (PTI)

India rectifying its past mistakes, celebrating unsung heroes: PM

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said India was correcting its past mistakes by celebrating its varied heritage and remembering its unsung bravehearts who were lost in the pages of history that was written as part of a conspiracy during the colonial era. Addressing the 400th birth anniversary celebrations of Lachit Barphukan, Modi said the history of India was not just about slavery but also about its warriors. "India's history is the history of warriors, the history of victory, the history of sacrifice, selflessness and bravery," he said. The Prime Minister said unfortunately even after Independence, the history that was written as part of a conspiracy during the colonial era continued to be taught. "After Independence there was a need to change the agenda of slavery but it did not happen," Modi stated. The Prime Minister said in every corner of the country, brave sons and daughters fought oppressors but this history was intentionally suppressed. "Today, India has broken the shackles of colonialism and is moving forward, celebrating our heritage and remembering our heroes with pride," he said. Modi also recalled how Lachit Barphukan had kept national interest above blood relations and did not hesitate to punish his close relative. "Lachit Barphukan's life inspires us to rise above dynasty and think about the country. He had said that no relationship is bigger than the country," the Prime Minister said. Barphukan (November 24, 1622-April 25, 1672) was the famous General of the Royal Army of the Ahom Kingdom of Assam who defeated the Mughals and successfully halted their ever expanding ambitions under Aurangzeb. (PTI)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi paying floral tribute to Lachit Barphukan on his 400th Birthday Anniversary celebration, in New Delhi on Friday

Govt convenes all-party meet on G20 preparations on Dec 5

Will participate as TMC supremo, not Bengal CM: Mamata

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 /--/ The Union government has convened an all-party meet here on December 5 to inform leaders about India's preparations for the G20 meetings that New Delhi plans to host over the next one year, a senior leader of a party said on Friday. Presidents of nearly 40 parties have been invited for the meeting by parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be present, the leader said requesting anonymity. External affairs minister S Jaishankar is also likely to attend the meeting at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, sources said. India will

officially assume the G20 Presidency from December 1. The next G20 Leaders' Summit at the level of heads of state or government is scheduled to be held on September 9 and 10 in New Delhi. Several G20 meetings will be held in various parts of the country. West Bengal chief minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee had said on Thursday that she will travel to the national capital on December 5 to take part in the meeting called by the government on preparations for the G20 Summit. Banerjee, however, said she would be participating in the meeting in the capacity of Trinamool Congress

chairperson, and not as the West Bengal chief minister. Indonesia had earlier this month handed over the G20 presidency to India for the coming year at the Bali summit with Prime Minister Modi terming it a matter of pride for every Indian citizen. G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. It comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU). (PTI)

Don't put the clock back, govt tells SC as court puts note ban under scanner

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 /--/ Resisting the Supreme Court's attempt to revisit the 2016 demonetisation exercise, the Union government said on Friday the court cannot decide a matter when no tangible relief can be granted by way of "putting the clock back" and "unscrambling a scrambled egg".

The remarks by Attorney General R Venkataramani came after the apex court asked the Union government to explain whether it consulted the the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) before undertaking demonetisation of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 denomination notes in 2016. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice S A Nazeer is hearing a batch of 58 petitions challenging the demonetisation exercise.

"The only submission you have made is that these are all economic issues done by experts (so) don't touch it. What is your opposition to the plea of the other side? Tell us what is your submission to counter their submissions. They said it is not in conformity with section 26 (2) of the RBI Act. "You are arguing that the objectives set out have been achieved. But, we want you to address the allegation that the process followed was flawed. Show us the procedure was followed or not," the bench, also comprising Justices B R Gavai, A S Bopanna, V Ramasubramanian, and B V Nagarathna, said. Section 26(2) of the RBI Act says "On recommendation of the Central Board the Central Government may, by notification in the Gazette of India, declare that, with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification, any series of bank notes of any denomination shall cease to be legal tender save at such office or agency of the Bank and to such extent as may be specified in the



notification." The court's observation came after Venkataramani defended the demonetisation policy and said the court should refrain from exercising judicial review of the executive decision. "It is well settled that if the relevance of scrutiny disappears, the court will not render opinion on questions of academic value. The court will not grant a declaration when no tangible relief can be granted by way of putting the clock back which is unscrambling a scrambled egg," Venkataramani said. The AG submitted that "pedestrian" considerations such as whether there was a recommendation or a consultation

will reduce section 26 (2) of the RBI Act to a narrow area, stultifying the entire complexity of management of currency monetary policy. "Demonetisation was not an isolated economic policy. This was a complex monetary policy. Entirely different considerations will follow. The degree of deference must also be higher..The role of the RBI has evolved. We are not looking at some black money here and there, some fake currency here and there. We are trying to look at the big picture.

