

THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI MONDAY 12 AUGUST 2024



NATION | 3

Pawar slams PM's assurance of doubling farmers' income, says suicides have doubled



WORLD | 6

Donald Trump's campaign says its emails were hacked



DELHI AGE | 16

King Khan honoured with Pardo alla Carriera award at Locarno Film Festival

www.asianage.com

RNI No. 57290/94, Regd No: DL-SW-05/4189/15-17

Vol. 31 No. 178 | 16 PAGES | ₹5.00



Foreign secretary Vikram Misri with Nepalese foreign secretary Sewa Lamsal at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu on Sunday. — PTI

Report on Page 3

Hindenburg 'scam': Cong demands JPC probe into Sebi role

New Delhi: In the wake of the Hindenburg Research's allegations against Sebi chairperson Madhabi Buch, the Congress Sunday said the government must act immediately to eliminate conflicts of interest in the regulator's investigation of the Adani Group and reiterated the demand for a JPC probe into the entire matter. The Opposition party also said the Supreme Court should take suo motu cognisance of the "entire scam" and investigate it under its aegis because here the investigating agency Sebi itself is accused of being involved in it. Full report on Page 3 More reports on Page 7

Kolkata hospital chief is shifted after doc murder

Kolkata: The Mamata Banerjee government has transferred the medical superintendent of R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital Dr Sanjay Vashisth, two days after an on-duty young lady doctor was brutally raped and murdered by a civic police volunteer there. Full report on Page 3

11 Bangladeshis held as BSF foils infiltration bid

New Delhi: Eleven Bangladeshi nationals have been apprehended while trying to infiltrate into India through the international border in West Bengal, Tripura and Meghalaya, the Border Security Force said on Sunday. Full report on Page 4

COUNTERPOINT



How irresponsible of you! You should always watch your weight!

WEATHER

Max: 31°C
Min: 27°C
RH: 84%
Rain: 60%

Forecast: Thunderstorms

ASTROGUIDE

Krodhi: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Shravana Shukla Saptami till 7.53 am
Star: Swati till 8.31 am
Varjyam: 2.37 pm to 4.21 pm
Durmuhurtam: 12.46 pm to 1.37 pm; 3.18 pm to 4.08 pm
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am
SUNSET TODAY 7.03 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.45 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 1.31 PM
MOONSET TODAY 11.16 PM

Civilian hurt in encounter dies; op intensified in Anantnag area

Fresh clash in Udhampur

YUSUF JAMEEL
SRINAGAR, AUG. 11

One of the civilians injured in a gunfight between what the officials believe are highly trained Pakistan-backed terrorists and the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's southern Anantnag district at the weekend has died in a hospital, prompting the police authorities to order a probe into how and why they were present at the place of occurrence at the time of the clash.

The slain civilian is identified as Abdur Rashid Bhat. Two Army jawans who laid down their lives during the "fierce" gunbattle are Havildar Dipak Kumar Yadav and Lance Naik Praveen Sharma.

Meanwhile, another gunfight broke out between terrorists and security forces in the Basantgarh area of J&K's Udhampur on Sunday evening.

The Army's Srinagar-based 15 Corps, also known as Chinara Corps, while paying tribute to the sacrifice made by the two soldiers said in a post on X, "Their bravery lives on, inspiring countless hearts while they rest in eternal peace."

It added: "All ranks of the Chinara Corps salute the supreme sacrifice of bravehearts Dipak Kumar Yadav and Praveen Sharma, who laid down their lives in the line of duty in Anantnag. Chinara Warriors salute their immense valour and sacrifice, express deepest condolences and stand in solidarity with the bereaved families."

Five Army jawans were injured in the gunfight at Ahlan in Anantnag's Kokernag area on Saturday afternoon. Two of the injured soldiers died in a hospital later.

As per the officials, the gunfight broke out after

Turn to Page 4



Security personnel during an encounter with terrorists at Ahlan Gagarmandu forest area in Anantnag district of Kashmir on Sunday. — PTI

BJP, SP, Cong ready for battle in 10 UP bypolls

SP, Cong woo Dalits, OBCs; BJP begins Tiranga March

SANJAY BASAK
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

With the shadow of the byelections in the 10 Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh looming large, the fight is on between the BJP's jingoistic nationalism and the INDIA alliance's attempts to weaponise the backward and minority communities.

As the BJP, blending Hindutva and nationalism, kicked off its "Tiranga March" across all the state's Assembly constituencies on

▶ THE BJP began its two-pronged attack with Yogi Adityanath raising the issue of atrocities being committed against Hindus in Bangladesh at Milkipur in Ayodhya

Saturday, the Congress simultaneously launched a month-long campaign to consolidate the OBC and minority vote bank by focusing on the caste census and the Waqf Amendment Bill. After the success of its "Pichada, Dalit, Alpsankhyak" (PDA)

plank, standing for backwards, dalits and minorities, in the Lok Sabha polls, the Samajwadi Party, with an eye on the bypolls and the 2027 Assembly elections in the state, will now hold a PDA padayatra across the villages in Uttar Pradesh.

The BJP began its two-pronged attack with UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath raising the issue of atrocities being committed against Hindus in Bangladesh at Milkipur in Ayodhya, and the party launching the

Turn to Page 4

Did Hasina plan to accuse US of plotting her ouster?

In speech she didn't deliver before exit, ex-Bangla PM claims US wanted Bay of Bengal island for military base

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

Did Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina plan to directly blame the United States for her ouster in the hours before her exit from her country? Some media reports on Sunday claimed that the beleaguered leader, in her last hours as Prime Minister, planned to accuse the United States of coveting her country's Saint

Martin Island located in the Bay of Bengal (to establish a military base) and masterminding her ouster as she refused to "surrender the sovereignty" of the island.

It was reported soon after she fled to New Delhi on Monday that Ms Hasina had planned to deliver a televised address to the nation. But she could not do so reportedly because the protesters were closing in to storm her official residence and



Sheikh Hasina the Army was apparently keen that she leave immediately. According to media reports on Sunday, Sheikh Hasina had appar-

ently planned to tell her countrymen in her address: "I resigned so that I did not have to see the procession of dead bodies. They (the Opposition) wanted to come to power over the dead bodies of students, but I did not allow it. I resigned from the premiership. I could have remained in power if I had surrendered the sovereignty of Saint Martin Island and allowed

Turn to Page 4

Syed Refaat Ahmed takes oath as new Chief Justice of B'desh

Dhaka, Aug. 11: Syed Refaat Ahmed was sworn in as Bangladesh's new Chief Justice on Sunday, a day after Obaidul Hassan stepped down as the top judge following an ultimatum by the protesters demanding a revamp of the judiciary. Mr Hassan and five other judges ten-

dered their resignation, five days after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's regime amid massive street protests. His resignation came as protesters of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement gathered at the apex court premises. — PTI More on Page 6

Ex-EAM K. Natwar Singh dies at 93 after prolonged illness

New Delhi, Aug. 11: Former external affairs minister K. Natwar Singh passed away on Saturday night after a prolonged illness, family sources said. He was 93. He breathed his last at Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon, where he had been admitted for the past couple of weeks.

Mr Singh was born in 1931 in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan.



K. Natwar Singh He was a career diplomat, who brought a wealth of experience in diplomacy to his political career and a prolific author on subjects ranging from the life of a maharaja to nuances of foreign affairs. — PTI More on Page 3

Maldives key partner for India: EAM

Both nations agree to deepen defence & security partnership

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

At the conclusion of external affairs minister S. Jaishankar's three-day visit to the Maldives, New Delhi on Sunday said the foreign minister has assured the country's top leadership that the archipelago nation remains an important partner of India.

During the visit, Mr

Jaishankar also held discussions with the Maldivian minister for defence, wherein both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepen the India-Maldives defence and security partnership.

Continuing the blitz of Indian development assistance and projects for India's southwestern maritime neighbour, Mr Jaishankar and Maldivian foreign minister Moosa

▶ 6 HIGH-IMPACT community development projects under grant assistance from India in the areas of mental health, special edu, speech therapy, and street lighting were jointly inaugurated.

Zameer jointly inaugurated the Addu reclamation and shore protection and Addu detour link bridge projects on Sunday.

New Delhi added that MoUs on capacity building of an additional 1,000 Maldivian civil servants in India and on the introduction of UPI in the Maldives were exchanged. Also, six high-impact community development projects under grant assistance from India in the areas of mental health, special education, speech therapy and street lighting were jointly inaugurated.

New Iran President proposes to include a woman in his Cabinet

Dubai, Aug. 11: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Sunday proposed former nuclear negotiator Abbas Araghchi as the country's new foreign minister and also sought to appoint a woman as roads and housing minister. If approved, she would be Iran's first female minister in more than a decade.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf read out the list of proposed ministers to lawmakers. The hardline-dominated chamber will have two weeks to review qualifications and give a

▶ FARZANEH SADEGH, 47, is currently a director in the ministry. She would become only the second female minister in Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

vote of confidence to the proposed ministers. Mr Pezeshkian proposed Farzaneh Sadegh as roads and housing minister. Ms Sadegh, 47, is currently a director in the ministry. She would become only the second female minister in Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. It is unclear, however, whether

she will be approved. The hardline Parliament seeks more cultural and social restrictions on women based on its interpretations of Islamic sharia. Many lawmakers voiced their opposition when her name was read by the Speaker during Sunday's session.

Mr Araghchi, 61, a career diplomat, was a member of the Iranian negotiator team that reached a nuclear deal with world powers in 2015 that capped Tehran's nuclear programme in return for the lifting sanctions. — AP More on Page 6



Vehicles move on the waterlogged Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway after rains on Sunday. Heavy rainfall lashed many parts of the national capital on Sunday afternoon, leading to waterlogging and traffic snarls in several areas as the weather office predicted more showers in the Delhi-NCR area. Report on Page 2 — PTI

Sisodia chairs AAP meet to plan Delhi election strategy

New Delhi, Aug. 11: Aam Aadmi party leader Manish Sisodia held a meeting with senior leaders on Sunday to discuss the strategy for the Delhi Assembly polls slated to be held next year.

Senior AAP leaders, including Delhi ministers Atishi, Saurabh Bharadwaj and Gopal Rai as well as the party's Rajya Sabha MPs Sanjay Singh and Sandeep Pathak attended the meeting.

Later, Sandeep Pathak, who is also the AAP's national general secretary, said the strategy for the Delhi polls and the political situation in the city national capital were discussed in the meet. More on Page 2

AAP moves to new Lutyens' Zone HQ

New Delhi, Aug. 11: The AAP put up its board at 1, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla Lane, its new office in Lutyens' Delhi, and began the shifting process on Sunday. "The press conferences and events will now happen at the new office. The shifting formalities will be completed soon," a party source said. More on Page 2

IN BRIEF

3 held from Maha for duping woman

New Delhi: The Delhi police has arrested three cyber fraudsters from Maharashtra for allegedly cheating a woman of ₹36.27 lakh on the pretext of share market investment, the police said on Sunday. The accused have been identified as Jayesh Bhole (29), Rakesh Jadhav (33) and Harshwardhan Bhosale (25), and the trio was arrested from Maharashtra's Jalgaon, they said. Bhole has an undergraduate degree in science and is unemployed, Jadhav is a graduate and has transport business, while Bhosale has a diploma in computer engineering and is unemployed following a spinal cord injury in 2022, the police said. According to the police the accused also used to arrange current bank accounts for other fraudsters. An FIR was registered and investigation was taken up after an online complaint was received at on July 25, the police said. The complainant alleged that on July 1, she came in contact with a group called 'Share India' where she was convinced to invest ₹36.27 lakh through multiple transactions from her bank accounts, the police added.

Haryana-based gangster arrested

New Delhi: The Delhi police has arrested a 24-year-old Haryana-based shooter from Chawala area, officials said on Sunday. The accused, Ankit (24) from Rohtak, was allegedly involved in seven criminal cases and with his arrest a murder case Sonipat has been cracked, the police said. Three pistols, one single-shot pistol and 13 live cartridges were allegedly recovered from him after his arrest, they added. In July, Ankit along with his associates, allegedly fired more than 10 shots on Jaipal in Sonipat over an old rivalry, deputy commissioner of police (DCP) (crime branch) Amit Goel said. DCP Goel said they had received a tip-off that Ankit would come to Chawala area. A team was formed that raided the area and apprehended Ankit, he added. At least seven criminal cases were previously registered against him, including attempt to murder.

Discussion held on Silkyara tunnel book

New Delhi: A discussion was organised at the Sahitya Akademi auditorium on the book 'Woh 17 Din', written about the tunnel accident that occurred last year in Silkyara, Uttarakhand. The book, authored by Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, head of India Centre for Policy Research and Development narrates the story of a daunting rescue operation involving 41 workers trapped in the tunnel. Mr Ranjan said, "Writing this book was a significant challenge for me, and I want to take it to the very end of understanding within society. I would like to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who kept a close eye on this incident."

