

Luggage travails

EOI BUREAU

PORT BLAIR, OCT 12/--/ With significant jump in tourists footfall in Andaman and Nicobar islands, popular tourist hotspots like SwarajDweep and ShaheedDweep are also witnessing the arrival of thousands of tourists on a daily basis. But a good number of tourists don't want their excess baggage with them and look for Locker Room facilities at ports and jetties to keep their belongings in the locker room and collect them after returning to Port Blair. Most tourists are ready to pay locker room charges to escape greedy hoteliers charging extra money for keeping their luggage in the hotel for a few hours or days. Absence of a 'Locker Room' facility at ports and jetties in the islands has emerged as a big problem for visiting tourists from the mainland.

For most tourists landing in the islands, SwarajDweep and ShaheedDweep top their tour itinerary. Tourists have complained about fleecing by hoteliers for keeping their luggage in hotel store rooms for a day or two or till such time they are back after their outer island tour. According to DSS sources, a locker room does exist at the Phoenix Bay jetty, but this facility remains unutilized by the tourists. Most tourists are unaware about the locker room services being provided at the jetty premises.

Lack of locker room facility on ports, jetties put backpackers at the mercy of avaricious hoteliers who fleece tourists for keeping their luggage for a few extra days or hours



Survey, registration/ revalidation of Inland vessel in a single go

PORT BLAIR, OCT 12/--/ The District Administration has been receiving complaints regarding considerable delay in survey and registration/ re-validation of Inland Vessel since the inspection by Surveyors from Port Management Board and District Administration was done separately. Taking in view the hardships faced by the vessel owners, a meeting was called by the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman with all stakeholders and it was decided that the inspection shall be conducted jointly by the team of Port Management Board and District Administration on a single day. This will reduce the time taken for the inspection procedure which normally requires 2-3 months and now the whole procedure shall be completed with 20-25 days. All Inland vessel owners under the jurisdiction of South Andaman District is hereby informed that to reduce the time for survey and registration/ revalidation of the vessels a Single Window System for survey and registration/ revalidation of the Inland vessel has been introduced and that henceforth, the team for Joint Inspection of the Inland vessel by Surveyors from Port Management Board and staff from District Administration shall be available at the office of the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman. Standard Operating Procedures for entire registration/ survey/ re-validation have been devised which shall be modulated and managed at a single delivery point. The documents required for initial and periodical survey, first time registration as well as for revalidation of registration certificate have been uploaded and the general public may follow the link for required documentation in the web portal www.edistrict.andaman.gov.in.

In a first, doctors of Health 4 U Clinic successfully performs hair transplant

PORT BLAIR, OCT 12/--/ In a first in the islands, a team of doctors of Health 4 U Multispeciality clinic have successfully performed hair transplant of a patient. A team of doctors led by Dr Ashok T (Dermatologist & Hair Expert) performed hair transplant procedures at Sanjeevani hospital in which the doctors

performed the procedures for two-days. More than 4000 healthy grafts were transplanted in the patient. The patient and family are delighted to undergo the hair transplant and now the patient bears a confident appearance. The successful hair transplant procedure performed by the team of doctors is considered as

a major achievement in the islands as patients from Andaman & Nicobar Islands now need to dole out a hefty amount to perform such procedures in hospitals on the mainland. The successful hair transplant in the islands has offered an opportunity to all those who want to go for hair transplant at normal rates. There are also many many

cosmetology procedures done at Health 4 U Multispeciality Clinic for hair and skin like plasma rich protein therapy for hair & skin, peeling, vampire facial, wart removal etc. These are advanced dermatology and cosmetology procedures. The Dermatology team of Health 4 U Clinic consists of Dr Ashok (Dermatologist and Hair Expert) and Dr.

Priyadarshini, (Dermatologist and Cosmetologist). The Director, Health 4 U, DrKunal while speaking to EOI said that the hospital has plans to introduce more advanced treatment modalities like laser, hydra facial as it works with the motto to provide the best and better health care at the doorstep of the islanders.

Revenue officials conduct surprise inspection of Crusher unit

ASHIM

RANGAT, OCT 12/--/ In a surprise inspection, under the direction of the Deputy Commissioner, North & Middle Andaman, revenue officials of Rangat Sub-Division made a surprise inspection at a Crusher Unit at Padmanabhapuram at Sivapuram Panchayat in Middle Andaman. According to sources, the surprise inspection was undertaken on information that this Crusher Unit had furnished false data pertaining to their stock of quarry materials. While the Crusher Unit stated that they have about 1800 cubic meters of quarry products at their unit, on inspection, it was found that their stock is approximately 7000 cubic meters of quarry materials, including boulders, pebbles and rubbish. After the inspection, the Assistant Commissioner office is likely to take punitive actions on the Crusher unit. (File photo)





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If elected Congress chief, will call for CWC polls Fully implement party constitution: Tharoor

NEW DELHI, OCT 12 --/ Congress presidential candidate Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday asserted that if he becomes the AICC chief, he would fully implement the party's existing constitution which requires CWC elections and the revival of the parliamentary board that has been dormant for about 25 years.

In an interview with PTI, Tharoor also said the Congress must decentralise authority and truly empower the grassroots office-bearers of the party. The Lok Sabha member from Thiruvananthapuram said he would fully implement the Udaipur Declaration which was unanimously agreed at the party's Chintan Shivir earlier this year. Asked about his plans for the party if he wins the electoral contest against Mallikarjun Kharge for the top post, the former Union minister said, "I think an important first step would be to call for elections to the Working

Committee to spread our inner-party democracy even further." "I am going to implement fully the existing constitution, which requires CWC elections and the revival of the parliamentary board that has been dormant for a quarter-century, and the Udaipur Declaration which was unanimously agreed," Tharoor said. The holding of the Congress Working Committee elections and the revival of the parliamentary board were among the key demands of the group of 23 leaders, including Tharoor, who wrote to party chief Sonia Gandhi in 2020 seeking large scale organisational reforms.

At the Shivir, the Congress had adopted the Udaipur Declaration which included wide-ranging organisational reforms to make the party battle-ready for the next round of assembly and Lok Sabha polls, including wider representation to those under 50 years of age and

enforcing 'one person, one post' and 'one family, one ticket' rules with riders. Tharoor said that as he has



Shashi Tharoor

pointed out in his manifesto that the Congress must empower the party in the states by giving real authority to the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) presidents, block, mandal and booth presidents. "We must decentralise authority and truly empower the grassroots office-bearers of the party. Our PCC delegates, for instance, have

literally had no role for the last 22 years but to vote in the coming election on October 17th!" the 66-year-old leader said. "I want their elected status to be honoured by ensuring PCC delegates a place on the platform when any senior leader comes visiting, involve them in the consultations that must take place before candidates are selected for elections, and so on," he said.

Tharoor stressed that the Congress must provide a credible alternative to the BJP's "centralisation of authority" in its party affairs and in the affairs of governance. "I have been a big fan of the 2014 UPA election slogan 'Main nahin, hum'. Re-imagining the organisation, delegating powers to grassroots level leaders and empowering our workers as stakeholders in our success, will not only free the new president from the onerous burdens of over-administration, but help recreate the strong state leadership that, in past eras,

strengthened the Congress' national appeal," he said.

On Tuesday, Tharoor had also said he is sure that those who are expecting a lopsided victory for the "establishment" are in for a surprise when the votes are counted. Kharge is being seen as a favourite for the top party post because of his perceived proximity to the Gandhi family. However, Tharoor has reiterated time and again that the Gandhi family has made it clear that they are staying above the fray and are neutral. At a press conference during the Bharat Jodo Yatra last week, Rahul Gandhi had dismissed claims that the next Congress president would be "remote-controlled" by his family, saying both the contenders - Kharge and Tharoor -- are people of stature and understanding and to make such a suggestion was insulting for them. The Congress presidential poll will take place on October 17 and the results will be out on October 19. (PTI)

Vishwas, Bagga take swipe at Kejriwal after HC quashes FIRs by Punjab Police against them

NEW DELHI, OCT 12 --/ Former AAP leader Kumar Vishwas and BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga on Wednesday termed the Punjab and Haryana High Court's decision to quash two separate FIRs against them as the "victory of truth" and lashed out at AAP convenor Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Bagga, who has been very vocal against the Delhi chief minister on social media, claimed the court order was a "big slap on Kejriwal's face". The two FIRs were registered by Punjab Police in April over remarks against Kejriwal. Bagga had come under fire from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which is ruling in both Delhi and Punjab, for his tweet against Kejriwal over "The Kashmir Files" movie. Satyamev Jayate, Bigslapon@ArvindKejriwal Face. Punjab High Court Quashed FIR against Me & Me & @DrKumarVishwas, "Bagga tweeted. The saffron party leader also released a video message on his Twitter account. "Today it was Kejriwal's defeat in Punjab High Court and now he will be defeated in Delhi as well. "I was arrested illegally and was taken without a turban. My father was hit just because I asked Kejriwal when would he arrest those who disrespected the Guru Granth Sahib and also the drug dealers," Bagga said.

In another tweet, he said that the day he was arrested by the Punjab Police, the entire AAP was holding a press conference on the streets, but now they are not even ready to appear on TV. After the pronouncement of the verdict by the court, Vishwas thanked the judiciary and his admirers. In a veiled attack on Kejriwal, Vishwas also advised Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to protect the self-respect of Punjab from narrow-minded people. "As soon as the government was formed (in Punjab), the Punjab police was sent to my house by an insecure self-delusional dwarf. The FIR registered against me was dismissed by the High Court of Punjab today. "Again my advice to dear younger brother Bhagwant Mann (Punjab CM) is to save the self-respect of Punjab from the eyes of narrow-minded people," Vishwas said in a tweet in Hindi. The Punjab police had on April 20 also visited Vishwas's home in Ghaziabad and summoned him for questioning. Vishwas was booked following a complaint in which it was alleged that he gave "inflammatory statements" against Kejriwal on news channels and social media platforms, alleging the AAP leader's links with separatist elements. (PTI)



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar with Chairperson NHRC, Justice Arun Mishra and NHRC member Justice M M Kumar at the inaugural session of the National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) 29th Foundation Day celebrations, in New Delhi on Wednesday

Any expansion, particularly of geographical boundaries, involves human rights violation: Vice Prez

NEW DELHI, OCT 12 --/ Any expansion, particularly of geographical boundaries, involves violation of human rights, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Wednesday, asserting that India as a nation never believed in such a policy.

In his address at the foundation day event of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) here, he said Indian ethos is such that the country's concern is not limited to itself but cares for the world. "We are yet to have another nation that can match our unrivalled record," Dhankhar said. "We never believed, as a nation, in expansion. Any expansion, particularly of geographical boundaries, involves violation of human rights, of an extreme degree. This nation (India) has never done so," he said. In his address, the vice president also stresses that human rights, as a

concept, cannot be reckoned only in the "narrow sense" of preservation of personal liberties and dignity. They have to be understood in a broader context, he added. "When it comes to decimation of human rights, we can't afford to be neutral, we have to take sides," he said. "Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. As a matter of fact, a neutral man is hardly any different from the oppressor. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. In such scenarios, there is no option, but to be pro-active, and we must interfere," Dhankhar said.

Human rights are quintessential for a flourishing democracy. Democratic values are of no significance in the absence of human rights. Nurturing of human rights is the "nectar of dignity and dignified human existence," he added. NHRC chairperson justice (ret'd) Arun Kumar Mishra, many judges of the Supreme Court, diplomats and

representatives of UN agencies were present on the occasion.

Dhankhar, a former governor of West Bengal also made a reference to an observation made in January in a report by a panel of the NHRC on the post-poll violence in West Bengal that "law of ruler and not rule of law" prevails in the state.

This philosophy should not be limited to just one state, but applies to any part of the globe when there could be law of ruler and not rule of law, and it could be in a family, factory or any establishment, he said, and asserted that there has to be rule of law not law of ruler.

The vice president said impactful evolution of transparent and accountable mechanism, coupled with ease of governance has provided wholesome environment for flourishing of human rights, in recent times. Dhankhar underlined that human rights "get compromised" in the face of corruption. Poor and vulnerable are easy

victims of this menace. Continual onslaughts on corruption is a bright sign in this direction and virtually there is a "war on corruption", he added. The corrupt can't be protected on account of lineage, political affiliation, cast, creed or region, the VP said in his address. He also spoke on the challenges to human rights, saying these emanate from several quarters, "state and non-state actors, natural disasters, pandemics, famine, poverty to name a few".