"Also, no well-meaning person will say that just because you have failed, your intention was also flawed. This does not make logical

sense," he said. At this point, Justice Gavai said the contention of the petitioners opposing demonetisation is about everything that is to be done with regard to currency. "It's a primary duty of RBI and therefore section 26(2) of RBI Act should have come from RBI. There is no dispute with the contention that RBI has a primary role in dictating monetary policy," Justice Gavai remarked. Venkataramani said the petitioners argued that RBI must apply its mind independently but the working of RBI and the government must be seen from a flexible point of view as both have a symbiotic connection. Justice Nagarathna said the

argument was that the Act recognises the expertise of those in the RBI and the legislation recognises the expertise of the Central Board of RBI. "We are not saying that you are bound by that recommendation or not. The question is where should it emanate? The Central government legislation recognises the expertise of the Central board of RBI. The argument is where is that? she asked.

As the hearing commenced in the morning, senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for a man seeking to exchange Rs 1.62 lakh in old currency notes, submitted his client went abroad on April 11, 2016. "When the PM's announcement came, there was an assurance from the PM and the RBI that December 30, 2016 was the deadline, but even after that he would be able to exchange demonetised notes. "He had withdrawn 1.62 lakh rupees. On February 3, 2017, he returned and tried to exchange the money. But his application was rejected. An ordinance was passed saying that no exchange would be allowed post December 31, 2016," Divan said, adding the notice by the government does not contemplate a situation where someone leaves money in the country and goes abroad. He submitted his client cannot be deprived of his property arbitrarily and sought extension of grace period to exchange the old notes.

"This court may intervene in individual cases, but given the vastness of our country and the circumstances, the RBI needs to take a broader approach. They should have a general circular for circumstances like these," he said. Justice Gavai said prime facie genuine cases may be independently considered by the RBI. The hearing remained inconclusive and will resume on December 5. (PTI)

Hope new Pak Army chief will ensure 'apolitical' role of military in coup-prone country: Pakistani media

ISLAMABAD, NOV 25/--/With former ISI chief General Asim Munir's appointment as the next Chief of Army Staff of the Pakistan Army, the media in this coup-prone country on Friday hoped that the powerful military would remain "apolitical" and honour the promise made by his predecessor. Pakistan on Thursday named former spy chief Munir as chief of the Army, ending weeks of speculation over an appointment that comes amid intense debate around the military's influence on public life. Munir, the country's most senior general and a former head of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency, will take over from Army Chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, who will retire on November 29 after six years in what is normally a three-year post. The Dawn newspaper under the title 'Hardest Reset' wrote that General Munir has taken over at an unenviable time when deep polarisation has fractured the polity and years of economic mismanagement may create temptations to intervene to "go beyond the mandate", as the outgoing chief put it a day earlier but the armed forces must resist those temptations.

But the paper warned that even well-meaning interventions can quickly turn into nightmares, as experiences from recent years show. "The armed forces would be wise to focus on keeping Pakistan internally and externally secure and should leave it to the judiciary, the executive, the legislature and, most of all, the people to chart Pakistan's future," it wrote. Outgoing Gen Bajwa has made a promise that his institution will stay apolitical and he reiterated it on Wednesday in his last public address. Gen Munir's appointment comes at a crucial time for the cash-strapped country where the military has always wielded great influence in politics and foreign policy.