2 INJURED AS FIRE BREAKS OUT IN BUILDING

New Delhi: Two people were injured and 12 others were rescued from a building after a fire broke out in the parking area in the Asola village of South Delhi on Sunday, officials said. "We got a fire-related call at 5.01 am, regarding fire in a building. Three fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The fire was completely doused by 6.50 am," an official of the Delhi fire services said. The officer further said the fire first caught some vehicles and an electric metre board in still parking and later spread to the whole building. "Upon reaching the spot, it was found that a four-storey building in Jagbir colony was engulfed in flames. Residents of the flats were rescued and the fire was extinguished with the help of fire officials. Prima Facie it appeared that the fire occurred initially at the ground floor due to short circuit. Total 14 people — six women, four children, and four men — facing respiratory problems or with injuries were shifted to AIIMS Trauma Centre and Safdarjung Hospital. "We have started further investigation into the matter," the police officer said.

BJP's only one agenda is to stop our work, break AAP: Pathak Sisodia holds meet with AAP leaders, discusses poll plans

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

Bracing up for the Delhi Assembly polls slated to be held early next year, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Manish Sisodia held a meeting with senior leaders on Sunday to discuss the strategy.

Senior AAP leaders, including Delhi ministers Atishi, Saurabh Bharadwaj and Gopal Rai as well as the party's Rajya Sabha MPs Sanjay Singh and Sandeep Pathak attended the meeting. Gopal Rai is also the convenor of the party's Delhi unit.

Later, Sandeep Pathak, who is also the AAP's national general secretary (organisation), said the strategy for the Delhi Assembly polls and the political situation in the national capital were discussed in the meeting.

"Mr Sisodia will hold a meeting with MLAs on Monday and with party councillors on Tuesday. On August 14, he will begin a foot march to meet the people of Delhi."

"It has become clear to the people of the country that the BJP has only one agenda — to stop our work



Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh, Gopal Rai during the AAP leaders meeting in New Delhi on Sunday.

and break our party. Despite such adverse conditions, the AAP has stood strong and is doing good work," Mr Pathak said.

Mr Sisodia, the former deputy chief minister and a trusted lieutenant of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal is technically number 2 in the party as well as in the governance.

Mr Pathak, however, said the AAP is growing in other states and has come out stronger. Asked whether Sisodia would be assigned any post in the party or in the government, he said discussion on it will be held in the

days to come. Mr Pathak also said the AAP's campaign in Haryana, where it has decided to contest all 90 Assembly seats, is going well.

Mr Sisodia walked out of jail on Friday on bail after spending 17 months behind bars in connection with corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam.

While granting him bail, the Supreme Court had sharply rebuked the courts below, saying his long incarceration without trial had deprived him of the right to speedy justice.

SC to hear today Kejriwal plea in defamation case

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal challenging a Delhi high court order upholding the summons issued to him in a criminal defamation case for retweeting an allegedly defamatory video circulated by YouTuber Dhruv Rathee in May 2018.

A three-judge bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna, Sanjay Kumar and R. Mahadevan is likely to hear the matter in which Mr Kejriwal has admitted that he "committed a mistake" by retweeting the alleged defamatory video.

On March 11, the top court asked Mr Kejriwal whether he wanted to give an apology to the complainant. He had on February 26 told the apex court that he made a mistake by retweeting the allegedly defamatory video related to the BJP IT Cell.

WB doctor's rape: Govt hospitals on strike from today

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

In a display of outrage and solidarity, major government hospitals across Delhi are set to indefinitely halt all elective services from Monday in response to the rape and murder of a resident doctor in Kolkata. The indefinite strike is being called to demand immediate action and protection for all healthcare workers, the doctors said, as they urged for an immediate and transparent probe with "severe punishment for those responsible."

Several government hospitals in the city released official statements on Sunday announcing the shutdown of outpatient departments, operation theatres, and ward duties starting Monday morning.

The move comes in response to a call from the federation of resident doctors' association, after a postgraduate trainee doctor was raped and murdered at the R.G. Kar Medical College while on duty.

The semi-naked body of the 32-year-old woman was found in the seminar hall of the government-run hospital in the West Bengal capital on Thursday night.

The resident doctors' associations of Maulana Azad Medical College, RML Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College, VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, and GTB Hospital announced the suspension of their elective services.

FORDA president Dr Aviral Mathur emphasised that the safety of doctors must be priori-

ty. "We can no longer stand by while our safety is compromised. The recent horrific rape and murder of a fellow doctor on hospital premises is the final straw... We are initiating an indefinite strike to demand immediate action and protection for all healthcare workers. Our ability to care for patients hinges on our own safety being ensured," Dr Mathur said.

The indefinite strike called in coordination with other doctor associations of the national capital will begin tomorrow morning.

Expressing profound concern over the Kolkata incident, Dr Bharani Kumar, president of the RDA at Delhi's VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital, said: "We are deeply grieved by this heinous crime and demand an immediate, transparent investigation with severe punishment for those responsible... The government must swiftly implement the 'Central Protection Act for Doctors' and enhance security measures across hospitals nationwide, including the installation of CCTV cameras in high-risk areas. Today it's Bengal, tomorrow it could be Delhi or any other part of the nation."

'ASI to restore 400-year-old Barapulla Bridge in 3 months'

New Delhi, Aug. 11: The historic 400-year-old Barapulla Bridge in Delhi's Nizamuddin area will be restored by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) within three months, Raj Niwas officials said on Sunday.

The ASI's director-general gave the assurance during a site visit by Delhi lieutenant-governor V.K. Saxena to review the progress of the bridge restoration, they added.

This was his second visit to Barapulla Bridge in just a week, the first visit being on August 4, the officials said.

The structure had been lying decrepit, under heavy encroachment and was reduced to a dump yard of debris and garbage



Delhi L-G V.K. Saxena inspects the Barapulla drain in New Delhi on Sunday.

from the nearby localities, they said.

Mr Saxena had directed the removal of encroachment and restoration of the bridge in a mission mode. Local residents and representatives have also sup-

No respite from waterlogging, rains continue

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

Heavy rain lashed many parts of the city on Sunday afternoon, leading to waterlogging and traffic snarls in several areas as the weather office predicted more showers in the Delhi-NCR area in the evening.

The city recorded a low of 26 degrees Celsius, while the maximum temperature is likely to settle at 32.0 degrees Celsius, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The humidity was recorded at 92 per cent at 8.30 am. The IMD has issued an "orange" alert for the city that signifies "being prepared" for extremely bad weather and potential disruptions to transport, rail and road.

Central, south, southwest and east Delhi received heavy rainfall today as the latest weather alert from the weather department predicted more showers in the Delhi-NCR areas towards the end of the day. "Moderate to heavy rainfall, accompanied by moderate thunderstorms and lightning, is very likely to occur across Delhi and NCR in the next two hours," the weather officer said.

Neet 2024 successfully held in 170 cities across country

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) held the Neet-PG 2024 exam in two shifts at 416 centres spread across 170 cities on Saturday.

The health ministry in a statement said that examination was conducted in two shifts on the same day such that best and reputed centres could be chosen for the exam. The exam was originally scheduled to be



Vehicles ply as municipal workers drain out logged water at ITO in New Delhi on Sunday.

The IMD has also issued an advisory for Delhiites urging them to stay indoors, secure windows and doors and refrain from unnecessary travel. "Seeking safe shelter and avoiding tree cover are recommended to mitigate risks," the IMD cautioned.

The Delhi traffic police informed about traffic disruptions due to waterlogging in several areas.

According to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), they received 12 complaints at the Central Control Room (CCR) between 6 am and 2 pm.

According to data released by the MCD, seven calls were received regarding waterlogging at

AAP shifts headquarters to new office in Lutyens' Zone

Was allotted office by Centre after HC order

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

The Aam Aadmi Party on Sunday moved its headquarters to a new address at Bungalow Number 1, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla Lane. The new office is centrally located at a walking distance from Delhi's Mandi House roundabout.

"We have vacated the old office in Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg and shifted it to the new location. The press conferences and events will now be held at the new office," an AAP functionary said.

The AAP's new office was seen humming on Sunday, as sign boards were put up and final touches were being given to the new place that will become the centre of the party's political machinery from now onwards.

The new bungalow was allotted to the AAP on July 25 by the Central government, following a Delhi high court's June 5 order, which stated that the AAP was entitled to space for a party office in the national capital like any other parties, and also asked the Union government to decide on the matter within six weeks. The



AAP's new office at Bungalow No. 1 in Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla Lane in New Delhi on Sunday.

direction came following a plea made by the AAP.

Till Saturday, the AAP operated from bungalow No. 206, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, on Rouse Avenue near ITO, where party leader Manish Sisodia addressed a gathering of workers and gave a call to the Opposition parties to stay united to fight "BJP's dictatorship."

The space at 206, DDU Marg belongs to the Delhi judiciary, which had sought to use this space to expand district services.

On June 10, the Supreme Court asked the AAP to vacate its Rouse Avenue office in the capital by August 10, clarifying that the earlier deadline of

June 15 was being extended as the "last opportunity" for the political outfit to comply with its directive. The court was hearing an application filed by the AAP, seeking modification of the March 4 order requiring it to vacate the premises by June 15, as the land had already been allocated to the Delhi high court in 2020 for expansion of the district judiciary.

The AAP's new office is the fifth address of the party's headquarters. In its initial days, the party was operating from Ghaziabad and later moved to a bungalow near Hanuman Mandir in Connaught Place.



People take cover under a plastic sheet during rain in New Delhi on Sunday.

7-year-old boy drowns in waterlogged Rohini park

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

A seven-year-old boy drowned in a waterlogged park in Rohini's Sector 20, officials said on Sunday. The incident happened on Saturday evening while the boy was playing in the park, they said.

"On Saturday, around 6.30 pm, a PCR call regarding the drowning of a child in a park in Sector 20 in Rohini was received at the Aman Vihar police station," a senior police officer said.

A police team immediately reached the spot and

were informed that the child had been rushed to a hospital where doctors declared him brought dead, the officer said. According to the police, preliminary investigation revealed that the child drowned in the park, which was waterlogged due to the rain. Details about the deceased was obtained, they said.

The officer said the body has been sent for post-mortem and necessary action has been taken in the matter. The police is also scanning the CCTV camera footage to know the actual sequence of events.

13-yr-old boy electrocuted in Ranhola while playing cricket

Gaushala didn't shut power, claims victim's mother

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

A 13-year-old boy died of electrocution after he came in contact with an electric pole here, the police said on Sunday. The incident happened in the Ranhola area while the boy was playing cricket, they said.

The Ranhola police station received a PCR call on Saturday at 1.27 pm regarding the death of the boy due to electrocution, deputy commissioner of police (DCP) (outer) Jimmy Chiram said.

"The police team reached the spot and was informed that the boy was playing cricket in Kotla Vihar Phase-2 when he got electrocuted after he came in contact with an iron pole supplying electricity to a 'gaushala' (cowshed)," Mr Chiram said.

"He was immediately taken to the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital by the PCR van, where doctors declared him brought dead," added the DCP.

An FIR has been registered under Section 106 (1) (causing death by negligence) of the BNS and an investigation is underway. Meanwhile, the teen's mother, Anita Devi, has demanded strict action against the "gaushala" and the power department. "My son, who was a stu-



Family members mourn after a 13-year-old boy died due to electrocution in New Delhi on Sunday.

dent of Class 7 of a government school, went to play cricket with his friends on Saturday. He went near the "gaushala" to pick the ball and got electrocuted from a pole carrying electric wire to a cowshed," Ms Devi said. Many children go to the ground to play cricket and this can happen to anyone, she said.

She alleged that when her son was dying, nobody came forward to rescue him, even when her elder son shouted there to save his brother's life.

However, nobody asked the cowshed members to turn off the power, she said.

Later in the evening, the family members and local people blocked the Nangloi-Najafgarh road by keeping the boy's body,

demanding compensation and justice for the family. The protesters shouted slogans against the police and discom (the distribution company).

"We all gathered here for justice. The child who died of electrocution was his family's support. Strict action must be taken against the culprits and proper compensation for the family members must be announced," a protester said.

Another protester said the family members have decided that they will not cremate the body till compensation is announced.

"We are requesting the family members to cremate the body of the boy as a case has already been registered and an investigation has begun," a senior police officer said.

SHORT TAKES

BSP will fight all UP bypoll seats: Maya

Lucknow: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Sunday announced that her party would field candidates in all the 10 Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh, where bypolls are going to be held. The Election Commission is yet to declare the schedule for the by-elections to Karhal, Milkipur, Katehari, Kundarki, Ghaziabad, Khair, Meerapur, Phulpur, Majhawan and Sisamau Assembly seats. In a statement, released after a meeting of the BSP's state unit district chiefs, office bearers and functionaries, the party said Mayawati reviewed the preparations for the upcoming assembly bypolls. "Ten Assembly constituencies have fallen vacant after the Lok Sabha polls. No official announcement of the date has been made so far, but activities pertaining to this are increasing continuously, especially the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. — PTI

Chirag to meet MPs over SC/ST quota

New Delhi: Union minister and LJP (Ram Vilas) leader Chirag Paswan is planning to convene a meeting of Scheduled Caste MPs of different parties as he works to mobilise support ahead of his party filing a review plea in the Supreme Court against its judgment allowing sub-categorisation of reservation within the community. The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) leader has already expressed his disagreement with the verdict and said his party will file a review petition in the apex court. Mr Paswan, sources said, has reached out to Scheduled Caste MPs to gauge their view over the verdict, a judgment of far-reaching political impact over which major national parties have maintained silence while engaging in internal stock-taking deliberations, and may convene formal meeting soon. — PTI

SC to hear Senthil bail petition today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday the bail plea of former Tamil Nadu minister V. Senthil Balaji, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate last year in connection with a money laundering case. A bench of Justices Abhay S. Oka and Augustine George Masih is scheduled to hear Balaji's plea challenging the February 28 order of the Madras high court dismissing his second bail petition in the case. The HC, while dismissing the bail petition, said that if he is let out on bail in a case of this nature, it will send a wrong signal and it will be against larger public interest. It said the petitioner has suffered incarceration for over eight months, thus, it is appropriate to direct the special court to dispose of the case within a time frame. — PTI

JAIRAM: NICOBAR PROJECT THREAT TO ECO-SYSTEM

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

Asserting that the mega infra project in Great Nicobar Island is a 'grave threat' to the natural ecosystem, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh has urged environment minister Bhupendra Yadav to suspend all clearances accorded to the project and called for its thorough and impartial review, including by the parliamentary committees concerned. In a letter to the environment minister, Mr Ramesh who is also a former environment minister said, "Mr Yadav must fulfil its *dharma*, and not allow itself to be reduced to becoming a project proponent, especially when the project has decidedly 'disastrous' human, social and ecological consequences." "You may recall our recent exchange in the Rajya Sabha during Question Hour. The government's proposed ₹72,000 crore 'mega infra project' in Great Nicobar Island is a grave threat to Great Nicobar Island's tribal communities and natural ecosystem," Mr Ramesh said. The project can have "catastrophic consequences," he added.