Judicial steps and governmental initiatives have "considerably contained" these challenges to human rights, Dhankhar said. Covid-19 pandemic was a grave challenge to human rights on the planet. Countries laying claim to robust health infrastructure collapsed. In our country with vision and strategy, this menace was "commendably contained," he said. (PTI)

BJP chief Nadda launches Gujarat 'Gaurav Yatra', says it's to establish India's pride

BAHUCHARAJI, OCT 12 --/ Bharatiya Janata Party president JP Nadda on Wednesday launched the "Gaurav Yatra" of the party in poll-bound Gujarat from the temple town of Bahucharaji and said the yatra is not restricted to BJP or Gujarat but will establish the "pride" of India.

He accused Congress of halting development and said the opposition party is "stuck and lost". In the run-up to the high-stake Assembly elections, due in December this year, the BJP will launch five such yatras in two days that will cover different parts of Gujarat. Nadda on Wednesday flagged off the Yatra, comprising vehicles, from Bahucharaji in Mehsana district. The temple of the Hindu goddess Bahuchara attracts a large number of devotees and is a major pilgrimage centre. The yatra launched from the temple town will conclude at Mandvi in Kutch on October 20. Several Union ministers and BJP leaders from Gujarat will join the yatra at different locations. "It is not the 'Gaurav Yatra' of BJP or Gujarat but the one to establish India's pride. This yatra is the story of a journey from Gujarat to India," Nadda said. He used the analogy of planting trees of babool (thorny acacia) and mangoes to take a swipe at Congress. "Like what (Union Minister Parshottam) Rupalaji told you, there used to be a jungle of babool here. If a party plants babool then you will get babool only. If they plant babool, how will you get mangoes? They were people who planted babool. What else did Congress do year after year?" he asked the

audience. Besides Rupalaji, former deputy CM Nitin Patel and other leaders of the BJP were present at the event. "They (Congress) made brothers and regions fight among themselves. They did not supply water where it was needed. They halted and diverted the journey of development.... Now they are themselves stuck and lost," Nadda alleged.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was very much worried about the development of Gujarat after he became chief minister of Gujarat (in October 2001). Nadda recalled that he took CM Modi to Himachal Pradesh for his felicitation. He said Modi called his Madhya Pradesh counterpart Digvijaya Singh of Congress to discuss the issue of the Narmada river water at 8 am on the very same day.

"When Modi became the chief minister for the first time, I took him to Himachal Pradesh for his welcome. There, Modiji had called Digvijaya Singh, the then CM of Madhya Pradesh. On the very same day at 8 am, he (Modi) discussed the Narmada water issue with him," he said. Nadda has roots in Himachal Pradesh. "I am telling you this because Modi was feeling agonised about the development of Gujarat from the very beginning; the Gujarat which Sardar Patel dreamed of turning green. Three decades passed and they (Congress) took no notice of it. If anyone worked to show it (Gujarat) a direction, it was Narendra Modi, the then chief minister," the BJP president said.

Nadda said Modi gave a

new dimension to development by inviting the Tatas to set up a Nano car plant in Gujarat after West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee didn't allow the project. He said the BJP government in Gujarat is "proactive, responsible, pro-responsive, and one which understands people's pain". Speaking about the Gaurav Yatra, Nadda said, "It is not the 'Gaurav yatra' of BJP or Gujarat but the one to establish India's pride... I congratulate you for the fact that Gujarat is the 'Gangotri' of India which is sprinting under the leadership of Modi; a self-reliant, developed India that takes everyone along," he said. "When we talk of the 'Gujarat model' in Delhi, we understand that the state has shown a new direction to the country..." he added. Nadda is scheduled to launch the yatra on another route from the temple town of Dwarka.

Union home minister Amit Shah will launch the Gaurav Yatra on Thursday on three routes- from Sant Savaiyanath temple at Zanzarka village in Ahmedabad district while the other two routes will be from Unai Mata temple in Vansda taluka of Navsari district. Notably, the first 'Gaurav Yatra' was taken out by the then chief minister of Gujarat, Narendra Modi, after the communal riots and before the 2002 state assembly elections. The second 'Gaurav Yatra' was organised in 2017 ahead of that year's state polls. In 2002, the BJP had won 127 out of the total 182 seats. In 2017, the saffron party had bagged 99 seats and the opposition Congress 77. (PTI)

Will do everything to give justice to SC/ST: Karnataka CM

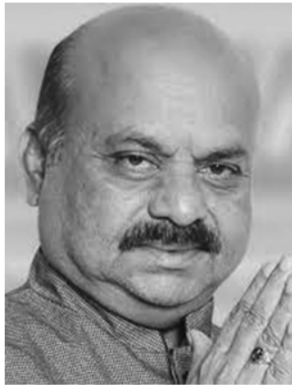
VIJAYANAGARA, OCT 12 --/ Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday said his government would do everything to give justice to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State.

Days after deciding to increase reservation for the SC/ST, Bommai alleged that the Congress is trying to mislead the public on the issue. We are ready to fight a legal battle to give justice to the SC/ST. You tried to break communities, including the Veera Shaiva-Lingayats, and also the backward communities, but now the Dalits have no fear because we are with them, Bommai said in a public meeting in Vijayanagara district during the Jana Sankalpa Yatra' in poll-bound Karnataka.

He slammed the previous Congress government led by Siddaramaiah for doing nothing to empower the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The chief minister charged the Siddaramaiah government with not spending funds meant only for the SC/ST. Now, we have come up with schemes for the SC/ST

communities, which will improve their condition, Bommai said.

He cautioned the Congress leaders, especially Siddaramaiah, not to speak ill against Yediyurappa. He alleged that the Congress tried to fix him false cases in the last one-and-a-half decades. If you continue to speak ill of Yediyurappa, the people of the State will teach you a lesson, the



Basavaraj Bommai

Chief Minister said. He accused the Congress of encouraging only one community and remained silent on the murder of BJP workers.

Bommai charged the Congress with weakening the Lokayukta institution by setting up the anti-

corruption bureau only to cover up their scams. He said those who are afraid of his government are those who indulged in illegalities, drugs and atrocities on women and Dalits. Also, the Congress is scared of our government because we have got the support of the masses, Bommai said. He ridiculed the Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Congress is a sinking ship due to which the Bharat Jodo has been started. Rahul Gandhi is tired while attempting to unite Siddaramaiah and Congress State president D K Shivakumar. How can he unite India with his Bharat Jodo Yatra, Bommai said. The chief minister mocked the Bharat Jodo Yatra saying that the Congress broke the nation into two only to come to power.

Those who gave rise to the Khalistan movement by supporting Bhindrawale, Naxalites who spread to 11 States and the LTTE are talking about Bharat Jodo today, Bommai said. He said the slogan of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is apt and shows the vision of the BJP government. (PTI)

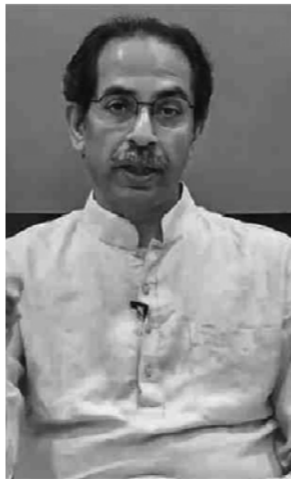
Maharashtra bypoll: Uddhav faction candidate moves Bombay HC against 'delay' by BMC in accepting her resignation

MUMBAI, OCT 12 --/ Rutuja Latke, the candidate of 'Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray' party for the upcoming Andheri (east) bypoll, on Wednesday moved the Bombay High Court seeking a direction to the Mumbai civic body to accept her resignation as its employee. The petition will be heard on Thursday. In her petition, Rutuja Latke said the delay by the civic body in issuing a letter or order (accepting her resignation) appears to be deliberate to prevent her from contesting the

November 3 byelection. She also requested the HC to allow her to file a nomination for the byelection, necessitated by the death of her husband and sitting MLA Ramesh Latke. The last date for submitting the nomination for the bypoll is October 14. Rutuja Latke, however, has not mentioned the party she wants to file the poll nomination. Separately, Rutuja Latke has maintained that she will contest the bypoll on the Thackeray faction's 'mashaal' symbol. Her

counsel Vishwajeet Sawant mentioned the petition before a division bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and Sharmila Deshmukh and sought an urgent hearing. The bench said it would hear the petition on Thursday.

The petition stated the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's conduct was "arbitrary, illegal and malafide" and that the civic body was duty-bound and obligated to accept her resignation. "That the delay on the part of the respondents (BMC) in



Uddhav Thackeray

issuing a letter/certificate/order appears to be deliberate to prevent the petitioner from contesting the byelection," it added. Rutuja Latke urged the HC to direct the BMC to accept her resignation and issue an order forthwith and to permit her to file her nomination. According to her petition, Rutuja Latke has been employed with the BMC since 2006 and she intends to contest the byelection. "On October 3, the petitioner submitted her resignation to the BMC and has complied with all

formalities. But till date, the BMC was withholding its acceptance of her resignation and not issuing appropriate orders," the plea said. According to the Election Commission's rules, Rutuja Latke cannot file her nomination to contest an election until her resignation is accepted, as she cannot hold an office of profit from the government. This is the first bypoll the splintered Shiv Sena led by Thackeray will contest on its new symbol, the 'Mashaal' (flaming torch). Rutuja Latke on

Wednesday told reporters that she had not met chief minister Eknath Shinde. She maintained that she will contest the bypoll on the 'mashaal' symbol. The Congress and NCP have pledged support to the 'Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray' party, making Rutuja Latka the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) candidate. The BJP is likely to field Murji Patel. The stand of the Shinde faction, now called 'Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena', on contesting the bypoll is not clear yet. (PTI)

Workshop on 'Safe & Secure transport facilities for School children'

PORT BLAIR, OCT 12/--/A day-long District level awareness and sensitization workshop on 'Safe and Secure Transport Facilities For School Children' was organized by the National Commission For Protection Of Child Rights at the TGCE auditorium, Port Blair for the South Andaman



District in coordination with the Department of Education, A & N Islands. In the keynote address, MrsRubinaSiddiqui, Resource Person & Co-Ordinator, NCPCR spoke briefly about the purpose of the workshop which was to create an understanding amongst all the stakeholders/ participants of the workshop, including school authorities, SMC members, personnel from the traffic and transport department on the need for co-creating a safe and secure environment to & from schools. She discussed in detail about the guidelines set by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as well as directions issued by the NCPCR with regards to safe and secure school transport.

Mr. B.Bino, Deputy Director, Directorate Of Transport spoke elaborately on Road Safety while sessions on Field Experiencing in Trafficking in South Andaman and Roles and Responsibilities of School Heads and Teachers was conducted by ASI, Mr. Tamil Selvam from A & N Traffic police and Mr. Joshi Phillip from the State Institute Of Education. The workshop was inaugurated by SP South Andaman District, Mr. Kalaivanan R who emphasized on the need to be aware of the various safety requirements in the school bus. He exalted the gathering to have a zero tolerance policy against any negligence on part of any individual or management when it comes to student safety and assured the stakeholders of prompt action by the Traffic Police in case of any complaints. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Sethukarra, Nodal Officer from the Education department.

Sanitary pad making for SHGs/JLGs under 'My Pad My Right' project



PORT BLAIR, OCT 12/--/ The inaugural function of 'My Pad My Right' under MEDP scheme of NABARD was held on 09th Oct 2022, at the Training Hall of Rajiv Gandhi Cooperative Training Centre, Teylerabad. Mr. RaajeshGoyal, Secretary (Cooperation)-cum-RCS, A & N Administration was the chief guest on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. RaajeshGoyal, Secretary (Coop)-cum-RCS appreciated the organisers for starting such an initiative. He informed that the motive of this scheme is to provide good quality and hygiene among girls and women. Citing examples that in other states free samples are distributed to the school girl students and importance of use of sanitary pads for safety and hygiene are highlighted. He also urged that people should come forward and make this scheme successful through SHGs and JLGs.