Pakistan is facing an economic crisis while it is also trying to recover from devastating floods earlier this year. Since Pakistan was created 75 years ago, the Army has seized power three times and directly ruled the country for almost four decades. The Dawn newspaper urged Gen Munir to make good on his predecessor's promise without regard to any pressure from any of the political players currently in the fray. The News International in its editorial opined that the democratic system should be a red line for all political parties. Now that things have settled down, it is important that all political parties and state institutions play their constitutional roles and chalk out a new way forward. "Political parties need to finally sit together, sign a new charter of democracy, form a consensus on the importance of making such appointments part of the regular and normal process instead of using them to remain politically relevant, and agree to stop trying to politicise apolitical institutions," it wrote. It is important for the

system to heal now and for a much-needed political course correction. If elections are the demand, talk to each other instead of asking for interventions from the establishment. Talking about the Army's claim of staying away from politics, the paper advised that if an institution is claiming neutrality, welcome it. "If democracy is really what political parties intend to uphold, then do it without being propped up by apolitical forces," it wrote.

It said that as the new chief takes over a country badly in need of healing. The outgoing army chief General Bajwa has clearly said that the military will not play any political role now and it is now on the institution to ensure this is upheld as policy. "Let this be the new normal," it said. The paper also highlighted the unusual media frenzy over the appointment and political instability it generated in the country. They also highlighted that the new appointment was good for meritocracy in the country. The Daily Times in its editorial highlighted that Gen Bajwa promised something phenomenally history-making to the nation before passing the coveted baton that the armed forces would remain apolitical come what may because meddling in politics stands in direct contravention to its constitutionally-mandated role would be tremendously hard to follow through.

"We, at Daily Times, can only hope that General Munir would prove to be the miraculous return to normalcy that this country has desperately carried a torch for. May this be the new start that would leave a lasting impression for cool-headedness, democratic disposition and across-the-board reconciliation," it concluded. The Express Tribune in its editorial under the title 'Triumph of Merit' termed the appointment of the two senior most officers on key posts as a moment of realisation of merit. "For the first time in many decades in the country, the Army Chief has been named on the basis of seniority. There wasn't any pick and choose this time around, as several times in the past," it wrote also on the appointment of Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza who will succeed Gen Nadeem Raza as the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. It opined that not only the hyperbolic diatribe that had been underway for weeks as to who will be Gen Bajwa's successor has come to an end but also Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, unlike his predecessors, by going with the pro-forma that came as an advice from the military establishment to the Ministry of Defence has turned a new leaf of meritocracy. The paper also wrote that former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party chairman Imran Khan's endorsement of the nomination is a good omen for the fragile democracy in vogue, and will definitely go a long way in eulogising the rule of law and Constitution in the country. (PTI)

NATO vows to aid Ukraine 'for as long as it takes'

BRUSSELS, NOV 25/--/NATO is determined to help Ukraine defend itself against Russia for "as long as it takes" and will help the war-wrecked country transform its armed forces into a modern army up to Western standards, the alliance's Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg vowed on Friday.

Speaking to reporters ahead of a meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Romania next week, Stoltenberg urged countries that want to, either individually or in groups, to keep providing air defense systems and other weapons to Ukraine. NATO as an organisation does not supply weapons. "NATO will continue to stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes. We will not back down," the former Norwegian prime minister said. "Allies are providing unprecedented military support,

and I expect foreign ministers will also agree to step up non-lethal support." Stoltenberg said that members of the 30-nation security organisation have been delivering fuel, generators, medical supplies, winter equipment and drone jamming devices, but that more will be needed as winter closes in, particularly as Russia attacks Ukraine's energy infrastructure. "At our meeting in Bucharest, I will call for more," he said.

"Over the longer term we will help Ukraine transition from Soviet era equipment to modern NATO standards, doctrine and training." Stoltenberg said Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba would join

the ministers to discuss his country's most pressing needs but also what kind of long-term support that NATO can provide. NATO's top civilian official said the support will help Ukraine move toward joining the alliance one day. The Nov 29-30 meeting in Bucharest is being held almost 15 years after NATO promised that Ukraine and Georgia would one day become members of the organisation, a pledge that deeply angered Russia. Also attending the meeting will be the foreign ministers of Bosnia, Georgia and Moldova - three partners that NATO says are coming under increasing Russian pressure. Stoltenberg said the meeting would see NATO "take

further steps to help them protect their independence, and strengthen their ability to defend themselves." Since President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion 10 months ago, NATO has bolstered the defences of allies neighbouring Ukraine and Russia but has carefully sought to avoid being dragged into a wider war with a major nuclear power.