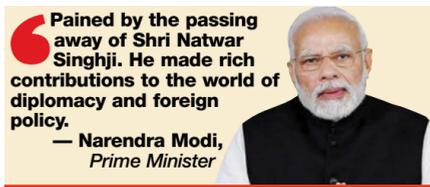


Jairam Ramesh

Former EAM Natwar Singh dies; condolences by Modi

Made profound contribution to India's diplomacy, say Cong leaders

New Delhi, Aug. 11: Former external affairs minister K. Natwar Singh passed away on Saturday night after a prolonged illness, family sources said. He was 93. He breathed his last at Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon, where he had been admitted for the past couple of weeks, they said. Singh was born in 1931 in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan. He was a career diplomat, who brought a wealth of experience in diplomacy to his political career and a prolific author on subjects ranging from the life of a maharaja to nuances of foreign affairs. During his distinguished career, he wore many hats, and for his service to the nation, the former external affairs minister was awarded the Padma



Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Bhushan in 1984. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday condoled the passing away of Natwar Singh and said he made rich contributions to the world of diplomacy and foreign policy. In a post on X, Modi said, "Pained by the passing away of Shri Natwar Singh Ji. He made rich contributions to the world of diplomacy and foreign policy." "He was also known for

his intellect as well as prolific writing. My thoughts are with his family and admirers in this hour of grief. Om Shanti," the prime minister said. Congress leaders condoled Singh's demise with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge hailing his profound contribution to India's diplomacy and external affairs. "Our deepest condolences on the passing away of Former Union

Minister, Shri K. Natwar Singh ji. An acclaimed intellectual and a Padma Bhushan recipient, he made a profound contribution to India's diplomacy and external affairs," Mr Kharge said in a post on social media platform X. "Our thoughts are with his family, friends and followers," he said. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "An engaging political personality. A distinguished foreign service officer. A man of letters and noted author with a few classics to his credit. A walking encyclopedia of the worlds of Nehru and Indira Gandhi. A man whose correspondence with varied men and women are the stuff of history." — PTI

Need to change Maha govt, says Sharad 'PM failed to double farmers' income, but suicides doubled'

SONU SHRIVASTAVA MUMBAI, AUG. 11



Sharad Pawar

NCP founder and former Union agriculture minister Sharad Pawar on Sunday alleged Prime Minister Narendra Modi had failed to fulfill his promise to double the income of farmers. "Instead the suicides by distressed farmers have doubled in the country," Mr Pawar added. The NCP founder was on tour to Solapur district, where he addressed his party's programme 'Sharad Shetakari Samvad Melava'.

Addressing the meeting in Barshi town of Solapur district, Mr Pawar said the farmers are not getting the appropriate returns for their produce, which is pushing them to take an extreme step. "The government is not paying attention to the farmers. The Central government is not giving appropriate prices to the farmers' produce. Therefore, they are taking the extreme step (of suicide)," he said. It may be recalled that the BJP had promised to double the income of the farmers in the country by 2022. "The PM had promised to double the income of farmers, but instead, farmer suicides have doubled," Mr Pawar said.

The NCP (SP) chief said it was the need of hour to change the government in the state and install a regime that protects the interests of farmers, youth and women. "The BJP governments at the Centre and the state haven't used their power to reduce the hardships of farmers and create employment opportunities for youth. You will see youth in distress because of the lack of jobs. We have to change the government," he said. Stating there is no big or small brother in the MVA, Mr Pawar said the purpose of MVA was to defeat the ruling parties. "Our aim is to defeat this government," he said. Earlier in the day, the NCP (SP) chief faced angry Maratha agitators, in separate incidents, who stopped his vehicle in Solapur district.



Devotees carry an idol of Lord Ganesha to a worship place for the Ganesh Chaturthi festival celebrations in Mumbai on Sunday. — DEBASISH DEY

Shinde govt charging 50% bribe for contracts: Cong

SONU SHRIVASTAVA MUMBAI, AUG. 11

Maharashtra Congress in-charge Ramesh Chennithala on Sunday alleged that the BJP-led Mahayuti government in Maharashtra has been taking 50 per cent commission from the contractors for any projects. The people of Maharashtra are fed up with the current dispensation and want to change the government, he said. Mr Chennithala and Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole, along with other senior Congress leaders, are on a tour of Marathwada and Vidarbha regions. Mr Chennithala said that Eknath Shinde's "unconstitutional government" was not elected by the people, but it was made by breaking the parties. The Maharashtra



Ramesh Chennithala

Congress in-charge took review of the preparations for the state Assembly elections with the office bearers and workers from Nanded, Hingoli, and Parbhani districts in Nanded. "The Mahayuti government is not working for the development of the people. Instead, it is indulging in corruption by seeking a 50 per cent commission. They are not taking any measures to resolve the issues of the people. The Mahayuti gov-

ernment is not democratically elected. This government was formed through defections and manipulations. It is an 'aya ram, gaya ram' government, in which the people have no trust," Mr Chennithala said after holding the review meeting. The senior Congress leader also appealed to the people to throw out this "corrupt government" from the state. "We will contest the Assembly elections with other alliance partners of the MVA. Discussions on seat-sharing are also ongoing. The MVA aims to provide an efficient government for the people," he said. Taking a dig at former CM Ashok Chavan, who left the Congress and joined the BJP, Mr Patole said it appears that Nanded city and district truly got independence in February this year.

Cong demands JPC probe into Hindenburg 'findings'

BJP says Cong conspiracy to create financial instability

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

A political slugfest emerged on Sunday between the Congress and the BJP on the US short-seller Hindenburg Research's allegations against Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch. The Congress party said the government must act immediately to eliminate conflicts of interest in the regulator's investigation of the Adani Group and reiterated the demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the entire matter. The BJP, however, refuted the charges and alleged that the Congress and other Opposition parties are part of a conspiracy to create financial instability and chaos in India, as the ruling party rejected

THE CONGRESS also said the Supreme Court should take suo motu cognisance of the entire scam and probe it under its aegis as the probe agency Sebi itself is an accused in the matter

Hindenburg's charge against the Sebi chairperson as an attempt to discredit the financial watchdog. The Congress also said the Supreme Court should take suo motu cognisance of the "entire scam" and probe it under its aegis as the investigating agency Sebi itself is accused of being involved in it and also asserted that in the wake of such "serious allegations", Ms Buch can't remain in her position at all. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi

asked why hasn't the Sebi chairperson resigned yet amid Hindenburg's allegation in a new report. In a post on X, Mr Gandhi said that the integrity of Sebi, the securities regulator entrusted with safeguarding the wealth of small retail investors, has been gravely compromised by the allegations against its chairperson. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the Sebi previously cleared Adani before the Supreme Court following the January 2023 Hindenburg Report revelations. However, new allegations have surfaced regarding a "quid-pro-quo" involving the Sebi chief, he said. "The small and medium investors belonging to the middle class need to be protected, as they believe in the Sebi," he added.

'Attack was carried out on Delhi's Ahmed Shah Abdali's behest' Raut blames Shah for attack on Raj Thackeray

PRASAD PATIL MUMBAI, AUG. 11

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday blamed Union minister Amit Shah for the attack by MNS workers on Uddhav Thackeray's convoy on Saturday evening. He said the attack was carried out on the instructions of "Delhi's Ahmed Shah Abdali". Reacting to chief minister Eknath Shinde's com-

ment that the Saturday's incident was MNS's reaction to the action (attack) by Shiv Sena (UBT) workers on Raj Thackeray's convoy on Friday evening, Mr Raut said, "After two months, we will show them what is called a reaction". A day after Raj Thackeray's convoy was attacked by Shiv Sena (UBT) workers with betel nuts in Sambhajnagar district, MNS supporters

retaliated by pelting Uddhav Thackeray's convoy with dung, tomatoes, coconuts, and bangles. Following the attack on his convoy, Raj Thackeray had warned of retaliation if such incidents continued. When Uddhav arrived for a gathering of his party workers at the Gadhari Rangayatan auditorium at Thane on Saturday, MNS workers staged a protest and hurled tomatoes and cow

dung at his convoy. Referring to the MNS workers, Mr Raut said, "You are being made to do this. Ahmad Shah Abdali of Delhi is giving you 'supari' (contract) to spread anarchy in state. Your leaders take the 'supari' and stay silent, but you are made to fight against each other. I am not naming any party, but they are trying to mislead people as the state polls are round the corner."

Cong may swap 12 seats with JMM for J'khand polls

AMRESH SRIVASTAVA NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

With an aim to retain power in the upcoming Jharkhand elections, which are to be held in November-December, the major stakeholders under the INDIA bloc — the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and the Congress — are likely to swap some seats, keeping winnability into consideration. Both parties have identified as many as 12 Assembly seats in the tribal state, which can be exchanged and for this, the leaders of the JMM, Congress and the RJD will discuss the strengths and weaknesses at each seat while swapping the seats. A senior Congress party office bearer said that instead of losing the seats to the BJP, it is better to exchange the seats where the alliance partners of the INDIA bloc are stronger and workers' feedback will be discussed before deciding the seat-sharing plan. According to the sources, the Assembly constituencies

Torpa, Kanke, Mandu, B h a v n a t h p u r, Rajdhanwar, Jamua, Nirsa, Sindri, Barkatta and Paurayahaat are seats where the swapping of seats can be done on the basis of the increasing political hold of the alliance partners. In the last Assembly election in 2019, the Congress contested 31 seats, but this time it will claim 33 seats as BJP MLA J.P. Patel who won from Mandu Assembly seat and JMM MLA Pradeep Yadav have joined the party, therefore it will claim these two seats, the Congress insiders said. In the 2019 Assembly elections, the major partner JMM contested on 43 seats but won 30 seats. Now it wants to contest on more seats, the sources said, he also added that claiming more seats this time will be duly discussed with alliance partners under the strict criteria of winnability in the proposed seat-sharing meeting, which is likely to be held by the end of this month.

Odisha announces probe into Pandian's copter ride expenses

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 11

Odisha law minister Prithviraj Harichandan on Sunday announced a probe into bureaucrat-turned Biju Janata Dal (BJD) politician V. Kathikeyan Pandian's helicopter rides and associated expenses. The probe, the minister declared, will also look into the construction of helipads using government funds, and the permissions granted for helicopter use by a department secretary. Amidst

the controversy, Congress demanded an extensive inquiry into the BJD government's involvement in multiple scams. "The state government wants to bring how an IAS officer like Pandian was allowed to fly on a helicopter, and who bore the expenses. Secondly, wherever he visited, the then government ordered for construction of helipads using government funds. He had visited 400 to 450 places using helicopters. The allegations on the use of government funds to construct the

helipads will be probed," said Mr Harichandan. He further said there would also be an investigation into how a department secretary was allowed to use the helicopter in the state. "A probe will also be initiated on who and how permission was given for the use of helicopters by a department secretary even as there is no such provision," he added. The Congress also demanded probe into the then BJD government's involvement in several multi-crore scams.

'Mandir-masjid' dispute in MP's Vidisha: DC removed

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, AUG. 11

The collector of Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha district Buddhesh Kumar Vaid has been removed from his post in the wake of a row erupted over the religious identity of a local ancient monument. The row was triggered after the demand by the local Hindu community to allow worship in the ASI-protected Bijamandal mosque in Vidisha on the occasion of the outgoing "Nag Panchami", calling the 11th-century monument as Vijaya temple. Mr Vaid was transferred

as deputy secretary, state home department, late on Saturday night. Sources in the chief minister's office (CMO) have, however, denied that the 2014-batch IAS officer's transfer has anything to do with the controversy over the issue. "He is among the 26 IAS officers who were transferred in the particular chain," CMO sources said. A group of Hindus had submitted a memorandum to Mr Vaid earlier in the week to unlock the doors of the monument to allow them to worship in "Vijaya temple" at the archaeological site.