Mr. KuldeepRai Sharma, Vice-Chairman, A & N State Cooperative Bank and Member of Parliament in his keynote address stated that scheme has been sanctioned through NABARD which is a new and innovative idea introduced with the purpose to maintain safe and hygienic among the girls, He also encouraged girls, women's and house wife to come forward to

make this scheme success as the scheme is launched with the purpose to provide pad in each and every households of this union territory. He emphasized that such type of training for making sanitary pads should be given across the Islands.

Mr. H Manoj, General Manager, NABARD highlighted the scheme of MY PAD MY RIGHT and informed that the programme was inaugurated earlier and now with extending facilities this was reformed again with good machinery equipment. This time the NABARD has arranged a Trainee from NAB Foundation for the special training skills. The 03 days special training for 35 selected SHG members under the MEDP scheme was inaugurated today.

Welcoming all the delegates, Mr. AnjanSengupta, MD (i/c), A & N State Coop. Bank Ltd informed that this is the inaugural function of 'MY PAD MY RIGHT' under MEDP on sanitary Pad Making for SHGs/JLGs. He further informed that the NAB Foundation, Mumbai has supported the scheme to ANSt.CB through NABARD, Port Blair for the further development of SHGS/JLGs in this regard. Smti. Elizabeth Mary, AGM (WDC), A & N State Coop. Bank proposed the vote of thanks.

Pradhan, Bakultal takes up transport related issues with Secretary(Transport)

BAKULTALA, OCT 12/--/ The Pradhan, GP Bakultala, Mr. Narayan Mondal met Secretary-cum-Director (Transport) and discussed various transport related issues concerning the people of Bakultala and Rangat region. The Pradhan raised the issue of establishment of RTA Complex having facilities like MV repairing section, Licence Test, Driving School and Staff quarter. He also raised the issue of operation of bus services from Shyamkund and repair of old and damaged buses operating in the Middle Andaman region. The Secretary-cum-Director instructed the Transport officials to take up the bus repair and maintenance work on an urgent basis. Issues pertaining to providing bus services on Sunday for the benefits of villagers of Shyamkund were also raised by the Pradhan.

The Secretary (Transport) informed that new buses will be operated in this region shortly. In the first phase, as many as nine buses will be operated and in the second phase, five more buses will be



operated in N&M Andaman. He further informed that all transport services like License, Ownership change etc for residents of Bakultala will be done at Rangat RTA and every month transport services related camp will be conducted at respective Zonal areas by the department. He also assured that he will soon visit Bakultala for inspection of the site of the RTA complex and from next financial year, the development of RTA complex work will be taken up. —ASHIM

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*What lies behind us and
what lies before us are
tiny matters compared
to what lies within us*
Ralph Waldo Emerson

US’ ties with adversaries souring?

A majority of adults in the United States expect America’s relations with foreign adversaries like Russia and North Korea to grow more hostile. This has been revealed in a new poll, marking a major shift in public opinion that used to be four years ago under then President Donald Trump. Two years into the Biden administration, 60% of US adults say relations with adversaries will get worse, up from 26% four years ago at the same point in the Trump administration. The poll was conducted by the Chicago-based Pearson Institute and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Just 21% say relationships with allies will deteriorate, down from 46% then. In general, 39% expect the country’s global standing to worsen, compared with 48% who said that in 2018. Crucially, the United States’ own sharply divided domestic politics influences views of the country’s standing abroad. In terms of the opinions that people in the US are expressing on US dealings abroad, the key factor is political bloc sticking with political bloc. Four years ago, three-quarters of Democrats expected US global standing to suffer. Now, roughly that same percentage see stability or improvement in the near future. By comparison, about 6 in 10 Republicans predicted improvements in 2018; now that same percentage expects the current administration to stumble. The economy and US leadership appear to be suffering under President Joe Biden, though some believe that Biden was winning respect abroad by rallying international allies to respond to Russian President Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine. The war in Ukraine has shown the leadership of the Biden administration, to be able to hold most of Europe together. Still, as Russia amps up its assault on Ukraine, tensions with China grow over Taiwan and other issues and the US confronts North Korea and Iran over those countries’ nuclear programs, similar percentages of Republicans and Democrats say that relationships with adversaries will get worse in the next year. The poll also shows strong support for a US foreign policy that protects women and minorities around the world even though few people think the US is doing a world-beating job of protecting those same interests at home. Majorities of US adults said they see preventing discrimination against women and minorities around the world as an important US foreign policy goal and that the US government has significant responsibility for protecting the rights of those groups. And 78% of people in the United States believe the US should withhold financial support from other countries that are failing to protect the rights of women and minority groups. However, only about 1 in 5 US adults thinks the country is leading the world in safeguarding the rights of women and racial, ethnic and religious minorities, or LGBTQ people. Many think the US is among several countries that are doing it well, but about a third say there are other countries doing better. The increasing Republican and Democratic divide at home means Americans’ performance on that point is a mixed bag, with rights deteriorating in states most influenced by former President Donald Trump’s dismissive outlook.

EC infringing on rights of political parties

REFLEX ACTION

Prakash Karat

The Election Commission of India wants political parties to provide detailed information about the financial implications of the promises made in their election manifestos as well as the effects of these promises on the fiscal sustainability of the state or central government’s finances. For this, the Election Commission proposes to amend the model code of conduct to include a two-part proforma to be filled up by political parties for disclosure of the promises made and the financial implications of these. This is an extraordinary and bizarre proposal which has been mooted by the Election Commission. The reason given for this step is “While the Commission is agnostic to the nature of promises, the need to frame disclosure requirements to enable healthy debate on the financial implications of implementing those promises both in the immediate future and for the long-term fiscal sustainability is imperative for facilitating the conduct of free and fair elections.” Such an explanation does not wash. If a political party decides to offer free school uniforms to children going to government schools, the worthiness of such a promise is to be decided by the people who vote in the elections. What would be the financial cost and how the finances for the uniform scheme are to be allocated is for the newly-elected government to decide. Where does the Election Commission figure in the matter? According to the commission, the second part of the proforma provides for some fiscal information being prefilled by the respective state/central government based on the latest budget estimate/ revised estimate. The political party is to fill the right side of the proforma by showing how financing would be raised to fill the gap with reference to the latest budget estimate or revised estimate in the context of the increased finances required for fulfilling the election promises. Such an exercise would involve a complicated case of financial accounting which would only be possible by a team of financial experts who have the experience of official budget making. Moreover, the commission’s desire to assess the “impact of the additional resource raising plan (for

fulfilling promises) on fiscal sustainability of the state or the union government, as the case may be” is entering dangerous territory. The commission seems to accept the neo-liberal notions of fiscal conservatism and fiscal sustainability. As far as the CPI(M) is concerned, it has been opposed to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, which fixes the fiscal deficit limit at 3 per cent of GDP. Will the Election Commission act as the arbiter on what fiscal sustainability is about? The current move of the ECI to elicit details about the financial implications of election promises made by political parties and match it to the financial situation of the government concerned is surprising because only a few months before, in April this year, the Election Commission had in an affidavit to the Supreme Court said: “It is also stated that offering/distribution of any freebies either before or after the election is a policy decision of the party concerned. And whether such policies are financially viable or have adverse effect on the economic health of the state is a question that has to be considered and decided by the voters of the state”. The Election Commission had also submitted that it cannot regulate state policies and decisions which may be taken by the winning party when they form the government. “Such an action, without enabling provisions in the law, would be an overreach of powers”. Why this change of heart in the space of a few months? Has the Prime Minister Modi’s speech in July criticising the ‘revdi’ culture and blaming the opposition for it been a factor for the EC reconsidering its earlier stand? The whole debate stirred up on “freebies” was nothing but voicing the neo-liberal objections that subsidies for food, fertilizer and electricity and such like are all wasteful of public resources and are freebies. According to the prevailing

neo-liberal wisdom, transfers to the working people must be substituted with transfers to the big capitalists to promote growth. That is why when the Supreme Court took up the hearing of a petition by a BJP leader against “freebies” being promised by political parties during election time, the CPI(M) had stated that it was not for the Supreme Court to deliberate upon and decide whether election promises made by political parties are “freebies” or not. To paraphrase the Party’s position: This issue pertains purely to the realm of political. In a democracy, political parties are free to set out their platform and promises in the election manifesto. It is for the people to judge them, accept or reject them. It is the prerogative of a political party which wins the election to implement the promises it has made to the people with regard to welfare measures. The bench headed by the then Chief Justice of India, N V Ramana, had heard the petition which wanted the reconsideration of the judgment given in the Subramaniam Balaji case by a two-member bench in 2013. On the last day of Justice Ramana’s tenure on August 26, the CJI directed that the case be heard by a three-member bench to be decided by the new CJI. So, the matter of election promises of “freebies” is still pending before the Supreme Court. That makes the hurry for the ECI to insert new guidelines in the model code of conduct all the more intriguing. Is it targeted at the welfare schemes and direct cash transfers being made by various state governments? The prime minister considers all the central schemes as genuine welfare measures while similar welfare schemes undertaken by the opposition state governments are to be branded as “freebies”. The latest move of the Election Commission seems to subscribe to the prime minister’s views. The ECI’s intervention on the financial implications of election promises made by political parties will be a serious infringement on the right of political parties to address people’s vital concerns and to respond to them in a democratic fashion. All political parties must be one in opposing this move of the Election Commission. (IPA)



A fireworks and decorative lights stall for the upcoming Diwali celebrations at Sovabazar --Arijit Ganguly

High energy prices jeopardise global solar, battery industries

Record breaking energy prices in Europe are threatening the global solar and battery industry, with manufacturing capacity facing a serious risk. The energy intensive nature of these manufacturing processes is leading some operators to temporarily close or abandon production facilities as the cost of doing business escalates. Unless prices turn around soon, Europe’s plans to cut dependence on imported fossil fuels by boosting installed renewable generation capacity and electric vehicle (EV) usage could be derailed. According to latest estimates, 35 gigawatts (GW) of solar PV manufacturing and more than 2,000 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of battery cell manufacturing capacity could be mothballed unless power prices quickly return to normal levels. And there appear to be little prospects for prices correcting in the immediate future. European electricity prices have risen to unprecedented levels in recent weeks due to unplanned nuclear and hydropower plant outages, soaring demand for cooling during an oppressive summer heatwave and reduced gas deliveries from Russia. According to energy specialists Rystad Energy, daily average spot power prices in Germany – Europe’s leader in solar

and battery cell manufacturing capacity – have surpassed +600 per megawatt-hour (MWh), while rates in France have topped +700 per MWh. During peak hours, European power prices have spiked to +1,500 per MWh, unsustainable levels for consumers, including the industrial sector. Although prices have retreated significantly since these record highs in August, rates remain in the +300 to +400 range, many multiples above pre-energy crisis norms. In recent years, Europeans have benefited from reliable and affordable electricity. Low-carbon manufacturers have also predicated their build-up of production capacity on stable power prices of around +50 per MWh. With manufacturers in other regions, such as Asia, enjoying lower electricity input tariffs, European producers are becoming increasingly uncompetitive by comparison. Although Europe’s solar manufacturing capacity is relatively modest on a global scale – making up only 2 percent of total capacity – any shutdowns or abandoning of projects

would have significant long-term negative consequences. The European Union (EU) has targeted 20 GW of production capacity by 2025, and although 35 GW of projects is currently planned, many have not secured funding, increasing the risk that these projects will fall through if high power prices continue. With Europe expected to be short on gas for several years and high electricity prices to continue as a result, attracting financing and investment for solar manufacturing plants could prove challenging. Battery cell manufacturing – crucial in the EV and battery storage supply chain – is even more energy intensive than solar manufacturing, and Europe is a major global player. The EU currently boasts about 550 GWh of capacity, representing 27 percent of global operational capacity. Announced projects under development are set to boost that total significantly, increasing capacity to 2.7 terawatt-hours, positioning the EU as a global leader. However, those are now at risk and the car manufacturing and battery

storage sectors could struggle to source European-made batteries as a result. Supply chain issues are dogging even the Indian solar and battery industries. Much of the raw materials for the industry comes from China, but due to supply chain constraints in the wake of the pandemic, Chinese supplies have become more costly, along with the high cost of transportation, with the result that the industry is struggling to meet the demand, which mostly comes from abroad. Manufacturers are mostly focused on export markets for the sale of solar PV cells and modules at higher prices. Most new players have tie-ups with European and American companies to prioritise exports. This leads to reduced supplies for the local market, which is growing at a fast pace. Funding has been a major constraint for the growth of the domestic industry. But new investments into technology as well as manufacturing infrastructure are expected to usher in a change in the next five to ten years. Major players such as Ambani, Adani and Tata have planned for \$100 billion investments in the next ten years to build integrated solar manufacturing plants, which should take the current capacity of 2GW for cells and 12 GW for modules to 50 GW in the next five years. (IPA)