But Stoltenberg put no pressure on Ukraine to enter peace talks with Russia, and indeed NATO and European diplomats have said 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." (AP)



Election battle won, real test begins for new Malaysian PM

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 25/--/Reformist leader Anwar Ibrahim has won a hard-fought battle to become Malaysia's new prime minister. But working with former foes to form a unity government as a polarised nation watches will immediately test his political mettle. There is no honeymoon period for Anwar, 75, who got straight down to work less than 24 hours after he was sworn in as the nation's 10th leader. National television showed Anwar clocking in Friday morning at the government administrative capital of Putrajaya. His first test will be the construction of a Cabinet and the distribution of portfolios to appease the diverse members of his unity government.

Anwar promised Monday that his Cabinet will be leaner compared to the previous, oversized administration, and said he will forego his salary as prime minister amid the country's economic slowdown. He said new Cabinet members would be asked to cut their salaries, too. "My main priority now is the cost of living," he told a news conference. Anwar pledged to work swiftly to find ways to help Malaysians struggling with rising food costs, a currency at its lowest point in over two decades and stagnating wages ahead of an expected economic slowdown next year.

Anwar's Pakatan Harapan, or Alliance of Hope, won 82 out of 222 seats in the Nov. 19 general election. To cobble a majority, he won support from two key rival blocs: the long-ruling National Front, which has 30 seats, and the Sarawak Parties Alliance with 23. Several smaller blocs have said they will also join. Former Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's Malay-centric National Alliance unexpectedly won 73 seats. Muhyiddin's hard-line ally, the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party that touts Sharia, took 49 seats to become the country's single largest party in an indication of the rise of conservative Islam. Anwar's victory with support from political rivals marked another "watershed moment that heralded a new era for Malaysian democracy," said Ahmad Fauzi Abdul Hamid, political analyst with the

University of Science, Malaysia. It came on the back of his alliance's stunning victory in 2018 polls, which ended the National Front's 60-year grip on power and led to the country's first regime change since independence from Britain in 1957. But the new government crumbled after power grab that led to turmoil and saw a total of three prime ministers in four years. Anwar was in prison at the time on a sodomy charge he said was politically motivated.

Anwar fostered a conciliatory tone after his appointment, welcoming all parties to his government as long as they adhere to the basic rules of good governance, no corruption and a "Malaysia for all Malaysians". Analysts said the makeup of his Cabinet will provide a clearer picture of his policies going forward, as he puts flesh to bones on his campaign promises to clean up the government and heal deepening racial and religious gashes. His anti-corruption platform will be tested amid concerns that concessions will be made for some National Front leaders battling graft charges in return for their support. An ethnic Muslim, Anwar must also earn the trust of conservative Malays, who viewed him as too liberal and opted for Muhyiddin's right-wing bloc in the contentious election. Police have been told to hold off celebrations that may provoke Islamic supporters. In such a racially charged environment, Anwar's aims - including replacing a decades-old affirmative action plan that gives privileges to Malays in jobs, education and housing - may be a minefield.

Anwar has assured Malays that their rights under the constitution and the position of Islam as the national religion will be protected. But he stressed that other races must not be marginalised so that the country can be united. "Racial divide has been in existence in Malaysia since independence," said political analyst Ahmad Fauzi. "Anwar will come up with his own formula to rein in the problem, but thinking that he'll be able to extinguish it is to expect the impossible from him," he added. (AP)



Anwar Ibrahim



Children enjoy themselves at the Christmas market in the Jardin des Tuileries in Paris, France

Australia to make posts public to avoid repeat of power grab

CANBERRA, NOV 25/--/An inquiry into a former Australian prime minister secretly appointing himself to multiple ministries recommended on Friday that all such appointments be made public in the future to preserve trust in government.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said he would recommend his Cabinet accept all of the retired judge's recommendations at a meeting next week.