Misri meets Nepal leaders, discusses bilateral relations

Kathmandu, Aug. 11: Foreign secretary Vikram Misri on Sunday met Nepal's top leadership and discussed ways to provide an impetus to various sectors of bilateral ties. Mr Misri, who is here on a two-day visit at the invitation of his Nepalese counterpart Sewa Lamsal, paid a courtesy call on President Ramchandra Paudel at the president's office Sheetalniwas in Kathmandu.

"While conveying greetings of the Indian leadership, he discussed ways to further strengthen India-Nepal ties across all sectors," the Indian embassy in Nepal said in a X post. Mr Misri also called on Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli at his office at Singhdurbar. "Foreign Secretary reaffirmed India & Nepal's civilizational, close and multifaceted relationship & discussed ways to provide

an impetus to various sectors of bilateral cooperation," the mission said in another post. Foreign secretary Sewa Lamsal was also present on the occasion. Earlier in the day, Mr Misri and secretary of Nepal's urban development ministry Maniram Gelal jointly inaugurated the new building of Nepal Bhasha Parishad in Kathmandu, built under India's post-earthquake reconstruction grant. "Foreign secretary @VikramMisri & Mr Maniram Gelal, secretary, ministry of Urban development, govt of Nepal jointly inaugurated the new building of Nepal Bhasha Parishad in Kathmandu, built under India's post-earthquake reconstruction grant," the Indian embassy said on X. The building in the Naradevi area of the capital was damaged in the

2015 earthquake. Nepal Bhasha is the language belonging to the ethnic Newar community of Kathmandu. In keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call of *Ek Ped Ma ke Naam*, Mr Misri planted a sapling of Nili Gulmohar at the Indian mission's complex. The campaign aims to plant 800 million trees by September 2024 and 1.4 billion trees by March 2025. — PTI

SHORT TAKES

7 youth drown in river in Bharatpur

Jaipur: Seven young men, including three cousins, drowned while taking a bath in a river in Rajasthan's Bharatpur on Sunday, police said. As per police, eight youths of Srinagar village had gone to take bath in Banganga river. One after the other, they slipped into deep water and eventually drowned. "Seven youths, including three cousins drowned in deep water while one escaped," Bayana Sadar SHO Balram Yadav said. The police said the youth who survived reached the village and informed about the incident. Villagers reached the spot and took out the bodies and also informed the police. The deceased have been identified as Pawan Singh Jatav (20), Saurabh Jatav (18), and Gaurav Jatav (16), all three are cousins, Bhupendra Jatav (18), Shantanu Jatav (18), Lakkhi Jatav (20) and Pawan Jatav (22). All the deceased youths are relatives and belong to the same village. After post-mortem, the bodies have been handed over to the relatives, the police said. — PTI

4 killed in gunfight in Manipur village

Imphal: Four armed men were killed in a fratricidal shoot-out between militants and village volunteers of the same community in Manipur's Tengnoupai district, police said. A militant belonging to the United Kuki Liberation Front (UKLF) and three village volunteers of the same community were killed in the gunfight in Molnom area on Friday. In retaliation to the killings, village volunteers set ablaze the residence of UKLF self-styled chairman S.S. Haokip. Control over levy in Palle area is suspected to be behind the gunfight, officials said. Security forces conducted search operations but no arrests have been made so far, they said, adding the situation is under control. Over 200 have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kukis in Manipur since May last year. — PTI

2 pilots hurt in MP as aircraft crashes

Bhopal: Two pilots on board a trainer aircraft were injured when the plane crashed at the airstrip in Madhya Pradesh's Guna on Sunday. The incident that took place at around 1.30 pm was a fall-out of a potential engine failure in the two-seater Cessna aircraft after being airborne for about 40 minutes, Guna Cantt police station in-charge Dileep Rajoria said. The two injured pilots were admitted to the local hospital and are out of danger now, the police said. The identities of the two pilots were not revealed by the police. The aircraft, belonging to a private aviation academy, was brought to the airstrip a few days back for routine testing and maintenance.

Docs strike over rape, murder enters 3rd day ■ BJP seeks CBI probe Bengal govt suspends hospital chief

RAJIB CHOWDHURI
KOLKATA, AUG. 11

The Mamata Banerjee government has transferred the medical superintendent of R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital (RGKMCH) Dr Sanjay Vashisth, two days after an on-duty young lady doctor was brutally raped and murdered by a civic police volunteer there. Dr Vashisth has been replaced by the dean of RGKMCH, Dr Bulbul Mukhopadhyay, according to a state health department order issued by

Swasthya Bhavan on Sunday. Dr Mukhopadhyay is also a member of the inquiry panel, which has been set up by the RGKMCH authorities. On the other hand, Dr Vashisth has been posted as a professor at Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital, another state-run facility in the city. While the leaves of all the doctors and other staff have been cancelled by the authorities for an indefinite period in wake of the horrific crime, the junior

BJP STATE chief and Union minister Sukanta Majumdar sought party president and Union health minister J.P. Nadda to send a national medical commission team and advocate for a CBI investigation into the matter

and two departmental heads immediately from the hospital, regular updates in the probe and findings in the CCTV footage and post-mortem report. During the day, city police commissioner Vinet Goyal visited the RGKMCH and urged the agitating students to resume their duty on a day when it came to light that the arrested accused, Sanjay Roy, held an influential position in the Kolkata police welfare committee, the cops' welfare forum.

Condemning the crime, former cricketer Sourav Ganguly said, "It's really unfortunate. Strict action should be taken against such incidents. It's terrible. This was very very wrong. Everything is possible everywhere. So CCTVs should be installed everywhere." BJP state chief and Union minister Sukanta Majumdar sought party president and Union health minister J.P. Nadda to send a national medical commission team and advocate for a CBI investigation into the matter.

11 Bangla nationals try to infiltrate into India, arrested: BSF

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 11

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Sunday said that as many as 11 Bangladeshi nationals have been apprehended while trying to infiltrate into India through international border in West Bengal, Tripura and Meghalaya.

They are being questioned and will be handed over to state police for further legal action, a spokesperson in South Bengal Frontier said. He also said the BSF was in regular touch with its counterpart Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) to sort out mutual issues, especially the prevention of atrocities on Indian nationals and people from minority communities in Bangladesh.

The South Bengal Frontier of the force headquartered in Kolkata also said in a statement that its eastern command head, additional director-general (ADG) Ravi Gandhi, chaired an operational conference on Saturday to review security

along the 4,096-km-long India-Bangladesh border "amid the current unrest in Bangladesh" and the upcoming Independence Day on August 15.

"Detailed deliberations were held to further enhance border control, security and management. Besides, it was decided to continue the close collaboration with counterpart Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB)," the spokesperson said.

The BSF has been holding flag meetings with the BGB to sort out mutual issues amicably, especially for the prevention of atrocities on Indian nationals and people from minority communities in Bangladesh and counterpart BGB has been responding well, he said.

The Union home ministry recently formed a committee under the ADG to look into issues being faced by minorities in Bangladesh following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government last week.

India must guard N-E border, says historian

MANOJ ANAND
GUWAHATI, AUG. 11

India's partition historian has called for a "strong-arm strategy" on the borders with Bangladesh amid fluid situations in the Islamic nation. Finding parallels with events leading to the 1971 War, the historian, Soumitra Banerji, has also called for "an increased strategic reconnaissance on western borders (with Pakistan)".

Speaking to this newspaper, Mr Banerji said, "As of now, the Indian border needs to be closed for business...to be slowly

loosened as the situation permits. At the same time, there needs to be an increased strategic reconnaissance on our western borders as well."

Mr Banerji has authored Liminal Tides in the backdrop of India's partition in 1947. On the apprehensions of a new wave of exodus, which has also been raised in Parliament, Mr Banerji said, "Don't you think India should be already very well prepared for this exodus, having an experience of more than half a century on this movement, in varying velocities?"

Did ex-PM of B'desh plan to accuse US of plotting her ouster?

Continued from Page 1

America to hold sway over the Bay of Bengal. I beseech the people of my land, please do not be manipulated by radicals." Sheikh Hasina is currently holed up in New Delhi after she fled her country last Monday after the rising death toll in student protests against her erstwhile government.

While the United States had been critical of Sheikh Hasina's erstwhile regime, there was speculation for the past several months over whether the United States was interested in setting up a base on the island for which the approval of the Bangladesh government would have been necessary. Ms. Hasina had reportedly stated three months ago that a foreign nation was interested in setting up a defence base in her country.

According to reports, Ms Hasina was also planning to tell the protesting students: "I would like to repeat to the young students of Bangladesh. I have never called you 'Razakars'. Rather, my words were distorted to incite you... Conspirators have taken advantage of innocence and used you to destabilise the nation." The term "Razakars" is a reference to those who collaborated with the Pakistan Army in unleashing a reign of terror and genocide in 1971 before Bangladesh finally attained freedom later that year.

She also reportedly wanted to express her anguish at the way in which leaders and workers of her Awami League party were being targeted by intending to state: "My heart cries upon receiving news that many leaders have been killed, workers are being harassed and their homes are being subjected to vandalism and arson."

Civilian hurt in encounter dies; op intensified in Anantnag area

Continued from Page 1

the security forces laid siege to Alhan and launched an operation to flush out militants hiding there.

The Chinar Corps had said that two civilians were also injured "due to indiscriminate, desperate and reckless firing by terrorists in the ongoing operation". It had added that they were "provided immediate medical aid and evacuated further". The Army had, however, also said that the "terror antecedents of deceased civilians are being established."

The police sources had said that the militants hiding in the wooded hills fired their automatic weapons indiscriminately upon seeing the joint search party approaching them.

The Kokernag area falls in close proximity to the Kishtwar-Doda region of the Jammu region, which has witnessed a spike in terror attacks in recent weeks. Both the Army and police officials believe that it is the same "highly-trained and equipped group of terrorists backed by Pakistan" that is involved in the terror attacks in the Doda-Kishtwar-Anantnag region across the Pir Panjal Range.

Inspector-general of police (Kashmir range) V.K. Birdi said on Sunday that the police are investigating as to how and why the two civilians injured in the clash were near the militant group engaged in the gunfire at Ahlan, a wooded area in the Kokernag hills. Mr Birdi, while talking to reporters, said that upon observa-

tion of the movement of foreign militants, the security forces launched an operation, following which an intense exchange of gunfire ensued.

"As for the civilian casualties, we are investigating as to how they were close to the terror group that too in the higher reaches," he said, adding that a group of three to four militants is "speculated" to be involved in the Kokernag incident and earlier terror attacks in the wooded hills spread from Doda and Kishtwar of the Jammu region to the Kashmir Valley's Anantnag. Srinagar-based defence spokesman Lt. Col. M.K. Sahu had, in a signed statement issued on Saturday night, said that the militants currently engaged in a gunfight with the security forces at the hills of south Kashmir are the same group of terrorists involved in a series of terror attacks that took place in the Kishtwar-Doda region of J&K recently.

He said: "It had been earlier confirmed through human and electronic means on August 5 that terrorists responsible for atrocities and incidents in the Doda region in the month of July had sneaked across the Kishtwar range into the Kapran Garol area of South Kashmir. Rashtriya Rifles and J&K police have ever since relentlessly tracked these terrorists and precise operations were launched on the night of August 9-10 in the area east of Kapran, in the mountains, where these terrorists were reportedly holed up."

Hope EC declares dates for elections in J&K soon: Sinha

Jammu, Aug. 11:

Lieutenant-governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday reiterated that the government's stance on assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir has remained "unchanged" since the abrogation of Article 370 and expressed hope that the Election Commission will soon declare the polling dates.

He emphasised that the administration is ready to hold elections in the union territory, expressing confidence that they will be "peaceful and fair". "The full team of the Election Commission came to J&K and returned after assessing the ground reality. The (polling) dates are decided by the Election Commission, and with the direction in which things are moving, I hope it will soon declare the date of the Assembly polls in accordance with the wishes of the honourable Supreme Court," Mr Sinha said.

Mr Sinha was responding to a series of questions about the EC's visit, the date of the polls, and the earlier concerns raised by political parties regarding the conduct of elections as per the apex court's directions. "I would like to take you



back to when Article 370 and 35A were abrogated. On that day, the home minister stated in Parliament that the sequence (of action) would be delimitation first, followed by assembly elections, and then statehood at an appropriate time. There has been no change in this stance from that day till today," he said.

"The assembly size was increased, and following that, the Delimitation Commission, chaired by Justice Ranjana Desai, worked on setting new boundaries. This was a time-consuming process. The Delimitation Commission also visited Jammu and Kashmir, consulted all stakeholders, and completed the delimitation process," he explained.

Clarifying the government's intentions regarding elections in the union territory, Mr Sinha maintained that both Mr Shah and Mr Modi have consistently stated that the Assembly polls would be conducted at the earliest possible. — PTI



People gather near derailed wagons of a goods train at the Shaktinagar area in Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra district on Sunday. No one was injured in the incident which took place at around 11.30 am. — PTI

Tripura school teacher facing 'molestation' charge lynched

Agartala, Aug. 11:

Accusing a school teacher in Tripura's Gomati district of molesting a minor girl student, a mob assaulted him leading to his death two days later, a police officer said on Sunday.

The police has registered an FIR in this connection, but no arrest was made.

It is alleged that the man, who was in his 40s, molested the girl during a private tuition session in Udaipur town.

Following this, local people severely beat up the government school teacher on Thursday.