FOCUS

K Raveendran

Conventional Crossword

1		2		3		4		5
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8						9		10
						11		
12	13		14					
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18		19						
20					21			
		22						
23					24			

ACROSS
1 Love god
4 Hairpiece
6 Bellow
8 Accustom
9 Bring up
12 Desire with rivalry
15 Affirms with confidence
18 Hospital rooms
20 Curved bones
21 Single thing
22 American state
23 Snakes
24 Fuel
25 Shy

DOWN
1 Country
2 Showy feather
3 Unwanted remains
4 Bird
5 Bloody
7 Field of conflict
10 Keenly desirous
13 Blood vessel
14 Reposes
15 Joint
16 Kingdom
17 Reprimand
18 Ladder step
19 Prejudice

SUDOKU : 3664

8	3		5			9	7	
2					7			3
		7	8				1	
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	6						9	
			6					4
	8				5	7		
3			1					9
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Yesterday’s Solution 3663

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

Yesterday’s Cross Word Solution 1672

G	I	S	T		S	T	A	L	L
A	C	T		M		A	R	I	A
G	E	E	S	E		M	E	N	D
S		I		R		P	A	T	E
		N	A	I	V	E			N
S			S	T	E	R	N		
T	R	I	P		N		O		E
R	R	A	R	E		A	M	B	E
O	T	I	C		L		L	A	G
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Secretary (Health) inaugurates 3-days workshop



PORT BLAIR, OCT 12/--/ Mr. Arjun Sharma, Secretary (Health) inaugurated a 3-days Regional Training-cum-Review Workshop from 12th to 14th October 2022, on the Supply Chain Management System (SCM) of commodities of National AIDS Control Programme (NACP). Dr. MunniSinghania, Directorate of Health Services, Andaman & Nicobar Administration also graced the occasion as guest of honour. Project Director's, Asst. Project Directors and Dy. Directors representing various states of the southern zone also graced the occasion. A total of 45 participants from NACO and SACS are attending the workshop. The

participants are representatives of the Supply Chain Management Project of State AIDS Control Societies from Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The workshop is being conducted at the conference hall of Hotel Lemon Tree, Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Mr. Arjun Sharma while addressing the participants said that it becomes very important to deliver the right information to the society and deal with the problem in an effective manner. The role of NACO has been important in dealing with

the problems of HIV & AIDS. It is important to have regional level workshops so that state-specific issues can be dealt with in an effective manner considering the local and regional aspects. He congratulated Plan India and the NACO team for conducting the Three Days Regional Training Cum Review Workshop on the Supply Chain Management System (SCM) for NACP commodities. Dr. Anoop Kumar Puri, DDG, NACO through the virtual platform addressed the participants to utilise this opportunity and gain the knowledge from an experienced resource team and ensure the availability of

commodity at each level overcoming the challenges. Now, it has become important to have a dedicated team for managing the Supply Chain Management System. Other officials who addressed the participants were Dr. Saiprasad Bhavsar, Deputy Director, PMR & SCM, NACO, Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG NACO (Retd.) and Dr. Rajesh Rana, Director, Plan International (India chapter). Earlier the participants were welcomed by Dr. Rajesh Rana. The Supply chain Management project of National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) is being implemented by Plan International (India Chapter).

CITU North Andaman Zonal Conference held at Diglipur



PORT BLAIR, OCT 12/--/ The North Andaman Zonal Conference of CITU was held at Diglipur on 9th October, 2022. Mr. Vijoo Krishnan, All India Joint Secretary of All India Kisan Sabha inaugurated the Conference. In his inaugural address, Mr. Vijoo Krishnan briefly explained the history of trade union movement in the world. Referring to the situation in the country, he said that the wrong economic policies followed by the successive governments resulted in the job loss in large number in the country. He said that promises made by the BJP during 2014 Parliament election that two crores of jobs will be created every year remain as an eyewash.

The BJP government has brought 4 Labour Codes in place of all existing labour laws with a view to deny even the basic rights of working class. If these Labour Codes are implemented, among other things, workers have to work 12 hours per day instead of the present 8 hours. He called upon the delegates attending the CITU Conference to educate the working class to support the Left candidates in the Parliament and local body elections in the islands. He further said that privatization, contractisation and outsourcing of government work have become the policy of the BJP government. He said that world over, the working class is

facing difficulties created by the ruling capitalist parties. Mr. D. Ayyappan, Secretary, CPI (M) State Secretary while addressing the CITU Zonal Conference called upon the workers to strengthen the CITU to fight for their genuine and long-pending demands. Mr. B. Chandrachoodan, General Secretary, CITU State Committee while addressing the Conference enumerated the instances where the BJP-led central government and its Administration disregarded the court orders which were in favour of the workers. He also expressed concern over the anti-working class decisions of the government and A & N Administration. Mr.

Ramjeeban Sarkar, State Vice President, All India Kisan Sabha emphasized the need to have joint movement of workers and farmers in the islands. Earlier, Mr. Sunil Bepari, Vice President, CITU North Andaman Zonal Committee hoisted the CITU flag at the venue of the Conference while leaders and delegates paid tributes to the martyrs at the specially erected Martyrs Memorial Column at the Conference venue. Mr. Barun Biswas presented the Report on the activities of the CITU in North Andaman since last Conference. A large number of workers from various parts of North Andaman attended the Conference.

PS Diglipur team cracks burglary case, accused arrested

PORT BLAIR, OCT 12/--/ As part of zero tolerance policy against crimes, PS Diglipur staff have cracked a burglary case within a short span of time and arrested one accused person and recovered the stolen cash and other articles. On 23rd Sept 2022, a burglary case was reported at PS Diglipur that cash of Rs. 86,000, 02 nos. Rings - 04 grams and a pair of gold earrings - 06 grams were stolen from the house of Mr. Naresh Halder. Upon this, an FIR was registered at PS Diglipur and two teams were constituted for the search of the accused and

stolen cash & gold ornaments. The general public were also sensitized about the incident of burglary in their locality. On 10th October 2022, some villagers of Rabindrapally village, Diglipur informed PS Diglipur that they have apprehend one person suspected to be the accused of the burglary case. Subsequently, the person namely Rajiv Biswas, S/o Shri Robin Biswas (22) yrs. R/o Sardar Tikrey, Diglipur was brought to Police Station. After interrogation, Rajiv Biswas accepted his guilt and the stolen cash and other articles were recovered from his possession. Further, he was arrested after observing all codal formalities.

The general public of Rabindrapally village, Diglipur is highly appreciated for helping the local police in apprehending the accused person. The general public is requested to pass and share any credible information pertaining to any crime or illegal activities to their nearest police station or over phone No. 100, 112 & 03192-273344. The identity of the informers will be kept secret and will also be suitably rewarded.

MV Chuglam to sail for C/ Bay

PORT BLAIR, OCT 12/--/ The cargo vessel MV Chuglam will sail for Campbell Bay via Swaraj Dweep, Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teresa, Katchal & Nancowry on 17th October 2022 (Mon) at 0900 Hrs from Haddo/Chatham Wharf and will sail for Port Blair immediately after discharging/loading of Cargo at respective ports. Booking of cargo for the above sailing will commence from 13.10.2022 onwards between 0900 Hrs & 1300 Hrs at Commercial Wing.

Awareness prog on POCSO Act at Nirmala School



PORT BLAIR, OCT 12/--/ The District Child Protection Unit, South Andaman conducted an awareness programme on POCSO Act as well as Good & Bad Touch at Nirmal Senior Secondary School, Prem Nagar on 12th October 2022. The children of Classes 6th to 8th participated in the program. The resource persons to impart the sessions were Inspector Rashida from Crime against Women Cell (Dept of Police) and Protection Officer NIC from District Child Protection Unit, South Andaman on the various offences that are covered under POCSO Act and its Provi-

sion. The children were sensitized on Good & Bad Touch. The children were motivated to Say No at the very first instance when they come across any Bad/ Unsafe Touch and report it to the Trust ones. During the session information was also given to the children on the important Service/ Institutions working for the protection of children from all types of abuse. Important contact numbers/ Helpline Numbers such as Police Helpline (100), Child Helpline (1098) and District Child Protection Unit (Room No 19), DC Office were also shared with the children.

48th National Women Chess Championship

PORT BLAIR, OCT 12/--/ The MPL 48th National Senior Women Chess Championships-2022 will be organised by All India Chess Federation supported by Sports Authority of India, Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs, Govt. of India from 8th November 2022 to 18th November 2022 at Sanjay Ghodawat University Kolhapur, Maharashtra. Each Affiliated State Association is entitled to send four entries for the Championship. Interested chess players who wish to participate in the upcoming 48th National women Chess Championship-2022 may

submit their entries on or before 20th October 2022, through Whatsapp@ 9434293379 or email@anchesssassoication@gmail.com. As per the entries, Andaman Nicobar chess association (ANCA) will conduct a Selection Trial on Saturday the 20th October 2022 to select players from Andaman & Nicobar Islands for the National women Championship 2022. For more details, please contact B Neelaiah, General Secretary Andaman Nicobar Chess Association @ 9434293379 or 9675953366.

No citizen can be prosecuted under scrapped sec 66A of IT Act, says SC

NEW DELHI, OCT 12/--/ The Supreme Court Wednesday directed no citizen can be prosecuted under section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, which it had scrapped way back in 2015. Under the annulled section, a person posting offensive content could be imprisoned for up to three years and also fined. Underlining that liberty of thought and expression is of "cardinal" significance, the top court had on March 24, 2015 done away with the provision, saying "the public's right to know is directly affected by Section 66A of the Information Technology Act". A bench headed by Chief Justice U U Lalit said in all cases where citizens are facing prosecution for alleged violation of section 66-A of the Act, the reference and reliance upon the said provision shall stand deleted. "We direct all Director General of Police as well as Home Secretaries of the states and competent officers in Union Territories to instruct the entire police force in their respective states/ Union Territories not to register any complaint of crime with respect to alleged violation of section 66A," said the bench, also comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi and S R Bhat. The top court clarified that this direction shall apply only with respect to offence

punishable under section 66A, and if in the crime in question, other offences are also alleged, then the reference and reliance upon section 66A alone shall be deleted. The bench observed the counsel appearing for the Centre has placed on record an all-India status report with regard to pending cases under section 66A. It observed the information given in a tabular form does suggest that despite the issue regarding the validity of section 66A of the Act having been decided by the apex court, a number of criminal proceedings still rely upon this provision and citizens are still facing prosecution. "Such criminal proceedings, in our view, are directly in the teeth of the directions issued by this court in Shreya Singhal vs Union of India (March 2015 judgement) and consequently, we issue following directions..." the bench said. "It needs no reiteration that section 66A of the 2000 Act has been found by this court in Shreya Singhal vs Union of India to be violative of the Constitution and as such, no citizen can be prosecuted....in said section 66A," it said. The bench also said whenever any publication, whether government, semi-government and private, about the IT Act is published and section 66A is quoted as part of the statute book, the reader must adequately be informed that section 66A

has already been pronounced upon by the apex court to be violative of the Constitution. Calling a "matter of serious concern" the registration of FIRs under section 66A of the Act which was scrapped in 2015, the apex court had last month asked the chief secretaries of the states concerned to take back the cases within three weeks. The bench was hearing a miscellaneous application of NGO People's Union for Civil Liberties' (PUCIL) alleging prosecution of people under the scrapped provision. The NGO claimed that despite express directions of the court in 2019 that all state governments sensitise police personnel about the March 24, 2015 judgement, thousands of cases have been registered under the section. It sought direction to the Centre to collect all data/ information regarding FIRs/investigations where section 66A has been invoked as well as pendency of cases in the courts throughout the country where proceedings under the provision are continuing in violation of the 2015 judgement. On February 15, 2019, the top court had directed all state governments to sensitise their police personnel about its March 24, 2015 verdict, which had scrapped section 66A of the Act, so people are not unnecessarily arrested under the struck-down provision. (PTI)

Campus recruitment at DBRAIT

PORT BLAIR, OCT 12/--/ The JBM Group, a progressive conglomerate company from Gurugram, is planning a campus recruitment drive for Diploma (Electrical & ECE) students of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology (DBRAIT). The students who have passed out in 2022 and scored 65% and more, with no backlogs, are eligible for the selection process. All eligible and interested students are hereby informed to submit their willingness to TPO Cell of the institute by 11.00 am tomorrow. The selected candidates will be appointed as Diploma Engineer Trainee's - DET's for one year and thereafter as Jr. Executive.