Albanese ordered the inquiry in August after revelations that his predecessor Prime Minister Scott Morrison had taken the unprecedented steps of appointing himself to five ministerial roles between March 2020 and May 2021, usually without the knowledge of the existing minister.

The extraordinary power grab came to light after Morrison's conservative coalition was voted out of office in May after nine years in power.

His unprecedented moves are seen as part of a wider trend in Australian politics to concentrate power within a leader's office at the expense of the British Westminster tradition of delegating responsibilities among ministers. Albanese blamed a culture of secrecy within the

former government for its leader's extraordinary accumulation of personal power.

"We're shining sunlight on a shadow government that preferred to operate in darkness, a government that operated in a cult of secrecy and a culture of coverup which arrogantly dismissed scrutiny from the Parliament and the public as a mere inconvenience," Albanese told reporters.

"The actions of the former prime minister were extraordinary, they were unprecedented and they were wrong," Albanese added.

Retired High Court Justice Virginia Bell in her inquiry recommended laws be created to require public notices of ministerial appointments be published as well as the divisions of ministerial responsibilities.

Morrison cooperated with the inquiry through his lawyers but did not personally give evidence.

Morrison, who is now an opposition lawmaker, maintains that he gave himself the portfolios of health, finance, treasury, resources and home affairs as an emergency measure made necessary by the coronavirus pandemic.

Morrison said his awareness of issues surrounding national

security and national interest as prime minister had been broader than that of any individual minister or Bell's inquiry.

"A prime minister, I sought to exercise my responsibilities in a manner that would best advance and protect Australia's national interests and the welfare of the Australian people," Morrison said in a statement on Friday.

"This was done during a time of significant challenge not seen since the Second World War and the Great Depression," Morrison added.

Bell found that making Morrison a duplicate minister was unnecessary because an acting minister could be appointed within minutes of the original minister becoming incapacitated by COVID-19.

Bell found the reason Morrison appointed himself to most portfolios was his concern that "an incumbent minister might exercise his or her statutory powers in a manner with which Mr. Morrison didn't agree." His only use of the secret powers had nothing to do with the pandemic.

He overturned a decision by former Resources Minister Keith Pitt to approve a contentious gas drilling project near the north Sydney coast that would have harmed his government's

reelection chances. Asset Energy, a company behind the project, is fighting Morrison's decision in the Federal Court.

Asset accuses Morrison of bias and failing to provide procedural fairness when he blocked the project in March, court documents show.

Albanese on Friday declined to comment on Morrison's decision because the matter was before the courts.

Bell found Morrison also wanted former Treasurer Josh Frydenberg's power to block foreign investments in Australia that were not in the national interest and former Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews' power to cancel the citizenship of dual national extremists.

Morrison also considered giving himself a sixth ministerial portfolio for the department of agriculture, water and environment but did not proceed with the appointment, Bell reported.

His reasons for not proceeding were not explained. Bell found that there had been no delineation of responsibilities among the multiple ministers and there had been a risk of conflict if two ministers wanted to exercise the same power in different ways. Department bosses had been

Imran Khan denied permission to land at Parade Ground on Saturday, says party

ISLAMABAD, NOV 25/--/Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party on Friday said the Islamabad administration has denied permission to the former prime minister's helicopter to land at the Parade Ground in the garrison city of Rawalpindi on Saturday to address a protest rally against the Shehbaz Sharif government. Khan, who is recovering from bullet wounds suffered during an assassination bid, is set to address his supporters in Rawalpindi on November 26. He has said his party's protest in Rawalpindi would be "completely peaceful". Taking to Twitter, PTI leader Asad Umar said that the Islamabad administration has denied permission to the party's plea asking to let the party chairman's helicopter land at the Parade Ground on Saturday.