"After a severe assault, local people took him to RK Pur police station on August 8 night in presence of his wife and lodged a molestation case against him. On doctor's advice, the accused stayed the night at a local health centre," assistant inspector general of police Ananta Das said.

He was arrested and subsequently secured bail from a local court on Friday.

Das said the teacher fell ill after returning home and was admitted to the GBP Hospital in Agartala. — PTI

8 of family, driver dead as car swept away in swollen stream

2 missing; driver was warned not to cross rivulet in Punjab

Hoshiarpur (Punjab), Aug. 11:

Nine people, including eight members of a family, died and two others went missing after their vehicle got swept away by the flooded Jaijon Choe, a seasonal rivulet around 34 km from Hoshiarpur on Sunday, the police said.

The rivulet was swollen due to heavy rainfall that lashed several parts of Punjab and other areas.

Eleven members of a family, along with a driver, were travelling in the SUV from Dehra near Mehatpur in Una district of Himachal Pradesh to Mehrowal village in Punjab's SBS Nagar district to attend a wedding, police officials said.

As they were crossing the Jaijon Choe, which was in spate due to heavy rain, their vehicle got swept away, the police said. Some locals had even warned the driver not to cross the choe because of strong water current in the rivulet but he ignored it and moved ahead, the police said.

However, several locals managed to rescue one occupant — Deepak Bhatia — and took him to a government dispensary in Jaijon.

Heavy rains in HP; floods & landslides block 288 roads

Shimla, Aug. 11:

Landslides and flash floods triggered by heavy rains over the last two days has led to the closure of more than 280 roads in HP, with 150 being closed on Saturday, as per officials.

Water from overflowing streams has entered several houses in Una while the Lahaul and the Spiti police have issued an advisory for residents and travellers to exercise extreme caution and not

to cross the Jahalman Nallah as its water level is "rapidly" rising, they said. Rescue operations to trace missing people after the July 31 floods in Kullu, Mandi and Shimla district are being conducted but there has been no major success, the officials said.

"Over 100 have been killed in rain-related incidents and the state has suffered losses of ₹842 crores between June 27 and August 9," they further said. — PTI

MP cops bust illegal arms unit after viral video; 2 held

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOVAL, AUG. 11

A viral video showing a woman washing country-made pistols with detergent soap and a brush has helped the police in Morena in MP uncover an illegal firearm manufacturing unit being run in a house.

The police raided a house in Ganeshpura village in Morena district early on Saturday and seized a double-barrel gun of 315 bore, a pistol of 32 bore, and several incomplete weapons, a senior district police officer said on Sunday.

Two were arrested, police said. Sources said police sprang to action when the video went viral on social media on Friday night and traced the place, where the woman was seen in the video washing the pistols, to the house in Ganeshpura village.

"A police team rushed to the spot and raided the house early on Saturday. The search yielded an illegal firearms manufacturing unit being run in the house," a senior district police officer said.

BJP, SP, Cong ready for bypolls

Continued from Page 1 "Tiranga March" on Saturday. Regardless of the hype, sources revealed that one of the key reasons for the BJP to bank on the nationalism plank was to counter the rapid descent of the backward vote bank, particularly that of the Dalits, to the INDIA alliance.

Sensing that nationalism might "not be enough" to ensure the party's victory in the Assembly byelections, top BJP leaders were also holding parleys with its UP Dalit leaders. Sources said that immediately after the Lok Sabha results were declared, BJP general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santosh held a series of meetings with UP Dalit leaders.

The BJP has asked its Dalit leaders to spread out and start to regain the support of the community.

While the BJP was burning its midnight oil to put its fading Dalit base in order, the Congress was all set to mobilise its workers at the village level to reach out to the backward com-

munities and the minor ities.

A senior party leader said that its OBC minority and fishermen cells have been asked to go to the districts and hold a "signature campaign" to garner support for the caste census. Congress workers in UP have also been asked to reach out to the intelligentsia of these communities.

As for the saffron strategy, speculation is rife that of the 10 Assembly seats going to the polls, the BJP will be contesting nine while one might go to the RLD.

The Nishad Party, a BJP ally, might not be given any berth. While the BJP had only five of the 10 Assembly berths in its kitty, the Yogi camp feels that winning a maximum number of seats would not merely boost the morale of the party but would also strengthen the chief minister's position, that is reportedly hanging in balance after the party's dismal performance in the Lok Sabha polls.

'New seed varieties to boost farm yield'

Continued from Page 1 Minister that they have been working in line with the suggestion given by him to bring unutilised crops into the mainstream.

Later, addressing the media, Union minister for agriculture and farmers welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that today is a historic day for farmers, as

109 varieties of 61 crops that have been released will help increase farmers' income, enhance production and reduce costs.

"The seeds of these crops are climate-friendly and can yield good crops even in adverse weather," Mr Chouhan said, adding that these varieties are rich in nutrition.



Health workers waded through a waterlogged area after heavy rainfall in Patna on Sunday. — PTI

Wayanad search ops to continue, says minister

Wayanad, Kerala, Aug 11:

The extensive search operations in Wayanad to find those who are still missing in the aftermath of the landslides in the hilly district recently, was stopped on Sunday after heavy rains in the Mundakkai and Chooralmala regions. Members of the cabinet sub-committee, who met the media said a detailed search will be conducted on August 12 and 13 to find those who are missing in the devastating landslides in Wayanad.

State minister P.A. Mohammed Riyas said a 190-member team comprising NDRF, police, fire force, Civil

Defence Force, Forest Department, rescue workers among others will take part in the search operation at five zones.

He said a total of 253 rental houses have been identified to rehabilitate the survivors of the landslide. "The rehabilitation process will be held only after consulting with the survivors. Eighteen teams are currently conducting surveys at the 14 relief camps. The survivors can select the panchayat they prefer," the minister added.

Basic furniture and other necessary home appliances will be made available, he said. — PTI

THE ASIAN AGE

12 AUGUST 2024

Only a silver lining for India at Paris Olympics

It was a mixed bag of results for India at the Paris Olympics. India's expectations may multiply manifold from one Games to the other, but the athletes were unable to keep pace with their performances. It appeared that bronze was the new gold so far as India at the Olympics goes as a haul of five bronze medals bolstered one silver medal.

India's team of 117 athletes, with 140 support staff, did not return with even one gold medal from Paris, but that was because Neeraj Chopra, who had provided Indian sport with its finest breakthrough moment in Tokyo with the javelin gold, came off second best this time, beaten by his Pakistan friend Arshad Nadeem with an Olympic record throw of 92.97m.

India's greatest hope in the 2024 Games for a repeat gold was undone on a day of five foul throws and one legitimate effort which was sufficient for Chopra to win the silver. Winning a medal in successive Olympics is a good performance, but heightened anticipation around the farmer's son from Haryana was such it felt like Neeraj had fallen short of expectations.

The Indian hockey team kept its appointment with a medal, its second in a successive Olympics after a 41-year wait between Moscow 1980 and Tokyo 2020. This was again a creditable performance, more so because the team was desperately unlucky to see Germany convert a late chance fortuitously with Marco Miltkau's stick in the right place at the right moment to deflect the ball into goal and relegate India to a bronze medal match against Spain.

The Indian hockey team kept its appointment with a medal, its second in a successive Olympics after a 41-year wait between Moscow 1980 and Tokyo 2020

The wrestler who exhibited raw courage in standing up publicly for the cause of sports women's safety, Vinesh Phogat, was the tragic-heroic story of the Games, her tipping the scales at 100 grams over the 50-kgs limit denying her the opportunity to be on the mat in the final. She may have won millions of hearts for embellishing her career with a phenomenal effort just to get to the Olympics by choosing the lower weight category and becoming the first-ever

Indian to qualify for a women's wrestling final.

It is the bandwidth of performers with a few young athletes winning medals that raises hopes of a brighter future for Indian sport. Shooter Manu Bhaker (22), who won two medals, making history along the way, and wrestler Aman Sehrawat (21), who won a bronze, are young athletes who made the most of the opportunity Paris presented.

Older athletes who participate in a second or third Olympics are achievers who stay on top of their game, but to expect them to win medals eight or 12 years after an Olympic debut is owed to sentiment more than current performance. As a world class javelin thrower, Neeraj Chopra is the sole exception for India, and he would still carry India's hopes into Los Angeles in 2028.

One of the places that seems to get younger in this ageing world is sporting arenas brimming with young talent breaking through. Spotting them young and training them while enabling their participation in international competitions is the way forward. If India can do that without getting loud, hysterical or jingoistic about things that happen along the way, sport as well as Indian athletes would be better served.

PM reaches out in Wayanad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's extensive visit to the landslide-hit areas of Wayanad in Kerala, his meeting and consoling the victims, some of whom have lost all their relatives and life savings, and his assurance that "it remains our societal duty to ensure they have a stable future and that their aspirations remain intact" come as an apposite soothing touch delivered to the state and its people in the nick of time.

True, the Prime Minister announced no immediate relief package for the state which has witnessed one of the worst natural disasters in history which claimed the lives of close to 300 people and left about 100 missing. However, Mr Modi has indeed asked chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan to prepare a detailed memorandum of the state's demands. The Prime Minister, who spent two-and-a-half hours more than those scheduled for his visit and patiently listened to the woes of the people in the relief camps and at the hospital, calmed many a disturbed nerve before assuring the people that the Union government would help the state liberally for the rehabilitation of those badly affected.

The rescue after the landslide on July 30 was a perfectly synchronised operation with the arms of the Union and the state governments working in tandem to the effect that they were able to save hundreds of people and put them in well-maintained relief camps. The superfast construction of the Bailey bridge by the Indian Army Corps of Engineers played a major part in the operation while state government agencies and party volunteers became their formidable ally while performing the difficult task in inhospitable terrain.

The attention of the nation must now turn to the rehabilitation work next as close to 400 families have lost their homes. The Prime Minister was particularly touched by the plight of the children who became orphans overnight; it is for the governments to ensure that they are administered proper care, as Mr Modi suggested. Further coordination between the centre and the state will be needed in order to provide maximum succour to them, and all the other ill-fated people of Wayanad.

THE ASIAN AGE

KAUSHIK MITTER
Editor

K. SUBHAKAR
Printer & Publisher

THE ASIAN AGE office is located at:
New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone: (011) 23211124.

Published and Printed on behalf of and for:
Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002 at BFL Infotech Ltd., C-9, Sector-III, Noida -201301.

London: Quickmarsh Ltd, 8th Floor, Block 2, Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London, SE1 7NQ.

RNI Registration number: 57290/94

Subhani



The Delhi-Dhaka saga: Past, present & future



Abhijit Bhattacharya

Now, one thing must be eschewed at all costs. No Indian border guard or security forces should fire a single shot on unarmed civilians, Indian or Bangladeshi, at the frontier.

This is not about the recent ouster of Sheikh Hasina, till the other day the Iron Lady on the Padma. As turmoil continues in Bangladesh, following her hurried departure and installation of an interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus, the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner, it is about the shared history of New Delhi and Dhaka, and how it impacts their relationship today.

The narrative is tricky, tortuous and fraught with controversy, especially as it comes from a Hindu Bengali refugee scion whose forefathers belonged to Dhaka, then in India and now Bangladesh's capital.

Consider the evolved psyche of a Bangladeshi senior citizen born on August 1, 1947, in British India. If he had been in India, his passport, Aadhaar and PAN today would call him an Indian, even if born in Dhaka, Chittagong or Barisal. But on August 14, 1947, when 13 days old, he became a Pakistani national. Just 24 years later, in 1971, his nationality again changed to the new country of Bangladesh, then secular, liberal and egalitarian, led by an enlightened Bengal Renaissance-type figure who protested against atrocities by his overbearing, abusive co-religionists. That citizen, born Indian, who became a citizen of Urdu-speaking Pakistan, got a new identity as a Bengali first, Muslim second, in a country founded on its language identity. Bangladesh was South Asia's first "linguistic" nation in 1971, unlike Pakistan and Nepal, the former an Islamic republic, the latter a Hindu monarchy.

This change of identity from religion to language, however, became an irritant to some religious bigots who didn't see merit in a Bengali-speaking nation. Bangladesh couldn't stabilise mainly because of this endless tussle between the majority who

were mostly secular and minority fundamentalists. Pakistan's culture of an exclusive religious identity had seeped into the minds of a sizeable chunk of Bengalis on the political fringe and a few Army officers. It didn't, therefore, take long for Dhaka to emulate its senior Pakistani partner's coup-happy habits to assassinate Sheikh Mujib in a bloody power grab in August 1975.

From then, until now, the Dhaka-Delhi relationship has been in a rise-fall mode. There's nothing to show that this fluctuating fortune of love-hate could be any different in future. Whether one likes it or not, Dhaka is a happening city and hence closest to India through the Bengali language. That was always a matter of concern even in 1970-1971 when India, under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, went all out to support the freedom movement leaders of then-East Pakistan, defying all odds and ignoring the bullying of the United States and China's hostility towards Delhi and Dhaka amidst the atrocities ordered by Pakistan's military dictator Gen. Yahya Khan and his henchman Tikka Khan, the "Butcher of Bangladesh".

Fast forward to 2024. Several events stand out, particularly the role played in the background by Communist China. Beijing was the last major nation to recognise the sovereignty of independent Bangladesh, on August 31, 1975, sixteen days after the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Dhaka by a Pakistani Army mole in Bangladesh garrison. Indira Gandhi's India, which was extremely close to Mujib, was left stunned, while both Islamabad and Beijing celebrated.