MP: Hand pump spews out liquor as police seize underground drums in Guna district

GUNA, OCT 12/--/ Hand pumps are generally associated with supplying water but in Bhanpura village in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district a hand pump spew out liquor when police busted an illegal liquor den and seized huge stock, an official said on Wednesday. Police raided the village on Monday and during a search, they recovered a total of eight drums filled with raw liquor buried underground or hidden under fodder in agriculture fields. "A hand pump attached with the drums of raw liquor hidden underground was also recovered. When police personnel started pumping it, liquor started coming out from the other end (joined by a pipe)," said Guna superintendent of police, Pankaj Shrivastava. Police also recovered huge quantities of country-made liquor stored in drums which were hidden under the debris of fodder in farms. "Prime facie, people dealing in illegal liquor trade had dug underground pits to hide liquor-filled drums. They were using a hand pump to take out liquor from these drums which are then filled in pouches and five-litre cans," Shrivastava said. (PTI)

Create OTP-based system for seamless payment to empanelled lawyers: Delhi HC tells Delhi govt

NEW DELHI, OCT 12/--/ The Delhi High Court has directed the Delhi government to ensure an OTP based system is in place on the Online Single Window System (OSWS) portal for seamless processing of payment of professional fees to empanelled lawyers. The high court noted that in August 2020 it had directed the authorities to clear the pending bills of standing counsel but it has not been done so far, and said that this exercise shall conclude positively before December 12, the next date of hearing. The court was hearing a petition ventilating grievances about non-payment of professional fee or retainership fee bills of empanelled lawyers outstanding for a long time. Delhi government's standing counsel Santosh Kumar Tripathi and lawyer Arun Panwar informed the court the new OSWS portal has

become operational for payment of professional fees to the standing counsel but added the process is still lengthy and burdensome. He submitted an OTP (one time password) based system should be made available on the OSWS portal which will reduce the time spent on approving the bills. A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad said, Resultantly, the State is directed to ensure that some provision of OTP based signature is made available as the present process is cumbersome and defeats the purpose of seamless submission of bills. Let the same be done within four weeks' from today. The bench, in its October 6 order, said the authorities shall make all endeavour to clear the bills which are pending till date. (PTI)

Get registered with edu dept within 1 month or face closure: Uttarakhand govt's ultimatum to madrassas

DEHRADUN, OCT 12/--/ Madrassas in Uttarakhand have been ordered to get themselves registered with the state education department within a month or face closure. There are around 400 unregistered madrassas in the state, according to the government. "Madrassas have been served an ultimatum to register with the state education department within a month. If they fail to meet the deadline, steps will be taken to shut them," Uttarakhand Social Welfare and Minority Welfare Minister Chandan Ram Dass said. Currently, 419 madrassas are registered with the Uttarakhand Madrasah Board. Of these, 192 receive grants from the Centre and the state government. The state government estimates that there are around 400 more madrassas and they remain unregistered. "Not registering with the state education department is harming the future of the students who study there as they face problems in getting admissions after Class V," Dass said. The direction to get registered is aimed at the welfare of the students because only then can they avail of benefits of the central and state government schemes, he added. As there were allegations that the grants given to the madrassas were not being appropriately utilised, chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had recently underlined the need to have them surveyed. State Waqf board chairman Shadab Shams said he had a word with the chief minister regarding the issue and a committee will soon be set up to survey the madrassas. Soon after taking over as the state Waqf board chairman last month, Shams had made a strong pitch for providing modern education in madrassas. He said the board plans to introduce the state education board syllabus in madrassas and provide similar education to its students as children in private and government schools. (PTI)

JOINT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
(For the State of Goa and Union Territories)
3rd & 4th Floor, Plot No. 55-56, Phase IV, Udyog Vihar, Sector 18, Gurugram-122015.
Ph. No. 0124-4684705 E-mail: secy.jercuts@gov.in,
Website: www.jercuts.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (for the State of Goa & Union Territories) invites suggestions/comments/inputs/objections from Public/Stakeholders on the **Draft Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the State of Goa and Union Territories (Conduct of Business) (Sixth Amendment) Regulations, 2022** which are drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003. The Draft Regulations have been uploaded on the Commission's website **www.jercuts.gov.in** and can be downloaded for perusal.

Notice is hereby given inviting Suggestions/Comments on the aforesaid Draft Regulations, to be sent to the undersigned latest by 04.11.2022 by email or post at the above-mentioned Email IDs/address for Commission's consideration.

(Rajesh Dangi)
Director (Engg.)

CBC-34124/12/0001/2223

Aware of 'Lakshman Rekha' but will examine demonetisation: SC

NEW DELHI, OCT 12 /--/ The Supreme Court said on Wednesday it is aware of the 'Lakshman Rekha' on judicial review of Government policy decisions but will have to examine the 2016 demonetisation decision to decide whether the issue has become a mere "academic" exercise.

A five-judge bench headed by Justice S A Nazeer said when an issue arises before a Constitution bench, it is its duty to answer. Attorney General R Venkataramani submitted that unless the Act on demonetisation is challenged in a proper perspective, the issue will essentially remain academic. The High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Act was passed in 1978 to provide in public interest for demonetisation of certain high denomination bank notes in order to check illicit transfer of money harmful to the



economy which such currency notes facilitate. The apex court said in order to declare whether the exercise is academic or infructuous, it needs to examine the matter since both sides are not agreeable. "In order to answer that issue, we will have to hear and give an answer whether it's academic, not academic or beyond the scope of judicial review. The point in the case is the government policy and its wisdom which is one aspect of the matter. "We always know where the Lakshman Rekha is, but the manner in which it was done has to be examined. We have to hear the counsel to decide that," the bench, also comprising Justices B R Gavai, A

S Bopanna, V Ramasubramanian, and B V Nagarathna said. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said the court's time should not be "wasted" on academic issues. Objecting to Mehta's submission, senior lawyer

Shyam Divan, representing petitioner Vivek Narayan Sharma, said he was surprised at the words "waste of constitutional bench's time" as the earlier bench had said these cases must be placed before a Constitution bench. Senior advocate P Chidambaram, appearing for one of the parties, said the issue has not become academic and it has to be decided by the top court. Chidambaram said this kind of demonetisation requires a separate act of Parliament.

On December 16, 2016, a bench headed by then Chief Justice TS Thakur had referred the question of the validity of the decision and other issues to a larger bench of five judges for authoritative pronouncement. It had framed various questions in the reference order to be adjudicated by the five-judge bench which included whether the notification dated November 8, 2016 is ultra vires provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and does the notification contravene the provisions of Article 300 (A) of the Constitution. Article 300(A) says no person shall be deprived of his property save by the authority of law. (PTI)



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee handing over West Bengal government's Letter of Permission for developing Tajpur Port to Kiran Adani, at an event at Eco Park — Photo : EOI

Govt forms panel to study WHO report on deaths of 66 Gambian children linked to 4 Indian syrups

NEW DELHI, OCT 12 /--/ The Union government on Wednesday formed a four-member panel of experts to examine the details and adverse event reports received from the WHO on the deaths of 66 children in The Gambia being linked potentially to the four made-in-India cough syrups, official sources here said.

They said after examining and analysing the adverse event reports, causal relationship and all related details shared by or to be shared by the World Health Organization, the committee will advise and recommend further course of action to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). The development comes on a day the Haryana government ordered the halting of drug manufacturing at the Sonipat unit of Maiden Pharmaceuticals, and asked it to explain within a week "many contraventions" found during a recent inspection, or face suspension or cancellation of license. The order to halt production came days after the World Health Organization (WHO) potentially linked four cough syrups manufactured at the facility to the deaths of 66 children in the African nation of Gambia. The four-member committee of technical experts are: Dr. Y. K Gupta. Vice Chairperson, Standing National Committee on Medicines; Dr Pragya D. Yadav, NIV, ICMR, Pune; Dr Arti Bahl, Division of Epidemiology, NCDC, New Delhi; and A. K. Pradhan, JDC(I), CDSCO. According to official sources, the WHO on September 29 had informed the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) that they were providing technical assistance and advice to Gambia, where children have died and where a contributing factor was

suspected to be the use of medicines (Promethazine Oral Solution BP, KOFEXNALIN Baby Cough Syrup, MaKOFF Baby Cough Syrup and MaGrip n Cold Syrup). There are manufactured and exported by Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Sonapat, Haryana, and the WHO had informed they may have been contaminated with Diethylene glycol or Ethylene glycol. The CDSCO took up the matter immediately with the Haryana State Regulatory Authority, under whose jurisdiction the drug manufacturing unit is located, and a detailed investigation was launched by CDSCO in collaboration with the State Drugs Controller, Haryana. It has also been indicated by the WHO that as per the tentative results received by the WHO, out of the 23 samples of the products under reference which were tested by WHO, four have been found to contain Diethylene Glycol/Ethylene Glycol. "The CDSCO had requested WHO to provide relevant analysis / report indicating / establishing one-to-one causal relation of said deaths with the alleged adulteration of the drugs referred to above. The same is yet to be provided by WHO," a source said. On further follow up done by CDSCO with the WHO, the Certificate of Analysis (COAS) of the sampled products and the summary of the adverse events etc. were shared by the WHO on October 11 2022. Further, the WHO has informed they are in the process of taking forward the investigation, the memorandum stated. "In order to examine and analyse the details of the reports/adverse events/CoAs received to be received from WHO in the instant matter, it has been decided to constitute a committee comprising technical experts," the source stated. (PTI)



Getting rape threats on 'Instagram' after seeking filmmaker Sajid Khan's ouster from reality show: DCW chief

NEW DELHI, OCT 12 /--/ Delhi Commission for Women chairperson Swati Maliwal has lodged a police complaint alleging that she has been receiving rape threats on 'Instagram' after she wrote to the Centre demanding filmmaker Sajid Khan's ouster from reality show Bigg Boss.

Maliwal has submitted the complaint to the Delhi Police's Cyber Crime Unit and sought immediate registration of an FIR and arrest of the perpetrators. A senior police officer said that a case has been registered and investigation initiated. In a letter to Union information and broadcasting minister Anurag Thakur on October 10, the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chairperson had said that several women had levelled allegations of sexual harassment against Khan during the #MeToo movement. In 2018, during the #MeToo movement, over 10 actresses, models and journalists spoke out against Khan that led to his suspension from the Indian Film and Television Directors' Association and from directing movies for an year, she said. "However, recently, in an apparent attempt to 'whitewash' his image, he has been made a 'housemate' in the popular TV show Bigg Boss. Ever since the commission acted in the matter on October 10, threats are being received online on the Instagram account of DCW Chief Swati Maliwal. In the threats, the men have stated that Maliwal deserves to be raped," the commission said. Maliwal had also appealed to Union Minister Thakur to take "urgent" action and get Khan removed from the show and banned permanently. "I have been receiving rape threats for supporting voices of #MeToo survivors. Clearly, these are attempts to intimidate the commission and thwart its statutory work. I have submitted a complaint with Delhi Police," she said. (PTI)

Believe in collective leadership, will consult Sonia, Rahul if elected Cong prez: Kharge

Have ensured level playing field for both candidates: Mistry

BHOPAL, OCT 12 /--/ Congress presidential poll candidate Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday listed fighting the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as the most important challenge before his party and accused the saffron outfit heading the government at the Centre of "destroying" the Constitution and "weakening" autonomous bodies.