PTI senior vice president Shireen Mazari also hit out at the Islamabad administration for not allowing Khan's helicopter to land at the Parade Ground. "ICT has denied permission for IK heli to land at Parade Ground altho GHQ permission came yesterday - need permission from both! Clearly this is farcical & a case of good cop-bad cop. "The fear of Imran Khan has seeped into Conspirators' minds & they continue to threaten his life," she tweeted while reacting to the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration's decision. Earlier this week, PTI had submitted a petition to the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking permission for Khan's helicopter to be allowed to land and take off from Parade Ground till the "conclusion of the gathering". The Pakistan Army has said it has "no objection" to PTI's request to allow the helicopter of its chairman Khan to land at the Parade Ground under its control. "General Headquarters has no objection to the request for placement of helicopters subject to clearance by the authorities," the Dawn newspaper on Thursday quoted a statement from the headquarters of the Pakistan Army as saying. Khan, 70, survived a gun attack on his convoy while holding a protest march in the eastern city of Wazirabad on November 3. The attack took place as Khan was leading the march, which was meant to end in the capital Islamabad.

Khan was ousted from power in April after losing a no-confidence vote in his leadership, which he alleged was part of a US-led conspiracy targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China, and Afghanistan. The US has denied the allegations. The cricketer-turned-politician, the only Pakistani Prime Minister to be ousted in a no-confidence vote in Parliament, is seeking fresh general elections. The term of the current National Assembly will end in August 2023. (PTI)



Sri Lanka's Tamil parties to meet to push for federalism ahead of talks with government

COLOMBO, NOV 25/--/Sri Lanka's all Tamil political parties based in the East and the North are set to meet on Friday to push for federalism ahead of President Ranil Wickremesinghe's proposed all-party meeting next month to address the long-held demand for political autonomy for the minority community in the country. The meeting will be held at the Colombo residence of R Sampanthan, the 89-year-old leader of the Tamil National Alliance, sources in the party said. Wickremesinghe told parliament on Wednesday that it was important to build trust between the majority Sinhalese and the Tamils to resolve the long-standing conflict. He proposed the all-party meeting under his chair to discuss the issue to strike a solution by February 4 next year which is the 75th anniversary of the country's independence from Britain. "Regardless of inter and intra-party differences, the bottom line is that all Sri Lankan Tamil nationalist parties are firmly supportive of a power-sharing arrangement based upon federal principles of the federal idea," M A Sumanthiran, a leading Tamil politician tweeted. The Tamil and the main opposition parties have expressed willingness to meet to discuss the issue while at least one Sinhala majority hardline parliamentarian objected to the proposal. Sri Lanka has had a long history of failed negotiations with the Tamils. An Indian effort in 1987, which created the system of a joint provincial council for the Tamil-dominated north and east, faltered as the minority community claimed it fell short of full autonomy. Wickremesinghe himself tried a constitutional effort between 2015-19 which too came to be scuttled by the hardline majority politicians. India has been consistently calling upon Sri Lanka to fulfill its commitments to protect the interests of the Tamil community and preserve the island nation's character as a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society. Over the years, the Sri Lankan government has been aggressive against Tamilian groups following its war with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). (PTI)



Messi on brink as Argentina look to salvage World Cup

TODAY'S MATCH

GROUP D: Tunisia vs Australia - 3:30 PM IST

GROUP C: Poland vs Saudi Arabia - 6:30 PM IST

GROUP D: France vs Denmark - 9:30 PM IST

GROUP C: Argentina vs Mexico - 12:30 AM IST

Lewandowski will still take penalties despite World Cup miss: Poland coach

DOHA, NOV 25 /--/ Robert Lewandowski is still Poland's penalty-taker despite missing in its World Cup opener and is primed to break his tournament duck, coach Czeslaw Michniewicz said on Friday. The Barcelona predator has plundered 76 goals for his country, but none have come at a World Cup and he had a tame penalty saved in Poland's 0-0 draw with Mexico on Tuesday. That put pressure on Poland to beat Saudi Arabia - which stunned Argentina 2-1 in the opening round of games -- on Saturday if it is to progress to the last 16 in Qatar. "When it comes penalties, Robert is still number one," said Michniewicz. He added, "He feels ready to score for Poland." Defender Jan Bednarek also backed Lewandowski to find the net, but said the 34-year-old striker would not be too concerned as long he was helping the team. "Robert Lewandowski is our captain, he is a striker and wants to score as many goals as he can," said the Aston Villa player. "But for him the team is more important. He swallows his pride and really focuses on working as hard as he can, it isn't important for him if he scores or not. "This is the best striker in the world," Bednarek added. "I hope tomorrow he will lead us to victory." (AFP)