Today, China reigns supreme in Bangladesh, penetrating its defence sector, as seen from military hardware inventories, training and doctrine. The Belt and Road Initiative has also gone

through Bangladesh's ports, with Chinese workers "operating deep" inside India's strategic neighbour. Fishing in Bangladesh waters is a priority for Communist China, which once vehemently opposed Bangladesh's liberation. Pakistan, on the other hand, has to play surreptitiously and lie low due to the flickering and rankling psyche of Bengalis, mainly pertaining to 1971 atrocities and mass killings.

Where does India figure today? The internal polity of both New Delhi and Dhaka play up, for or against each other, in accordance with the insensitive utterances and actions of their respective political leaders. It's an irony that this is the legacy of the 1947 Partition of India, which on India's eastern front still remains an unfinished process for some, which creates seasonal complications with potential adverse bilateral consequences at the diplomatic table. Both sides at times make it a political issue, especially in election season, by using unparliamentary semantics to vitiate the atmosphere and gain votes.

This recurring problem traditionally got aggravated because while the Partition in Punjab saw virtually a 1-1 population exchange and killings, which ceased within six months of August 15, 1947, the Bengal vivisection was a hopeless one-way traffic from Dhaka to Kolkata and other Indian states close to the then East Pakistan. This adverse situation was made worse by some mouth Indian leaders when they confusingly call derogatory names for anything or everything, referring to the word "Bangladeshi" even while addressing the Bengalis of India.

Catastrophic long-term seeds can be sown because

while the Bengalis of Dhaka silently resented being referred to as "ghuspetia" (infiltrators or illegal migrants) in India, the stamp embossed rampantly on genuine Bengali citizens of India too creates a problem, thus affecting their morale and resulting in retribution on election voting day. In short, even at the best of times, it is unclear when the fair-weather vane will change direction due to some extremely harsh words, when a common linguistic bond strides across borders.

In this context, let us not forget that major nations across the West are now on fire over race, religion and colour issues. The United States is simmering over racial identity issues, as recent remarks by a presidential candidate showed. In Britain, rioting and violent clashes triggered by the far-right, with Muslims and others targeted, have left the new Labour government shaken.

It's still a fluid situation in Dhaka. The East can be beautiful and versatile, as well as brutal and violent if mishandled, irrespective of whether by their own rulers or foreigners. The geographical proximity and commonality of language make India and Bangladesh "one people, two countries" in South Asia. For India, therefore, the best, and only, option now is to wait and watch.

However, one thing must be eschewed at all costs. No Indian border guard or security forces should fire a single shot on unarmed civilians, Indian or Bangladeshi, at the frontier. One bullet can bring in untold misery, unanticipated fire and unpredictable misfortune to both New Delhi and Dhaka. Also, provocative words are best avoided. The humanitarian problems of needs and aspirations must be tackled with brains, not bullets. The allegations against the deposed Sheikh Hasina reveal recurring blunders born out of judgment over years. One expects India's diplomats to take up the challenge afresh, despite the present fiasco.

The writer is an alumnus of the National Defence College, New Delhi. Views expressed here are personal.

LETTERS
DHANKHAR SHOCKER

The recent verbal transactions between the Chair of the Rajya Sabha and an MP made a disturbing viewing. We tend to underrate the role of a vital fulcrum to the levers that operate in parliamentary democracy, that of the presiding officer of the House. Compared to our set-up, the Speaker in the House of Commons in UK has far more powers in the conduct of business and yet he would rather enable orderly debate than be joining in one. Back home we see them more animated than they ought to be, tending to be benign to the cause of the executive than that of advancing the very purpose of the House, critical deliberations. A good referee elevates the spirit of the game.

R. Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

BRONZE AGE

WE ARE STILL in the Bronze Age and 69th position in the medals tally at the Paris Olympics. Despite being a 1.4-billion strong nation, it will take us time to even start winning multiple gold medals, let alone earn a so-called Golden Age. But who knows what can happen in another 50 years? The coverage of participation over disciplines for India is meagre compared to other nations. In track and field, the mother of all sports, we have nothing to show for ourselves. We need to up ambition levels as well as infrastructure.

S. Kamat
Mysuru

IIT MADRAS 'BEST'

THE LARGE-HEARTED Dr Krishna Chivukula, a US-based industrialist and entrepreneur, has made a remarkable donation of ₹228 crores to the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. This financial donation is one of the largest ever made to an educational institution in the country. It highlights the strong connection graduates from here feel towards their alma mater while also being a testament to their success.

R. Sivakumar
Chennai

₹500 for the best letter of the week goes to Abhijit Roy (Aug. 7). Email: asianage.letters@gmail.com.

Saeed Naqvi
Wide Angle



Some memories of Bangladesh: Language, culture led to deep bonds

Bangladesh was created behind my back. Since I was a reporter with the Statesman, I was surprised I was being kept away from the Bangladesh war where friend Raghu Rai was producing brilliant photographs and Peter Hazell of London's Times was on his way to winning the Reporter of the Year award in the UK. Why was I being held back?

Light dawned with a call from Rammohan Rao, defence ministry spokesman (he retired as principal information officer), who was in touch with editors about war coverage. He had spoken to my editor and requested me to be at the defence ministry within hours. An Army vehicle would drive selected foreign correspondents and a handful of us to the western theatre where a fierce battle was developing in Chhamb.

This consolation assignment came my way because after deep deliberation, the editor and the MoD came to the conclusion it would be dangerous to send me to Bangladesh: I might be mistaken for a Punjabi/Pakistani Muslim and killed.

It took the establishment a while to realise the emergence of Bangladesh had radically altered the subcontinent's geography.

The 1947 Partition had created two nations, India and Pakistan, in hostile competition with each other. The two drew global attention on subcontinental issues, like Kashmir, from their respective perspectives. Bangladesh in 1971 dramatically altered this geography. India became a large country surrounded by small ones.

To manage India's heft, leaders like Bangladesh's

Zia-ur Rahman thought of Saarc. How would this size be managed? The countries encircling India then flourished the China card.

Saarc was launched in 1980, a year after China embarked on the "Four Modernisations" under Deng Xiaoping's guidance. In other words, from the very beginning of its "rise", China was in Saarc's ken. Still basking in the Moscow-Beijing-Washington strategic balance he had single-handedly put in place, Henry Kissinger wished more strength to his newfound friend: China.

Could India have juggled to its advantage the smaller nations encircling it or was it correct to allow Saarc to flounder on the rocks called Pakistan?

The first time I visited Bangladesh was as part of the press team with Prime Minister Morarji Desai in 1979. Dhaka was superficially pleasant, but layers upon layers of complexities did not take long to surface. Gulshan, the colony for the elite, had many homes which reached out to Indian guests with warmth and hospitality, but these also had a "Dhaka versus Kolkata" complex. One had seen a similar "Chennai-Colombo" complex in Sri Lanka.

An issue that became something of a metaphor for India-Bangla relations surfaced during Desai's visit. Among the transactions decided was a gift of substantial quantities of food Bangladesh urgently required. Once the delegation-level talks were over, Prakash Shah, a senior PMO official, invited some of us to his room and switched on the only official Bangladesh TV available. Others joined us; they were keen to find how the official media

played up the visit, particularly the transfer of foodgrains.

Hours passed; there was no story. Maybe it was slotted for prime time? That too passed. Eventually, a tepid mention of the visit was made, but no mention of foodgrains.

Two attitudes stood out. Eager as Indians were for gratitude, the Bangladesh side was equally determined to deny Indians just that.

Remember what we learnt from our elders: do good and forget.

Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, always thinking out of the box, sometimes without reading South Block too well, invited me to accompany him to the India-Pakistan-Bangladesh summit he worked hard to organise in Dhaka in January 1998.

On this trip I found myself with friends, all from Bengal: Nikhil Chakravarty, Tarun Basu and every Chatterjee, Mukherjee, Sen, Ghosh within hailing distance. There was method in this. I was included, quite simply, to provide a Muslim flavouring to the Indian team.

No sooner had the press delegation cleared immigration and customs, when a cheerful, almost ecstatic group of journalists lunged at the exit from the customs hall and got mixed up with the visiting journos, hugging each other. "Baap re baap", "Ki khabor", "Bhalo, bhalo" and other Bengali greetings I do not know. Never in all my life have I felt more lonesome with my Islamic identity than the Prime Minister thrust upon me for the trip.

Linguistic regionalism trumped Islam by a long shot. Was not this precisely which smashed the

two-nation theory in 1971 when Bangladesh was born?

On the way back I could never forget an expression of extreme satisfaction etched as a permanent smile on Tarun Basu's face. The fellow was carrying a large ice-box filled with *illish* from the Padma river, enough to open a small fish kiosk outside his house in Chittaranjan Park.

During Christmas and New Year, one's social popularity can be gauged by the number of greeting cards on the drawing room cornice. Whenever I received a greeting on tasteful art paper in neat handwriting from Dr Murl Manohar Joshi in mid-April, I accepted it as one of Dr Joshi's exquisite eccentricities. Wisdom dawned when I found myself in Dhaka on April 15 for a most spectacular celebration of Poila Baisakh, the Bengali New Year.

The maidan was a riot of colour: men in colourful kurtas and women in saris of all hues. There was no forehead without a *bindi*. At a lunch party at the residence of famous editor Mahfuz Anam, celebrations were on an unimaginable scale. His wife stood at the entrance with a tray full of *bindis* which she placed on the foreheads of all the women among guests who entered.

In the distance, a lovely voice sang Rabindra Sangeet, that was interspersed with *Nazrulgeeti* which, unlike Tagore's songs, are ironically rich with Tandav, Durga, Kali and Shiva.

The writer is a senior journalist and commentator based in New Delhi

SHORT TAKES

AFTER NINE DAYS, INSTAGRAM IS BACK IN TURKEY

Istanbul, Aug. 11: Turkey said it had restored access to social media platform Instagram after the company agreed to cooperate with authorities to address the government's concerns.

Turkey blocked access to the social media platform on Aug. 2 for failing to comply with the country's "laws and rules" and public sensitivities.

A top Turkish official accused Instagram of blocking condolence posts over the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, leader of the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

10 COPS INJURED DURING CLASHES IN NORTH IRELAND

Londonberry, Aug. 11: Northern Irish police on Sunday criticised "disgusting" rioting by pro-Irish unity youths in Londonderry overnight that injured 10 police, the latest night of disorder to rock the United Kingdom region.

The violent scenes in the city, also known as Derry, follow nightly disturbances in Belfast and elsewhere over the last week which initially mirrored unrest in English towns and cities in the wake of the Southport knife attack. Police have blamed pro-UK loyalist paramilitary groups for helping to fuel the violence.

KAGAME SWORN IN AS RWANDA PREZ FOR 5 YRS

Kigali, Aug. 11: Rwanda's President Paul Kagame was sworn into office on Sunday for a five-year term, after a landslide win in last month's election extended his near quarter century in office.

The 66-year-old former rebel leader won the July poll with 99.18% of the vote, after eight other candidates including his most vocal critics were barred by the electoral commission.

Kagame won acclaim from Western and regional leaders for helping end the 1994 genocide and turning Rwanda into an attractive investment and aid destination.

UGANDA GARBAGE DUMP COLLAPSE DEATH TOLL AT 18

Kampala, Aug. 11: The death toll from a landslide at a vast garbage dump in the Ugandan capital Kampala has risen to 18, police said on Sunday.

Local media said homes, people and livestock were engulfed in mountains of waste at the landfill in the northern Kampala district of Kiteezi on Saturday after a collapse caused by heavy downpours.

President Yoweri Museveni said he had directed the army's special forces to help in the search, rescue operation and demanded to know who allowed people to live near such a "dangerous heap".

CHARLES LAUDS THOSE WHO STOOD AGAINST RACISM

London, Aug. 11: King Charles III applauded people who took to the streets of British towns and cities earlier this week to help blunt days of unrest fuelled by far-right activists and misinformation about a stabbing attack that killed three girls.

Charles on Friday held telephone audiences with Prime Minister Keir Starmer and law enforcement officials during which he offered his "heartfelt thanks" to police and other emergency workers for their efforts to restore order and help those affected by the violence, Buckingham Palace said.

SCHOOLKIDS TO BE TRAINED TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

London, Aug. 11: Schoolchildren will be taught how to spot extremist content and fake news online under proposed changes to the curriculum in the wake of far-right riots across UK cities fuelled by misinformation on social media.

UK education secretary Bridget Phillipson told *The Daily Telegraph* on Sunday that she is launching a review of the curriculum in both primary and secondary schools to embed critical thinking across multiple subjects and arm children against "putrid conspiracy theories".

Trump campaign finds Iranians hacked emails

Microsoft reported foreign agents' poll interference bid

Washington, Aug. 11: Former president Donald Trump's presidential campaign said on Saturday that it has been hacked and suggested Iranian actors were involved in stealing and distributing sensitive internal documents.

The campaign provided no specific evidence of Iran's involvement, but the claim comes a day after Microsoft issued a report detailing foreign agents' attempts to interfere in the US campaign in 2024. It cited an instance of an Iranian military intelligence unit in June sending "a spear-phishing email to a high-ranking official of a presidential campaign from a compromised email account of a former senior advisor."