Talking to reporters here, Kharge said he believes in collective leadership and if elected president, will consult party leaders Sonia Gandhi as well as Rahul Gandhi on organisational matters. Asked who will be the Congress's Prime Ministerial candidate if he gets elected as party chief, he avoided a direct reply and quoted a proverb popular in his home state Karnataka to say, "If you survive on one festival, then you will dance on another event." I am here for organizational elections. We will see all these things later," the Rajya Sabha MP said. The senior Congressman maintained he is contesting the election for the top party post to save the Constitution and democracy in the country. The veteran politician said he was "forced" by Congress workers to enter the fray as no one from the Gandhi family came forward to contest the election since they wanted to stay away from the process to ensure an impartial poll. The former Union minister accused the BJP of "stealing" Congress MLAs and toppling party-led governments in nearly half a dozen states. The major challenge before the party is the current BJP government that is destroying the Constitution, weakening autonomous institutions and misusing them," he said. Kharge arrived in Bhopal to address Congress delegates ahead of the October 17 party presidential poll, where he is taking on Lok Sabha MP from Kerala Shashi Tharoor. Our party' came to power in nearly six states under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, but the BJP government under Modi (Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Shah

(Home Minister Amit Shah) stole our MLAs because of which we lost governments in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Goa and Maharashtra. On the one hand they say the Congress has no base and people are not supporting it, but on the other hand, the party's governments that got support of voters and were elected as per the Constitution were toppled by them. Which dacoit stole them, I don't know, Kharge said. The 80-year-old politician from Karnataka said he is contesting the election to save the Constitution and democracy in the country. Kharge said he decided to throw his hat in the ring after Congress workers and leaders proposed his candidature. We will fight from streets to Parliament for issues that

for more than 20 years (put together) and under their leadership our party had formed government twice (at the Centre) and framed a number of welfare schemes for the poor, the Rajya Sabha MP added. The Udaipur declaration, adopted at a Congress conclave held in May in Rajasthan, refers to a set of proposals like one person, one post and offering 50 per cent of party posts to those below 50 years.

The Congress presidential polls will be held by a secret ballot and no one will get to know who voted for whom, the party's central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry said on Wednesday, asserting that a level-playing field has been ensured for both candidates. In the polls,

Shashi Tharoor is pitted against Kharge who is seen as a favourite for the top party post because of his perceived proximity to the Gandhi family. However, the party and both candidates have maintained that the Gandhis are neutral in the polls. Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Mistry said the party's poll authority has ensured a level playing field. "Both candidates have been told about it. What is it that is still left to do, we do not know, and no one has

contacted us over the issue," Mistry said. On individuals canvassing for one candidate or the other, the poll authority cannot stop any individual from campaigning, he said. "But as far as the level playing field is concerned, we have tried our level best to see to it that it gets implemented," he said in response to a question on Tharoor's reported comments that some aspects of the poll suggest an uneven playing field. Mistry demonstrated to reporters the ballot boxes, ballot paper and how the votes would be cast. He said the sealed boxes would be transported to Delhi, kept in a strong room at AICC headquarters and opened in Delhi. The ballot papers would be mixed before counting starts. (PTI)



Congress presidential poll candidate Mallikarjun Kharge interacting with media, in Bhopal

I have raised. There are many things against which we have to fight together, including inflation, unemployment, declining value of the rupee... we don't have to fight against each other, he said, apparently referring to his opponent Tharoor. The Congress leader said he believes in collective leadership and will implement the Udaipur Chintan Shivir's (brainstorming session) declaration by consulting everyone if elected.

I believe in collective leadership, will take everyone into confidence and consult all before taking any decision as per majority like implementing the Udaipur declaration, Kharge said. I will consult Sonia Gandhi as well as Rahul Gandhi as they have been party chiefs

Slum festival: Delhi's homeless get opportunity to break everyday monotony

NEW DELHI, OCT 12 /--/ The ongoing slum festival in Delhi's shelter homes has given homeless people an opportunity to learn and participate in various activities, giving them a break from the daily hustle and bustle of their lives.

A week-long festival to spread awareness about the issues surrounding homelessness and its challenges was launched by deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on World Homeless Day on October 10. Sunita, one of the night shelter residents, said two teachers visit the shelter home at Sarai Kale Khan five days a week, to teach the homeless children for free. "My children started getting education after we moved to this shelter home. Two teachers visit at least five days a week to teach the children here. The education and medical



facilities are good here," Sunita said. Sunita (45) has been managing her family by herself after her husband passed away four

years ago and mostly works at construction sites as a labourer and sometimes, as a scrap dealer. "I moved to this shelter home after my

husband passed away in 2018. Since then, I have been managing the family on my own. We mostly work at construction sites as

labourers and sometimes as scrap-dealers," she said. An 18-year-old Barkha, who was born in the slums and grew up at Sarai Kale Khan night shelter, spoke extensively about a cultural program organised by the government on Monday. "Around 15 children from Sarai Kale Khan night shelter participated at the program that was organised by the Delhi government on October 10. A cultural program was organised here and children from several other shelter homes performed. There was a painting competition too," she said. Meanwhile, at other shelter homes activities like medical camps, yoga, meditation classes, special drive on cleanliness and tidiness, tree plantation, gardening activities and camps in collaboration with

concerned departments for issuing Aadhaar cards or voter ID cards have been set up. Thirty-seven-year-old Sabita Kujur moved to the shelter home after battling financial issues when the pandemic hit home in 2020.

"I moved to Delhi from Odisha all alone when I was 15 years. I used to stay at a rented room after I got married here but financial situation deteriorated after the pandemic had hit in 2020. After the first lockdown, my husband and I spent at least three days at the Nizamuddin railway station. Later, we came to know about this shelter home and moved here," she said. Residents have said apart from this festival, the Delhi government has taken various measures to make their lives easier. "We have received a lot of support from the

government, especially medical help. COVID vaccinations were provided on time and precautionary measures have also been taken for dengue here," Barkha added. The first-of-its-kind festival is aimed at highlighting the needs of the marginal homeless residents, recognising and celebrating their achievements while aiming to inspire the persons experiencing deprivation. "Our constitution has provided everyone with the fundamental right to have a dignified life and it is our duty as government to ensure this. Delhi government through DUSIB is making efforts to reach out to all people who have been deprived of basic needs and help people have a better life in Delhi," Sisodia had said after launching the festival. (PTI)

Putin says Russia could increase gas supplies to Europe

MOSCOW, OCT 12/--/Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that Moscow is ready to resume gas supplies to



Europe via a link of the Germany-bound Nord Stream 2 pipeline under the Baltic Sea. Speaking at a Moscow energy forum, Putin again charged that the U.S. was likely behind the explosions that ripped through both links of the Nord Stream 1 pipeline and one of the two links of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, causing a massive gas leak and taking them out of service. The U.S. has previously rejected similar allegations by Putin. Several European governments said the undersea explosions that ripped through both Nord Stream pipelines were likely caused by sabotage but stopped short of assigning blame. The Russian leader has repeatedly taunted the West by raising the prospect of sending gas through Nord Stream 2, a political nonstarter for the German government and others. Reaffirming a claim that he made last week, Putin said that the attack on the pipelines was launched by those who wanted to weaken Europe by halting the flow of cheap gas from Russia. The act of sabotage of the Nord Stream 1 and 2 is an act of international terrorism aimed at undermining energy security of the entire continent by blocking supplies of cheap energy, he said, alleging that the U.S. wants to force Europe to switch to importing more expensive liquefied natural gas. Those who want to rupture ties between Russia and the EU are behind the acts of sabotage on the Nord Stream, he said. While Russia is still pumping gas to Europe via Ukraine, the explosions on the Baltic pipelines have exacerbated acute energy shortages faced by Europe before the winter season. The Nord Stream 2 pipeline has never brought natural gas to Europe because Germany prevented the flows from ever starting just before Russia launched military action in Ukraine on Feb. 24. Before the explosions, Russia had cut off the parallel Nord Stream 1 pipeline at the centre of an energy standoff with Europe. Russia has blamed technical problems for the stoppage, but European leaders call it an attempt to divide them over their support for Ukraine. Plunging Russian gas supplies have caused prices to soar, driving inflation, pressuring governments to help ease the pain of sky-high energy bills for households and businesses and raising fears of rationing and recession.

Putin said that one of the two links of the Nord Stream 2 has remained pressurized and appears to be ready for service, adding that its capacity stands at 27 billion cubic meters a year. He noted that if checks prove that the pipeline is safe to operate, Russia stands ready to use it to pump gas to Europe. The Russian leader also said that Russia could increase the capacity of its gas exports to Turkey and eventually turn into a hub for gas supplies to Europe. Putin again scoffed at Western plans to cap prices for Russian energy exports, saying that Russia won't act against common sense and pay the other's welfare. We won't supply energy to the countries that would cap the prices, he said. I would like to warn those, who instead of business partnership and market mechanisms try to use con tricks and blunt blackmail, that we won't do anything to our own detriment. (AP)

Israel, US announce Lebanon sea deal, but questions remain

JERUSALEM, OCT 12/--/Israel's Security Cabinet on Wednesday voted in favour of the U.S.-brokered maritime border deal with Lebanon, the first of several procedural hurdles before the agreement is formally adopted. The snap vote by Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid's senior ministers came a day after he announced that Israel agreed to the terms of the landmark deal between the two countries that have formally been in a state of war since 1948. Lebanon and Israel both claim around 860 square kilometers of the Mediterranean Sea that are home to offshore gas fields. At stake are rights over exploiting those undersea resources. Under the agreement, the disputed waters would be divided along a line straddling the strategic Qana natural gas field. The Prime Minister's Office said the Security Cabinet voted unanimously in favour of ratifying the agreement, with one minister abstaining, setting up a vote by the full Cabinet. Lebanon hopes gas exploration will help lift its country out of its spiralling economic crisis. Israel also hopes to exploit gas reserves while also easing tensions with its northern neighbour. But the deal still faces numerous hurdles, including legal and political challenges in Israel. (AP)

Iran sees "major" internet disruption amid renewed protests

DUBAI, OCT 12/--/Iran suffered a major disruption in internet service Wednesday as calls for renewed protests again saw demonstrators on the streets weeks after the death of a 22-year-old woman who had been detained by the country's morality police, an advocacy group said.

The demonstrations over the death of Mahsa Amini have become one of the greatest challenges to Iran's theocracy since the country's 2009 Green Movement protests. Demonstrators have included oil workers, high school students and women marching without their mandatory headscarf, or hijab. Calls for protests beginning at noon Wednesday saw a massive deployment of riot police and plainclothes officers throughout Tehran, witnesses said.

They also described disruptions affecting their mobile internet services. NetBlocks, an advocacy group, said that Iran's internet traffic had dropped to some 25% compared to the peak, even during a working day in which students were in class across the country. The incident is likely to further limit the free flow

of information amid protests, NetBlocks said.

Despite the disruption, witnesses saw at least one demonstration in Tehran by some 30 women who had removed their headscarves while chanting: Death to the dictator! Those cries, referring to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, can result in a closed-door trial in the country's Revolutionary Court with the threat of a death sentence. Passing cars honked in support of the women despite the threats of security forces. Other women simply continued with their day not wearing the hijab in a silent protest, witnesses said. Demonstrations also occurred on university campuses in Tehran as well, online videos purported to show.

Lawyers also peacefully demonstrated in front of the Iran Central Bar Association in Tehran, chanting: Woman, life, freedom" a slogan of the demonstrations so far. The video corresponded to known features of the association's building. A later video posted by activists purported to show them fleeing after security forces fired tear gas

at them. Videos also purported to show demonstrations Wednesday in Baharestan, just southeast of the city of Isfahan, as well as in the southern city of Shiraz and northern city of Rasht on the Caspian Sea. Gathering information about the demonstrations remains difficult amid the internet restrictions and the arrests of at least 40 journalists in the country, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Iran's government insists Amini was not mistreated, but her family says her body showed bruises and other signs of beating after she was detained for violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code. Subsequent videos have shown security forces beating and shoving female protesters, including women who have torn off their hijabs. Khamenei, speaking Wednesday to the country's Expediency Council, again claimed Iran's foreign enemies had fomented what he dismissed as scattered demonstrations. Some of these persons are elements of enemy and if they are not, they are in direction of the enemy," Khamenei said. Iranian state

television, long controlled by the country's hard-liners, aired footage it described as women protesting in support of the mandatory hijab across Iran. Only Afghanistan and Iran mandate the hijab in law and by force. Anger has been particularly acute in western Iran's Kurdish regions, as Amini was Kurdish. On Wednesday, a Kurdish group called the Hengaw Organisation for Human Rights showed images of closed shops and empty streets in some areas, describing it as a strike by shopkeepers.