DOHA, NOV 25 /--/ It was not supposed to be this way. Before the World Cup started, hopes were high in Argentina that Lionel Messi was set for a glorious swansong. The diminutive superstar with magic in his boots insisted he was in fine shape physically ahead of what he suggested would be his final tilt at World Cup success. After winning La Liga 10 times, the Ballon d'Or seven times, the Champions League four times and the Copa America once, this trophy is all that is missing from Messi's massive collection of personal and collective accolades. Argentina came into the tournament on a remarkable 36-match unbeaten streak having stunned bitter rivals Brazil in their own backyard to win last year's Copa America. Pundits and fans the world over were proclaiming Argentina one of -- if not the -- favourites. Argentines were allowing themselves to dream: one of the greatest players the world has ever seen was about to lift football's greatest prize. But Tuesday's shock 2-1 defeat to a tactically superior and more athletic Saudi Arabia has brought them back down to earth with a bump. The realisation is that far from coating an already delicious cake with icing, Messi's World Cup story may just be about to end in ignominious fashion. The autopsy has already begun in Argentina. Football pundits and fans alike are speculating whether or not the 'Pibe' was truly fit. He had sat out a couple of group training sessions, following his own personal programme apart, because of a knock on his calf. A picture went viral on social media of his apparently deformed ankle -- although he was merely wearing an ice pack. Fingers were even pointed at his club Paris Saint-Germain, seemingly for daring to play him week in, and week out rather than wrap him in cotton wool so he could arrive at the World Cup in the best possible shape to help his country. Coach Lionel Scaloni also came under fire for his perceived inability to spring the Saudis' high defensive line as his side was caught offside seven times in the first half. He was also castigated for their inability to break down a stubborn defence that dropped deeper once they took the lead. There was a sobering admission, though, that at 35, Messi might not be as great as he once was. "He is not injured, but he does have several logical ailments due to his age and the number of minutes played this season," said sports newspaper Ole. Even so, Messi remains the darling of a nation upon whom their hopes rest. Tales of his stirring speech to teammates on the bus after the Saudi game were quick to emerge. At training the following day he supposedly told them: "The people believe that this group will not abandon them. "It is up to us, we know that we have no choice (but to win) but we've already played in these types of games before, it's time to lift our heads above the water." Messi will have to lift himself above the poor fare produced against Saudi if Argentina is to beat Mexico on Saturday and keep their hopes of progressing alive. (AFP)

Richarlison stars as Brazil beat Serbia but Neymar suffers injury scare

DOHA, NOV 25 /--/ Richarlison scored twice as tournament favourites Brazil beat Serbia 2-0 in their World Cup opener on Thursday, but the win was soured by an ankle injury to captain Neymar. The record five-time winners had toiled at times in the first half but improved after the break at the

Cup so far. However, Neymar was then forced off with a sprained ankle that the Brazilian team doctor said would be assessed over the next 48 hours. Injuries have hampered Neymar at the tournament in the past and Brazil will hope his World Cup has not ended already, although coach Tite struck a positive tone after the game. "You can be certain that Neymar is going to play in the World Cup," said Tite. Thursday's result continues Brazil's superb record in the World Cup group stage, in which their last defeat came in 1998 against Norway. Tite's side are now already on top of Group G ahead of Switzerland, who beat Cameroon 1-0 earlier and who Brazil meet next. "We played well, especially in the second half when our opponents started to tire and we took advantage of that," said



Lusail Stadium and were rewarded when Tottenham Hotspur striker Richarlison followed in to score the opener in the 62nd minute after a Vinicius Junior shot was saved. Vinicius then set up Richarlison to score again in the 73rd minute with a stunning acrobatic effort that is surely the goal of the World

Richarlison, who called it "a boyhood dream come true" to score the goals. The scoreline was the same as when these sides met in the group stage in 2018 but Brazil are determined to do far better than four years ago, when they lost to Belgium in the quarter-finals. (AFP)