"We do not accord any credence to such reports," the mission told *The Associated Press*. "The Iranian government neither possesses nor harbours any intent or motive to interfere in the US presidential election." However, Iran long has been suspected of running hacking campaigns targeting its enemies in the Middle East and beyond. —AP



Texas representative and ex-White House physician Ronny Jackson (L) joins Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Montana. — AFP

Harris says she supports eliminating taxes on tips

Las Vegas, Aug. 11: US Vice-President Kamala Harris told supporters in Nevada on Saturday she supported eliminating taxes on tips, taking a similar position to her rival Donald Trump in an effort to win over service workers, an important constituency in the state.



Kamala Harris

Harris and her Democratic running mate, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, wrapped up a multi-day tour of battleground states on Saturday with their stop in Nevada, a western state that could play a pivotal role in the Nov. 5 presidential election.

"It is my promise to everyone here when I am president we will continue to fight for working families, including to raise the minimum wage and eliminate taxes on tips for service and hospitality workers," Harris said.

Harris said she would work to drive down consumer prices, vowing to "take on big corporations that engage in illegal price-gouging" and corporate landlords that unfairly raise rents on working families, as well as going after big pharmaceutical companies to drive drug prices lower.

Trump, who told a rally in Las Vegas in June that he would seek to end taxation of income from tips, accused Harris of stealing his policy proposal. "Kamala Harris, whose 'Honeymoon' period is ENDING... just copied my NO TAXES ON TIPS Policy," Trump said on his *Truth Social* app. "The difference is, she won't do it, she just wants it for Political Purposes!"

Refaat Ahmed sworn in as new chief justice of B'desh

Dhaka, Aug. 11: Syed Refaat Ahmed was sworn in as Bangladesh's new chief justice on Sunday, a day after Obaidul Hassan stepped down as the top judge following an ultimatum by the protesters demanding a revamp of the judiciary.



Hindus hold a protest rally condemning communal atrocities committed against them and other religious groups in Dhaka, on Sunday. — AP/PTI

Hassan and five other judges of the apex Appellate Division on Saturday tendered their resignation, five days after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's regime amid massive street protests. His resignation came as protesters of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement gathered at the apex court premises.

The students had issued an ultimatum to him and the judges of the Appellate Division to resign by 1 pm Ahmed took oath as the new chief justice during a ceremony at the Darbar Hall of the president's official residence at around 12.45 pm local time, *The Daily Star* newspaper reported.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath to the chief justice. The oath-taking ceremony was conducted by cabinet secretary Mahub Hossain, the report said.

Chief adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, who was sworn in on Thursday as the head of an interim government following the ouster of Hasina, also attended the event.

President Shahabuddin on Saturday appointed Justice Ahmed as the 25th chief justice of Bangladesh. —PTI

Attacks, rumours frighten Hindus

Dhaka, Aug. 11: Young Bangladeshi professional Tanushree Shaha is outraged by recent mob violence against her family in the chaotic wake of premier Sheikh Hasina's ouster from power, fearful that her fellow Hindus could face more reprisals.

After Hasina's abrupt resignation and flight abroad on Monday brought an end to her 15 years of autocratic rule, numerous Hindu families came into the crosshairs of their neighbours. "A group of people vandalised my uncle's shop," said Shaha, the 31-year-old manager of a handi-crafts business in the capital Dhaka.

Those fears, however justified, are being turbocharged by a wave of false rumours of other, deadly attacks being spread online and amplified by the media in Hindu-majority neighbourhood India.

Hindus are the largest minority faith in mostly Muslim Bangladesh and are considered to be a steadfast support base for Hasina's party, the Awami League.

She told AFP the mob had stolen his cash till and emptied the shelves of his grocery store further north in the city of Mymensingh. They then beat him and demanded more money to prevent future attacks. —AFP

Yunus acquitted in graft case

Dhaka, Aug. 11: Muhammad Yunus was on Sunday acquitted in a graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission, three days after he took oath as the head of Bangladesh's interim government, according to a media report.

Judge Md Rabiul Alam of the Special Judge's Court-4 of Dhaka accepted the Anti-Corruption Commission's application which was filed with the court, seeking withdrawal of prosecution of the case, following section 494 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. —PTI

Iran Prez proposes a woman in his Cabinet

Iran's Revolutionary Guards hold drills

Dubai, Aug. 11: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Sunday proposed former nuclear negotiator Abbas Araghchi as the country's new foreign minister and also sought to appoint a woman as roads and housing minister.

If approved, she would be Iran's first female minister in more than a decade. Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf read out the list of proposed ministers to lawmakers. The hardline-dominated chamber will have two weeks to review qualifications and give a vote of confidence to the proposed ministers.

Pezeshkian proposed Farzaneh Sadegh as roads and housing minister. Sadegh, 47, is currently a director in the ministry. She would become only the second female minister in Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. It is unclear, however, whether she will be approved.

The hardline Parliament seeks more cultural and social restrictions on women based on its interpretations of Islamic sharia. Many lawmakers voiced their opposition when her name was read by the Speaker during Sunday's session.

Araghchi, 61, a career diplomat, was a member of the Iranian negotiator team that reached a nuclear deal with world powers in 2015 that capped Tehran's nuclear programme in return for the lifting sanctions.

In 2018, then-President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the deal and imposed more sanctions on Iran. Pezeshkian said during his presidential campaign that he would try to revive the nuclear deal. Pezeshkian named Gen. retiate against Israel after the killing of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on July 31.

Iran and Palestinian Islamist group Hamas accuse Israel of carrying out Haniyeh's assassination on July 31.

Israel has not claimed or denied responsibility for the killing, which has fuelled further concern that the war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip was turning into a wider Middle East war. —Reuters

Aziz Nasirzadeh, an F-14 Tomcat pilot, as defence minister. He was chief of the Iranian Air Force in 2018-2021. This would be the first time that a member of Iran's Air Force headed the defence ministry. The only previous female minister to be approved by parliament since the revolution was in 2009, when President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad secured a post for Marziyeh Vahid Dastgerdi as health minister. —AP

Israel widens evacuation orders in southern Gaza

Deir al-Balah, Aug. 11: The Israeli military ordered more evacuations in southern Gaza early on Sunday after a deadly airstrike on a school-turned-shelter in the north killed at least 80 Palestinians, said local health authorities. Israel said it targeted a militant command post, killing 19 fighters.

Israel has repeatedly ordered mass evacuations as its troops have returned to heavily destroyed areas where they had previously battled Palestinian militants. The vast majority of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people have been displaced by the 10-month-old war, often multiple times.

Hundreds of thousands have crammed into squalid tent camps with few public services or sought shelter in schools like the one struck on Saturday. Palestinians say nowhere in the besieged territory feels safe.

The latest evacuation orders apply to areas in Khan Younis, including part of an Israeli-declared humanitarian zone from which the military said rockets had been fired. Israel accuses Hamas and other militants of hiding among civilians and launching attacks from residential areas.

Khan Younis, Gaza's second-largest city, suffered widespread destruction during an air and ground offensive earlier this year. Tens of thousands fled again last week after an earlier evacuation order.

U.S. FORCES STRUCK

SEVERAL U.S., COALITION PERSONNEL SUFFER MINOR INJURIES IN SYRIA ATTACK

Several US and coalition personnel were wounded in a drone attack on Friday in Syria, a US official told Reuters, in the second major attack in recent days against US forces amid soaring tensions in the Middle East.

CHINA SUPPORTS IRAN IN DEFENDING SECURITY, SAYS FOREIGN MINISTER

China supports Iran in defending its "sovereignty, security and national dignity", Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi told Iran's acting foreign minister in a phone call on Sunday, according to a statement by China's foreign ministry.

FM: JORDAN WON'T BE A BATTLEFIELD FOR IRAN OR ISRAEL

Jordan's foreign minister Ayman Safadi said on Saturday that the kingdom would not be a battlefield for Iran or Israel, as the region braces for a possible new wave of attacks by Tehran and its allies following last week's killing of senior members of militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah.

during an air and ground offensive earlier this year. Tens of thousands fled again last week after an earlier evacuation order.

Hundreds of families carrying their belongings in their arms left their homes and shelters early on Sunday, seeking elusive refuge. "We don't know where to go," said Amal Abu Yahia, a mother of three, who had returned to Khan Younis in June to shelter in their severely damaged home. This is my fourth displacement," said the 42-year-old widow, whose husband was killed when an Israeli airstrike hit their neighbour's house. She said they went to Muwasi, a sprawling tent camp along the coast. —AP



Mohammad Muizzu

MALE OPPN HAILS RECALIBRATION OF INDIA POLICY

Male, Aug. 11: The Maldivian Democratic Party has welcomed President Mohammad Muizzu's "sudden recalibration" of its India policy and said "Male has always been confident that India will always be the first responder any time the Maldives dials an international 911".

Abdulla Shahid, the president of the main opposition, the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), made remarks after he met external affairs minister S. Jaishankar here on Saturday. Shahid said that MDP calls on the Muizzu government to issue a public apology for actions, lies and irresponsible comments from its officials which have significantly damaged the Maldives' foreign and economic outlook. —PTI

UKRAINE PREZ ACKNOWLEDGES MILITARY OP.

Kyiv, Aug. 11: Days after Ukraine began a surprise military incursion into Russia's Kursk border region, Volodymyr Zelensky broke the government's silence on it late Saturday by indirectly acknowledging ongoing military actions to "push the war out into the aggressor's territory" in his nightly address.

Overnight into Sunday, a Russian drone and missile barrage on Kyiv killed two people including a 4-year-old boy. Meanwhile, in Russia, Kursk's regional governor said that a Ukrainian missile shot down by Russian air defences fell on a residential building, wounding 13 people. —AP

FOODIE | FUNDA Expensive European, Italian and affordable Chinese on offer in Sindh's capital

Pure veggie Indian dishes trend in Karachi

Karachi, Aug. 11: Pakistan's industrial and financial centre Karachi has become the food capital for the foodies of the cosmopolitan city, with the latest trend being an acquired taste for authentic and refined Indian vegetarian dishes such as 'soyabean aloo biryani', 'aloo tikki', 'vada pav', 'masala dosa' and 'dhokla'.

For millions of people in the capital of Sindh province, Karachi's beauty is the food options ranging from the most expensive European and Italian cuisine to affordable Chinese food or a simple bun kabab as the food capital caters to the taste and pockets of everyone.

The foodies in recent months have also developed a taste for "pure vegetarian" dishes.

Mahesh Kumar, who owns the small Maharaj Karamchand Vegetarian Foods Inn inside a historical old compound of the bustling M.A. Jinnah Road, says his business is booming as people have developed a taste for vegetarian dishes known in



People in Karachi have developed a taste for vegetarian dishes. — Agencies

Karachi as "pure vegetarian Indian dishes".

The Narayan compound, where before partition Hindus, Sikhs and Christians lived in peace and harmony, not only houses the restaurant but also the

Swaminarayan Temple and also a gurdwara. Initially built for the inhabitants of the compound, the Maharaj Karamchand Inn is now a popular joint for the lawyers and visitors who show up every day at the city courts just opposite the compound or for other businesses in this commercially vibrant area of old Karachi.

"Our soyabean aloo biryani, aloo tikki, paneer karahi, and mixed vegetables are famous and we witness a lot of rush during lunchtime with a lot of take-aways and deliveries as well," Kumar said. Kumar said his father started the restaurant in 1960. What attracts customers is the homemade spices and the fresh vegetables and oil used in preparing the dishes. Moreover, in other parts of Karachi, entrepreneur Hindu, Christian and Muslim women have also set up food stalls specialising in refined Indian vegetarian dishes such as pav bhaji, vada pav, masala dosa and dhokla and are a big hit. —PTI

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	79,705.91	1.04
Nifty 50	24,367.50	1.04
S&P 500*	5,344.16	0.47
Dollar (₹)	83.95	0.02
Pound Sterling (₹)	107.11	-0.67
Euro (₹)	91.68	0.06
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	69,850.146	0.21
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	79.46	0.66
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.880	0.003
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	3.94	-0.057

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Domestic steel prices drop on rising imports

Domestic steel prices have dropped to a three-year low on account of increased imports. Hot rolled coils prices have fallen to ₹51,000 a tonne from a peak of ₹76,000 a tonne in April 2022, markets research firm BigMint said in a report. The rate of cold rolled coils is trading at ₹58,200 a tonne from the peak of ₹86,300 a tonne in April 2022. "The surge in imports has impacted the domestic prices," BigMint said.



Godrej Properties plans to launch ₹21,000-cr projects

Godrej Properties aims to launch ₹21,000 crore worth of residential projects by March 2025 across major cities to encash strong consumer demand and achieve 20 per cent growth in sales bookings this fiscal. The company's executive chairperson Pirojsha Godrej expressed confidence that the company would achieve the targeted sales bookings of ₹27,000 crore for the current fiscal.

Reliance plans solar giga unit this fiscal year

Reliance Industries plans to commission its first solar giga-factory in the current fiscal as it pivots a green pathway to achieve net zero carbon emissions from operations by 2035. It is targeting to commission the first train of 20GW solar photovoltaic (PV) manufacturing by FY25 end and scale up to 20GW by 2026. The factory will include manufacturing of PV modules, cells, wafers and ingots, polysilicon, and glass.