The group also posted a video it said came from Amini's hometown of Saqez, which showed truckloads of riot police moving through the city. While the demonstrations have focused on Amini's death, anger has been simmering in Iran for years over the country's cratering economy. Sanctions over Tehran's nuclear program have seen a collapse in the country's rial currency, wiping out the savings of many. It remains unclear how many people have been killed or arrested so far in the protests. An Oslo-based group, Iran Human Rights, estimated Wednesday that at least 201 people

have been killed. This includes an estimated 90 people killed by security forces in the eastern Iranian city of Zahedan amid demonstrations against a police officer accused of rape in a separate case. Iranian authorities have described the Zahedan violence as involving unnamed separatists, without providing details or evidence. Numerous videos have emerged of riot police shooting into crowds, with some likely using live fire. Apparently feeling the pressure from the public, Iran's police chief, Gen. Hossein Ashtari, claimed on state television Wednesday without providing evidence that counterrevolutionary groups abroad wore police uniforms and fired into the crowds. He claimed his officers had made arrests of some of those people.

Meanwhile, Iran's Education Minister Yousof Nouri offered the first confirmation that school-age children had been arrested amid the protests. He declined to offer a figure for those arrest, the pro-reform newspaper Shargh reported, only saying those detained had been put in a psychiatric center, not in jail. (AP)

NATO cautious to avoid war, struggles with dual challenges

BRUSSELS, OCT 12/--/NATO defence ministers met on Wednesday as the alliance's member countries face the twin challenges of struggling to make and supply weapons to Ukraine while protecting vital European infrastructure like pipelines or cables that Russia might want to sabotage in retaliation. In the almost eight months since President Vladimir Putin ordered his troops into Ukraine, the 30-nation military alliance has been treading a fine line, as an organisation, providing only non-lethal support and defending its own territory to avoid being dragged into a wider war with a nuclear-armed Russia. Individual allies though continue to pour in weapons and ammunition, including armoured vehicles and air defence or anti-tank systems. They're also training Ukrainian troops, building on the lessons NATO has taught Ukraine's military instructors since Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula in 2014. But as the Russian missile strikes across Ukraine this week demonstrated, this is not enough.

NATO defence ministers were taking stock on Wednesday of the supply effort so far and to debate ways to encourage the defence industry to ramp up production in short order. Allies have provided air defence, but we need even more. We need different types of air defence, short-range, long-range air defence systems to take (out) ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, drones, different systems for different tasks, NATO Secretary-General Jens



Stoltenberg said.

Ukraine is a big country, many cities. So we need to scale up to be able to help Ukraine defend even more cities and more territory against horrific Russian attacks against their civilian populations, Stoltenberg told reporters before chairing the meeting at NATO headquarters in Brussels. At the same time, national military stocks and arsenals are being depleted.

Some countries are growing reluctant to provide Ukraine with more when they are no longer entirely sure that they can protect their own territories and airspace. The issue, as one senior diplomat put it, is: how do we arm Ukraine without disarming ourselves? The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions involve collective security concerns. For the defence industry, predictability is paramount. Companies need long-term orders and certainty before they commit to extend production lines. But no one is sure how long the war in Ukraine will last, making it difficult to know

how much equipment is needed.

Still, Putin's attack on a sovereign country without provocation, and his threats to use nuclear weapons to defend seized territory, have made many allies neighbouring Russia and Ukraine jittery. So the United States and its partners want to boost weapons production by sending clear signals to industry, as they pool resources and send Ukraine the hardware that it needs, all while ensuring that no major gaps appear in national stockpiles. Putin, for his part has warned NATO against deeper involvement in Ukraine. In recent weeks, as power and gas bills spiral and Europe struggles to decrease its dependency on Russia for energy, apparent acts of sabotage damaged two major pipelines once meant to bring natural gas to Germany. The Polish operator of the Druzhba or Friendship oil pipeline, one of the world's longest pipelines and which originates in Russia, said on Wednesday that it had detected a leak underground near the city of Plock in central Poland. The line

supplies crude to Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, Austria and Germany. Stoltenberg said that following the apparent sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines between Russia and Germany, NATO has doubled our presence in the Baltic and North Seas to over 30 ships, supported by maritime patrol aircraft and undersea capabilities.

It's a small comfort, given that about 8000 kilometres (nearly 5,000 miles) of oil and gas pipelines crisscross the North Sea alone. Systems, networks and grids are impossible to watch 24/7. Even the resources of energy companies, national authorities and NATO may not be enough to keep guard.

NATO's aim, for now, is to better coordinate between these actors, to better gather intelligence and improve the way it is shared, and watch over facilities, with aerial and undersea drones and other surveillance equipment. No responsibility has been established for the pipeline incidents. But NATO is also trying to be clear in deterring Russia. Any deliberate attack against allies' critical infrastructure would be met with a united and determined response, Stoltenberg said ahead of Wednesday's meeting. He declined to say what kind of response that might be, or whether an accumulation of such hybrid attacks might trigger NATO's collective defence clause Article 5 of its founding treaty which ensures that an attack on any one ally would be met with a response from them all. (AP)

Three police officers, civilian injured in Philadelphia shooting

PHILADELPHIA, OCT 12/--/Three Philadelphia police officers were shot and wounded early on Wednesday when a SWAT team attempted to serve a warrant at a city home, authorities said. The shooting occurred around 6:30 am, authorities said.

One officer was shot in the hip, while another had a leg wound and the third was hit in the chest. All three were taken to a hospital and were listed as stable, but their names and further information about them was not disclosed. A civilian was also injured in the incident. The person's condition has not been released and it wasn't immediately clear whether they were involved in the shooting. It was unclear how many people were in the home at the time or how many shooters were involved. Television station reports showed at least one person being taken from the scene in handcuffs, while two children were safely removed from the home by officers. (AP)

CPC Congress: Xi Jinping all set to rewind China's clock back to 'one leader rule' of Mao era

BEIJING, OCT 12/--/China's ruling Communist Party is set to slide back to its founder Mao Zedong's era soon as President Xi Jinping is set to break the decades-old 10-year term rule to cling in power and perhaps for life, amid mounting pressure from the US-led West against Beijing's aggressive quest to become a dominant world power.

On Sunday, 2,296 delegates elected under the ideological parameters set by 69-year-old Xi, will attend the carefully-choreographed Communist Party's once-in-a-five-year Congress which is widely expected to endorse his continuation in power.

The outcome of the in-camera Party Congress is expected to end two very strict five-year term limits followed by Xi's predecessors to avert the danger of the one party state becoming a country with a single leader dominating the political scene.

In the century-old history of the CPC, Mao remained at the helm until his death in 1976, ruling the most populous country and subjecting it to his ideological experiments like the Cultural Revolution during which millions of intellectuals were exterminated and wiped out much of the country's civilisational past to create a new socialist order.

Mao's mercurial leadership was marked by brutal campaigns to purge the remnants of the capitalists and traditional elements from society and implement his brand of Communism called Mao Zedong Thought. It ended up disastrously driving the communist nation to near bankruptcy. Mao's

successor, Deng Xiaoping, who earned the title of Paramount Leader for his sedate and pragmatic leadership putting the country on the path of economic development reversing Mao's headline policies, introduced the collective leadership system with a ten-year term limit and 68-year age limit to avoid the ills of the one leader domination of the party. The 12th Congress of the CPC back in 1982 under the leadership of Deng set China's political and ideological direction for the next 35 years. The same Congress set a new ideological direction for the party giving high priority to economic development through market reforms and opening to the world.

It adopted the "Resolution on Certain Questions on Party History," which concluded that Mao had committed profound errors for having departed from the party's official line in 1956 on the primacy of economic development, continuing the political class struggle for two more decades.

The 1982 Congress also resolved formally to repudiate Mao's personality cult, absolute power and leadership-for-life and restore the principles of collective party leadership, including an evolving convention of term limits.

Since then, all of Xi's predecessors, Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao followed the 10-year norm. Incidentally, China recorded extraordinary economic growth during their tenures, propelling it to become the second-largest economy after the US.

The opening up of China during those decades helped China to get

unfettered global access and engagement, including becoming a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

"That era has now passed. And the new era of Xi Jinping has begun," said former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in one of his recent lectures in the US on China.

This is not simply an analytical assertion on my part. It is what Xi himself has proclaimed: as Mao's era of China standing up was followed by Deng's era of China becoming prosperous, now followed by Xi's self-proclaimed new era of Chinese national power," Rudd, a fluent Chinese language speaker and widely acclaimed expert on China and the CPC, said.

Over three and half decades later, the party which controls all limbs of governance including the military, the judiciary and legislature are in the cusp of returning to the 'One Leader' rule amid its toughest period of economic slowdown exasperated by the 'Zero COVID' policy, increasing adversity with the US and the West besides uneasy relations with neighbours like India and Japan.

Xi, known as a 'princeling' as he was the son of the former vice-premier, Xi Zhongxun, who was persecuted by Mao for his liberal views rose to ranks steadily becoming Vice President under the previous President Hu.

While he had the image of a sedate leader in his previous postings, he transformed himself into the most ambitious and powerful leader soon

after he took over leadership of the party in 2012 immediately followed by the Presidency and the Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), the overall high command of the two million-strong Chinese military.

From day one after assuming power, Xi has launched a ruthless campaign against corruption, which besides striking a chord with people helped him systematically weed out political opponents. "If there were only one lens through which to interpret Chinese President Xi Jinping's remarkable rise over the past decade, then it would have to be his signature anti-corruption drive," Wang Xiangwei former editor-in-chief of the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post. Since he came to power in late 2012, Xi and his supporters have deftly combined this ruthless effort with a relentless ideological campaign aimed at consolidating power by crushing political rivals and strengthening control over all levels of society, Wang wrote in his recent column in the Post. "The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) the Communist Party's principal anti-corruption agency, which approves the punishment and expulsion of members has over the past decade investigated and disciplined nearly five million high-ranking and grass-roots officials, or tigers and flies" in party parlance," he said.

Observers say besides the ruthless campaign, Xi's continuous rise to power was regarded as puzzling as the mighty Chinese economy continued to slide

since he assumed office. When he came to power in 2012, the economy was thriving with double-digit growth. The growth rates steadily declined every year and the government has cut the growth forecast pegging it around 5.5 per cent for this year, the lowest in decades. The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China recently warned in its annual position paper that China was losing the allure that it used to have and that its market's once-lauded predictability has been eroded by erratic policy shifts.

As a result, many financial institutions have already cut their forecasts for China's annual economic growth this year and in 2023, citing uncertainties in pandemic control and other policies, it said.

Also puzzling to many in China were the continuous anti-monopoly campaigns against the country's most successful mega companies like Alibaba, Tencent, Baidu and Didi which were widely regarded as a crackdown aimed at curbing their rise to ensure the CPC controls over them.

Analysts argue that the campaigns against the private sector have resulted in growing unemployment, which was stated to be around 19 per cent the highest in recent decades.

"Under normal circumstances, the poor state of the economy would leave the country's political leadership under extreme political pressure. Indeed, Xi Jinping appears to have created his own new normal not in the economy, but in politics whereby Xi's consolidation of personal political

power over the last decade is near complete. We see this across multiple fronts," says Rudd.

But Xi's backers at the higher echelons of the CPC describe his successful campaigns to eradicate extreme poverty, end civil unrest in Hong Kong against China, the massive reform and consolidation besides modernisation of the Chinese military and enhancement of Beijing's influence across the world with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as his major achievement.

The heightening Russia-Ukraine conflict, the growing trade war with the US besides the increasing hostility from Washington and the West to stifle China's rise, empowering Taiwan, which China claims as its own, are the reasons for a strong leader like Xi to continue, they argue.

Xi's continuation in power is a new normal internally and externally as people have to learn to live with it, a senior diplomat here said, adding perhaps the silver lining is that China's neighbours and the world around are familiar with his style of functioning.