Varane 'fit and ready' to face Denmark at World Cup, says Deschamps

DOHA, NOV 25 /--/ Raphael Varane is ready to return to action for France's World Cup clash with Denmark after more than a month out with a leg injury, coach Didier Deschamps said on Friday. The Manchester United defender was left out of the holders' 4-1 stroll in its Group D opener against Australia but Deschamps said he was fit to play before that match and could feature at the 974 Stadium on Saturday. "He could have played, he was ready, he was fit. We discussed it with him," Deschamps told reporters. "He was fit for the first game and he's fit for the second game, we will have to make that decision. The main thing is that he's fit and ready." Varane's availability is a boost for Deschamps, who has lost a host of key players in the lead-up to and during the World Cup in Qatar. France arrived without Paul Pogba, N'Golo Kante -- stars of its 2018 World Cup triumph -- and Presnel Kimpembe. Striker Karim Benzema and left-back Lucas Hernandez were then forced to quit Qatar with injuries. (AP)

Belligerent Latham, Williamson power NZ to win against India in ODI series-opener

AUCKLAND, NOV 25 /--/ Indian bowlers crumbled in the face of Tom Latham's counter-attacking hundred as New Zealand rallied to crush India by seven wickets in the first ODI here on Friday. On a ground where a 300-plus total had been chased only once, India fancied their chances after posting 306 for seven and then leaving the New Zealanders at 88 for three in the 20th over. The hosts had the last laugh in the end though, reaching the target with 17 balls to spare thanks to Latham's unbeaten 104-ball 145 and skipper Kane Williamson's 94 not out off 98 deliveries as they added 221 runs for an unbeaten fourth-wicket partnership. At the end of the 39th over, New Zealand needed 91 in 66 balls at nearly 8.30 runs an over. By the time Shardul Thakur (1/63) had completed a forgettable 40th over, the hosts were in total control of the game, with Latham amassing 25 runs with the help of four fours and a six. That overswung the match firmly in New Zealand's favour as the visitors struggled to contain Latham who galloped towards victory. (PTI)

Qatar on brink of elimination as Senegal secure 1-3 Win

DOHA, NOV 25 /--/ A dominant 3-1 victory for Senegal in the Group A match against hosts Qatar keeps their Round of 16 qualification hopes alive. However, the result has put Qatar on the brink of elimination. Only a defeat for the Netherlands in the second Group A match today would still keep the hosts alive in the tournament. Senegal strikers Boulaye Dia, Famara Diedhiou and Bamba Dieng



scored to secure a deserved 3-1 victory over Qatar and send the host nation to the brink of elimination following their World Cup Group A clash at Al Thumama Stadium on Friday. Senegal have three points from their two games and meet Ecuador in a final pool clash on Tuesday, while Qatar still have no points and will be out of the tournament if Netherlands beat Ecuador or that match ends in a draw later on Friday. In what was perceived as a must win match for them, Iran beat Wales 2-0 to grab three points and rise to the second spot in Group B. With both teams goalless going in the first half, the big moment came late in the second half as Welsh goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey was sent off for coming off his line and crashing into Mehdi Taremi. The 10-men Wales conceded two goals late in the nine minutes of added time as Rouzbeh Cheshmi and Ramin Rezaein scored for Iran.

Iran scores late to beat Wales 2-0 at World Cup

DOHA, NOV 25 /--/ Rouzbeh Cheshmi scored in the eighth minute of stoppage time to break a scoreless stalemate and Iran went on to defeat Wales 2-0 at the World Cup on Friday. Cheshmi's strike from outside the box was just beyond the diving reach of Wales backup goalkeeper Danny Ward, who was pressed into duty when starter Wayne Hennessey was sent off in the 86th minute. Ramin Rezaein added a second goal moments later, and Iran wildly celebrated while some of the Welsh players dropped in disbelief to the field. Hennessey was ejected in the 86th minute for a high challenge on Mehdi Taremi. Gareth Bale made his 110th appearance for Wales, the most all-time for the national team, but the Welsh appeared sluggish early after a 1-1 draw with the United States in their Group B opener. The match was played after pro-government fans harassed anti-government fans outside the stadium in Qatar, reflecting the divisions afflicting the country. Iran's players sang their national anthem this time - having declined to do so before their opening loss to England in a show of support for anti-government protests in their country. (AP)