"He has a 10-year record for us to evaluate, understand and formulate the policies to deal with aggressive China and in a way, he may be better than a new leader about whom the world may have to spend years to understand and deal with," the diplomat said, adding it is important to see the policy documents to be adopted by the Party Congress, expected to last for a week, which may provide the direction in which China plans to move ahead. (PTI)

GAME NOTES

Siraj, Shami, Shardul set to join India squad in Australia for T20 World Cup

NEW DELHI, OCT 12 /--/ Fast bowlers Mohammed Siraj, Mohammed Shami and Shardul Thakur will join the Indian contingent in Australia soon even as Deepak Chahar has been ruled out of the upcoming T20 World



Cup due to a back injury. Chahar, who was among the stand-by players, was expected to make the main squad in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah but it is understood that his back injury will take time to heal. "Deepak will take some time to get fit. His back issue has flared up again. His ankle is fine and there wasn't any problem there. So BCCI is sending three reinforcements. Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur," a BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity. Chahar had competed in the T20 series against South Africa but developed a back issue and was forced to skip the ODI series. He reported to National Cricket Academy (NCA) for rehabilitation. It is understood that since the team has time till October 15 to announce Jasprit Bumrah's replacement, the team management has time to check out form and fitness of all three pacers. (PTI)

Ireland, Switzerland advance to 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup

SWITZERLAND, OCT 12 /--/ Ireland is going to its first Women's World Cup next year and was joined by Switzerland as both won in the European playoffs, leaving Portugal to enter an intercontinental round. A first-ever major tournament for Ireland's women was the reward for Amber Barrett's 72nd-minute goal sealing a 1-0 win at Scotland. Barrett outpaced the Scottish defense to score with a well-placed shot and ensure the Irish will be at the finals tournament co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand. Switzerland had to wait until stoppage time at the end of extra time to take the lead in a 2-1 win against Wales. Substitute Fabienne Humm was decisive with a flicked shot from a tight angle after racing to meet a low cross from the left wing. Portugal also won its playoff in extra time, 4-1 against an Iceland team reduced to 10 players when the game was goalless early in the second half. Áslaug Munda Gunnlaugsdóttir was sent off for a foul conceding the penalty that Carole Costa scored to lead in the 55th. However, Portugal had to wait for the result of the later game in Scotland to see if its Women's World Cup debut was assured. Only two direct World Cup entries were on offer Tuesday, awarded to the teams with the overall best record in qualifying. Those were Switzerland and Ireland. (AP)

India eye another crushing win against Thailand on way to Asia Cup final



SYLHET (BANGLADESH), OCT 12 /--/ It has been a smooth ride for the mighty Indian team so far and the trend is expected to continue when the sub-continent powerhouse aim to crush minnows Thailand one more time in the Women's Asia Cup semifinal here on Thursday. The last match between two teams had turned out to be a huge mismatch as India had skittled Thailand out for just 37 runs in 15.1 overs to run away with an easy win during the league stage. Thailand would look to do better than their previous batting effort against India after making the Asia Cup semi-final entry for the first time

at the expense of hosts defending champions Bangladesh. The Naruemol Chaiwai-led side would hope to prove that their qualification for the tournament was not a fluke. For India, the tournament came as a perfect opportunity to test their bench strength and give their less-experienced players "enough game time" ahead of the next year's T20 World Cup in South Africa. As a result, India's star skipper Harmanpreet Kaur played only three of their six league matches, and even dropped down to No. 7 against Pakistan in the only game they lost. The team tried out the likes of T20 power-hitter Kiran

Prabhu Navgire and Dayalan Hemalatha in search of a "finisher". While rookie Navgire, who smashed the fastest fifty in the Women's T20 Challenge earlier in May, has managed just 10 runs from three innings, the more experienced Hemalatha has also failed to impress -- 45 runs, four innings. It remains to be seen if the team continues to experiment or play full strength to be ready for the title clash. The spin trio of Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana and Rajeshwari Gayakwad easily kept most of the teams under check. To make it a contest, the onus would be on their Thailand's top three -- Nannapat

Hasaranga's rise quite similar to Malinga: Jayawardene

MELBOURNE, OCT 12 /--/ Sri Lankan batting legend Mahela Jayawardene is mighty impressed with the rise of Wanindu Hasaranga as he sees traits of pace bowling great Lasith Malinga in the 25-year-old spin allrounder. Hasaranga, who plays for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Indian Premier League, hogged the limelight in the 2021 T20 World Cup in UAE when he topped the charts with 16 wickets -- the most in a tournament. He then played an instrumental role both with the bat and ball in their Asia Cup triumph to rise to world number 4 in the allrounder's rankings. "The way he has blossomed... he's also from down south, quite close to where Lasith was (Galle) and they have similar mannerisms," Jayawardena said in the ICC Review. "The way they both came out, they started their careers quietly -- you know, sat in the corner of the dressing room -- and little by little they grew. The hairstyles changed, the tattoos came out and the whole thing. It (Hasaranga's development) is quite similar to how Lasith became who Lasith was, and that's how I see the way Wanindu has blossomed as a player." The biggest similarity between the two is their fierce competitiveness, said Jayawardene, who is now working as Sri Lanka's consultant coach. "The most important thing is, once they cross the field, like Lasith, he is a competitor that's what I love about him," he said. At the Asia Cup, Hasaranga was the second-highest wicket-taker -- nine scalps -- and



also chipped in with 66 runs to be adjudged Player-of-the-Tournament. He also played an instrumental role -- 36 and 3/27 -- in their final win over Pakistan. "In the last 12 months, he has shown how mature he is -- not just as a bowler but with the bat as well. In tough situations, he has really come and delivered," Jayawardena said. "But as a leader in that group, even if he doesn't have the title as the vice-captain or the captain or anything like that, underneath all of that he has become a leader who all the young guys look up to." Jayawardena has known Hasaranga since he was a 19-year-old, thanks to former teammate Chaturanga de Silva, Hasaranga's brother. "To be honest, his brother was actually playing cricket while we were playing cricket as well," Jayawardena said. "So Wanindu was much younger, was playing Under-19 cricket when we were finishing off and then he started playing first-class cricket. "We always knew that this guy can bowl and bat, but we never knew the quality of bowler he could turn out to be. I mean initially, he didn't have the accuracy but he always had some X-factor about him, how he went about things. "That's where Sri Lanka invested in him when he was quite young, especially in white-ball cricket." Sri Lanka won their first warm-up match against Zimbabwe by 33 runs on Tuesday. They will next take on Ireland in their final warm-up match on Thursday before facing Namibia in their T20 World Cup opener in a Group A fixture. (PTI)

Suryakumar can be India's version of ABD: Steyn

MUMBAI, OCT 12 /--/ Former South Africa quick Dale Steyn feels the pace and bounce on Australian pitches will suit Suryakumar Yadav's 360-degree game, making him India's go-to player in the upcoming T20 World Cup. Following a hat-trick of half-centuries in the bilateral home series against Australia, the Mumbaiaiker continued his red-hot form Down Under as he slammed a 35-ball 53 in India's 13-run win over Western Australia in a practice match here on Monday. "He is a wonderful 360-degree player, and reminds me of AB de Villiers. He could be India's version of AB de Villiers and with the red-hot form that he's in right now, he's a player to definitely watch out for this World Cup," Steyn said on Star Sports show Cricket Live'. Steyn went on to explain how the Australian conditions would be just perfect for the Indian No. 4 to hit top-gear: The Rohit Sharma-led side will face Australia on October 17 at the Gabba in the official warm-up game before taking on Pakistan in their tournament opener on October 23. "He's the kind of player that likes to use the pace of the ball. He likes to get in behind the square. In



places like Perth, Melbourne, all of these grounds, there is a little bit of extra pace on it. "So, you can use the pace, you can hit on fine leg, behind and all along the carpet. "He has played some amazing back foot cover drives and some beautiful cover drives off the front foot too. So, he's an all-round player, and it's in Australia, where the wickets are so good, they are batter friendly. "You can also get away when a bowler tries to bowl full, you can place the ball left and you can use the pace of the ball really well, given some room," he added. While India's first-choice white ball players are in Australia, Team India under Shikhar Dhawan outclassed South Africa 2-1 in the one-day series that concluded in New Delhi on Tuesday. Shreyas Iyer, who was named vice-captain in the series, continued his dream run in the ODIs as he amassed 191 runs from three innings to top the charts. Heaping praise on Iyer, Steyn said: "There's just little things you can do to improve your game, but the way he's batting at the moment, I don't think he has to change much. "He looks in phenomenal form. He's seeing the ball like it's a beach ball and for him in India, that's continued a long way, Steyn added. (PTI)



Cleiton Silva scored but to no avail. East Bengal lost

Edu Bedia's late goal helps FC Goa register 2-1 win

KOLKATA : What a win for FCG! They have stole it right at the end! They managed to score in the last minute of stoppage time to bag the three points. Heartbreak though for the hosts, they were really the better side in this half. They came into the half behind but won a penalty in the 63rd minute which they converted. They really were threatening FCG's goal and looked more likelier to score but were struggling with the final pass. Towards the end though, FCG started creating more chances of their own. Just when it seemed like it would end in a draw, Eduardo Bedia Pelaez managed to score the winner out of nowhere. FCG will be very delighted with these points.

UEFA Champions League: Real Madrid and Manchester City lock up last-16 places

PARIS, OCT 12 /--/ Real Madrid and Manchester City both found the going tough in the Champions League group stage on Tuesday night but battled through to draws that were enough to qualify for the knockout stages. Paris Saint-Germain and Benfica also moved closer to the last-16 with a draw at Parc des Princes, after Maccabi Haifa had earlier upset Juventus in the same group. On a bad night for Italian titans, AC Milan played almost the whole match with 10 men as they lost at home to Chelsea. In Copenhagen, City's Riyad Mahrez wasted a 25th minute penalty and five minutes later defender Sergio Gomez was sent off. Pep Guardiola had rested several starters, including Erling Haaland, with an eye to the weekend's meeting with Liverpool, and his team failed to score for the first time in 24 games, but the coach was content. "To play one hour like that is tough. The players gave absolutely everything," Guardiola said. Neither Copenhagen nor Sevilla has won a game yet in Group G and when the Spaniards drew 1-1 in Dortmund in the later match, it ensured Manchester City would advance. Carlo Ancelotti, the Real Madrid

coach, also had an eye on a big upcoming league game, the Clasico against Barcelona on Sunday, and rested several starters against Shakhtar Donetsk in Warsaw. They almost paid. Oleksandr Zubkov gave the Ukrainian club the lead at the start of the second half. The game had entered the last of five minutes added time when Antonio Rudiger leapt to reach a long ball forward and got to it just before goalie Anatoliy Trubin. As the two men fell to the ground bleeding, the ball went in on a post to secure Real a 1-1 draw and a last 16 spot. "We did not play well, but this team never gives up," Ancelotti said. "We are in the last 16, on a night that looked bad." RB Leipzig climbed to second in Group F, four points behind Real, with a 2-0 win over Celtic in Glasgow. Kylian Mbappe scored from the penalty spot but Paris Saint-Germain were held to a 1-1 draw by Benfica in a game overshadowed by reports claiming the France star is so unhappy at the club he wants to leave in January. PSG's football advisor took the unusual step of speaking to television just before the kickoff to deny reports Mbappe wanted to leave. "I am with Kylian Mbappe every day and he has never spoken to me



about leaving in January," said Luis Campos. Joao Mario levelled from the penalty spot for Benfica just after the hour mark. The result leaves PSG and Benfica five points clear of their two Group H rivals after Maccabi shamed Juventus, 2-0, in Haifa with two goals from Omer Atzili. "I'm ashamed of what's happening right now," Juventus president Andrea Agnelli told Sky Sport Italia. His coach agreed. "Agnelli is right when he says we must be ashamed," said Massimiliano Allegri. AC Milan started well against Chelsea, but the game turned when Fikayo Tomori fouled his former Chelsea youth team-mate in the 18th minute Tomori was sent off and Jorginho converted the penalty. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang added a second. "I definitely don't think the referee has had one of his better evenings," said Milan coach Stefano Pioli. Graham Potter, the Chelsea manager, seemed less than convinced by the red card. "It was a big moment, we still felt that we could do enough with 11 v 11 but the referee made a decision and we have to get on with it," he said. Chelsea overtook Salzburg at the top of Group E after the Austrians drew 1-1 against Dinamo Zagreb in Croatia. (AFP)