Oravel Stays raises ₹1,457 cr in new funding

Oravel Stays, the parent company of OYO, has raised ₹1,457 crore from a consortium of investors in the latest funding round, sources said. The IPO-bound unicorn has raised nearly ₹1,040 crore in the Series G funding round. This follows an earlier raise of ₹416.85 cr in same series and concludes the round. The capital will be used to support OYO's global expansion plans, sources said.

Printed & Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at BFL Infotech Ltd, C-9 Sector 3, Noida-201301. Published at 219, N D Tiwari Bhawan, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Editor: Kaushik Mitter, RNI Registration number 30074/09, Air surcharge Re 1. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle is prohibited.

Buchs deny Hindenburg claims

Have no hesitation in disclosing financials to any authority that may seek them

FC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUG. 11

Madhabi Puri Buch, chairperson, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) denied US-based Hindenburg Research's allegations released on Saturday. The report had said, "chairperson, Sebi and her husband Daval Buch had a stake in obscure offshore entities that invested in Adani Group companies." "We deny the baseless allegations and insinuations made in the report. The same are devoid of any truth," said Sebi chairperson and her husband Daval Buch in a joint statement.

"All disclosures as required have already been furnished to Sebi over the years. We have no hesitation in disclosing any and all financial documents, including those that relate to the period when we were strictly private citizens, to any and every authority that may seek them," Madhabi and

Daval said in the statement.

"It is unfortunate that Hindenburg Research, against whom Sebi has taken an enforcement action and issued a show cause notice, has chosen to attempt character assassination in response to the same," they said.

Earlier in July 2024, Sebi had issued a show cause notice to Hindenburg Research, and its sole beneficial owner, Nathan Anderson, along with Mark Kingdon, who is the ultimate beneficial owner of Mauritius-based entities, for trading violations in the scrip of Adani Enterprises, leading up to Hindenburg Report.

"Sebi's unwillingness to take meaningful action against suspect offshore shareholders in the Adani Group may stem from chairperson Madhabi Buch's complicity in using the exact same funds used by Vinod Adani, brother of Gautam Adani," the new Hindenburg report



● IT IS unfortunate that Hindenburg Research, against whom Sebi has taken an enforcement action and issued a show cause notice, has chosen to attempt character assassination in response to the same.

alleged.

"The latest allegations by Hindenburg are malicious, mischievous and manipulative selections of publicly available information to arrive at predetermined conclusions for personal profiteering. We reject these allegations against the Adani Group which are proven to be baseless and already dismissed by the Supreme Court in March 2023," said a statement from Adani Group to stock exchanges. "Our overseas holding structure is transparent, with all relevant details disclosed regularly in numerous public documents. Furthermore, Anil Ahuja was a nominee

director of 3i investment fund in Adani Power (2007-2008) and, later, a director of Adani Enterprises until 2017. The Adani Group has absolutely no commercial relationship with the individuals or matters mentioned in this deliberate effort to malign our standing," Adani Group spokesperson said.

The latest allegations led to strong reactions from the Opposition with demands for a JPC probe and Sebi chief to step down due to conflict of interest. Hindenburg's earlier allegations of stock manipulations against Adani Group in January 2023 had led to massive

sell off in all Adani Group's listed companies and forcing a Supreme Court-led investigation in the matter.

"Whistleblower documents reveal Sebi's chairperson had a stake in obscure offshore entities in Adani money siphoning scandal," alleged the latest report by US based Hindenburg Research.

"Madhabi Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch first appear to have opened their account with IPE Plus Fund 1 on June 5th, 2015 in Singapore, as per whistleblower documents," the report said.

Madhabi Buch, whole time member of Sebi from April 2017 to Oct 2021, was appointed Sebi chairperson in March 2022.

Just week's ahead of appointment as Sebi chief, her husband Dhaval Buch in a letter to fund administrator requested to "be the sole person authorised to operate the Accounts," the new report said while attaching the copy of the letter.

New measures from Sebi likely to bring down F&O volumes

New Delhi, Aug. 11: Stock exchanges and brokers, catering to retail traders, could be hit hard by the regulator Sebi's proposed measures for futures and options (F&O) trading regulations, with market volumes slumping 30-40 per cent, according to reports.

If these measures are implemented, the number of investors could decrease, it added. Moreover, discount brokers, who depend heavily on retail investors, are expected to be more affected than traditional full-service brokers.

In its consultation paper, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), proposed seven measures, including increasing the minimum contract size and upfront collection of option premiums, intraday monitoring of position limits, rationalisation of strike prices, removal of calendar spread benefit on expiry day and increase in near contract expiry margin.

Sebi stated that these measures are aimed at enhancing investor protection and promote market stability in derivative markets. According to a report by Jefferies, Sebi's proposed measures to reduce the number of weekly option contracts from 18 to 6 could impact around 35 per cent of industry premiums. However, if trading shifts to the remaining contracts, the overall impact can be reduced to 20-25 per cent.

IIFL Securities see the highest impact from the withdrawal of weekly options (only 1 per



● WITHIN THE value chain, discount brokers are likely to be more impacted than traditional full service brokers given the former's dependence on retail investors.

exchange allowed) as index Options account for 98 per cent of the volumes.

IIFL Securities expects the NSE to be more affected than the BSE because 60 per cent of NSE's revenue comes from options trading, compared to 40 per cent for BSE. It estimates that by FY26, NSE's earnings could be reduced by 25-30 per cent while BSE's earnings could drop by 15-18 per cent.

Jefferies also believes that removal of Bankex weekly contract can impact BSE's earnings per share by 7-9 per cent over FY25-27.

"We don't see any impact on MCX from these regulations. Within the value chain, discount brokers are likely to be more impacted than traditional full service brokers given the former's dependence on retail investors," IIFL Securities said.

Jefferies believes that clearing members like Nuvama, which caters to institutional players high-frequency traders and foreign portfolio investors are less impacted. —PTI

Investors must do due diligence: Sebi

FC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUG. 11

Investors should remain calm and exercise due diligence before reacting to such reports," said a Sebi statement on the Hindenburg Research's Report.

"Investors may also like to take note of the disclaimer in the report that states that readers should assume that Hindenburg Research may have short positions in the securities covered in the report.



The report claims that Sebi has not taken any action against the Adani Group. It questions Sebi's action of issuing a show cause notice to Hindenburg Research in June 2024. It claims that Sebi has made changes to the REIT Regulations 2014 to benefit a multinational financial conglomerate.

These issues warrant an appropriate response" Sebi said.

"Sebi has adequate internal mechanisms for addressing issues relating to conflict of interest, which include disclosure framework and provision for recusal. It is noted that relevant disclosures have been made by the chairperson. Chairperson has also recused herself in matters involving conflicts of interest," the Sebi statement further said.

Did not invest in Adani: IPE

Mumbai, Aug. 11: Wealth management entity 360 ONE on Sunday said its IPE-Plus Fund 1 did not make any investments in Adani Group shares.

In a statement released after the latest claims made by short-seller Hindenburg Research, the firm, formerly called as IIFL Wealth Management, said Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch's investments were less than 1.5 per cent of the total inflow into the

fund and no investors had any involvement in investment decisions.

The 360 ONE said the fund was fully compliant and regulated, and that it was operational between October 2013 and October 2019.

"Throughout the fund's tenure, IPE-Plus Fund 1 made zero investments in any shares of the Adani Group either directly or indirectly through any fund," the statement to exchanges said. —PTI



POWER GRID DOING ₹862-CR WORKS IN LADAKH

FC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 11

Power Grid is implementing the revamped distribution sector scheme (RDSS) projects in the union territory of Ladakh.

RDSS is a Government of India scheme for improving the health of distribution companies (Discoms). It has an outlay of ₹3 lakh crore with budgetary support of ₹97.631 cr. Ladakh UT got approval of schemes worth ₹862.84 cr. with gross budgetary support from Govt of India for ₹776.56 cr. Balance funding of ₹86.28 cr would be funded by Ladakh UT. The works have been entrusted to Power Grid Energy Services, a subsidiary.

Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.), lieutenant governor, Ladakh, who laid the foundation stone for the RDSS works, said the Ladakh administration is firm in its resolve to strengthen power infrastructure in Ladakh. RKTyagi, CMD, Power Grid, reiterated commitment for sustained development of power infra.

Rules notified for green bonds trade

FC BANKING BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUG. 11

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has notified amendments to Forex Management (Debt Instruments) Regulations, 2024. As a result, people residing outside India can now trade in sovereign green bonds in the international financial services centre (IFSC), Gujarat.

"Persons resident outside India that maintain a securities account with a depository in IFSC in India may purchase or sell sovereign green bonds issued by the government of India, as per terms and conditions specified by the Reserve Bank," the RBI gazette notification published.

Earlier, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das had told

the media, "We are in discussions with the IFSC on allowing investment in green bonds, it should be operationalised by the second half of FY25.

Das had said in April after the MPC meeting that FPIs will be allowed to invest and trade in sovereign green bonds in IFSC.

The government has been raising funds through green bonds since 2022-23 and has raised a total of ₹36,000 crore in the last two years.

So far in the current financial year, the government has raised only ₹1,697 crore out of the stipulated ₹12,000 crore scheduled to be raised in the first half ending in September through green bonds as it did not find favourable bids.

LIC to invest ₹1.3L-cr in equities

New Delhi, Aug. 11: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) managing director and chief executive officer Siddhartha Mohanty said that the corporation is looking to make fresh investments of around ₹1.30 lakh crore in equities during the current financial year.

During April-June FY25, the insurance behemoth made an investment of about ₹38,000 crore in shares as against ₹23,300 crore in the same period a year ago.

LIC earned a profit of ₹15,500 crore from its investments in equity markets during the first quarter. The profit from its investment was higher by 13.5 per cent quarter-on-quarter.

"We are surely looking at the markets and price movements. We are looking to invest a good amount at least whatever we had invested in last



financial year. LIC made an investment of around ₹1.32 lakh crore in FY'24," he said.

Market value of LIC's investment in stocks of various companies stood at around ₹15 lakh crore at the end of June, he said. LIC has exposure in 282 companies through investment in their shares as of June 30, 2024.

The assets under management (AUM) increased to ₹53,58,781 crore as at June-end as compared to ₹46.1 lakh crore at the end of same quarter previous

year, registering an increase of 16.22 per cent.

Total investment grew by ₹7.3 lakh crore, from ₹42.4 lakh crore in March 2023 to ₹49.7 lakh crore as on March 31, 2024. Total equity investment portfolio constitute ₹12.3 lakh crore as against ₹8.3 lakh crore in 2022-23, whereas other investments constitute ₹37.3 lakh crore as against ₹34.05 lakh crore in 2022-23.

For June quarter 2024, LIC reported 10 per cent increase in net profit to ₹10,461 crore as against ₹9,544 crore in the year-ago period.

Total income increased to ₹2.1 lakh crore during the latest June quarter as against ₹1.8 lakh crore in the year-ago period.

Total premium income for the quarter increased 16 per cent to ₹1.1 lakh crore as compared to ₹98,363 crore in the same quarter a year ago. —PTI

SOFT PRICES LOWER MARGINS OF CEMENT BIZ

New Delhi, Aug. 11: Leading cement manufacturers reported single-digit volume growth in the June quarter, though their topline was muted on account of continued downturn in the price.

Manufacturers such as UltraTech, Ambuja, ACC, Shree Cements, and Dalmia Bharat - in their latest quarter earnings reported gains in volumes, ranging from 3 to 9 per cent and increase in capacity utilisation.

However, soft cement prices have put their topline under pressure in the April-June period.

The cement price was at around ₹348 per 50 kg bag in June, down around 3 per cent year-on-year. However, this was higher when compared to ₹335 per bag in May. —PTI

SMART DEVICES

Athletes practise against virtual opponents, mimic game scenarios using AR

Tech shaping modern sport, training

New Delhi, Aug. 11: As the Olympic Games draw to a close, the spotlight not only shines on the athletes competing for glory but also on the transformative role technology has played in shaping modern sports and training methodologies. Over the past few years, innovations such as wearable devices, performance analytics, and virtual reality have revolutionised how athletes prepare for competition, enhancing their training regimens and optimising performance.



● EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES are undeniably the future of sports, and at the forefront of this golden era are tech start-ups. These start-ups are driving innovation and setting new standards in the sports industry.

sports and technology is dramatically altering the landscape. From advanced sensors that track physiological metrics to smart equipment that provide real-time feedback, technology has become an

integral part of an athlete's toolkit.

"Technology fits like a glove in the macro fabric of the modern-day ecosystem of sports performance analysis," said Sudeep Kulkarni, founder

and CEO, Game Theory.

The sports industry is increasingly leveraging the power of artificial intelligence (AI) to transform the way performance is analysed and outcomes are predicted, he said.

Athletes can practice against virtual opponents and mimic game circumstances using augmented reality (AR), which aids in developing rapid decision-making under pressure.

Stupa Sports Analytics recently provided analytics support to the Indian table tennis team at a preparatory camp for the

Paris Olympics, which included performance analytics, rally analysis, and AI insights for both players and coaches. "The data helped in articulating strategies to play against the world's best players," said Megha Gambhir, CEO, Stupa Sports Analytics.

Emerging technologies are undeniably the future of sports, and at the forefront of this golden era are tech start-ups. These start-ups are driving innovation and setting new standards in the sports industry. —PTI

EV charging stations rise 9-fold in two years

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, AUG. 11

Electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in India have seen a nine-fold increase in the last two years, rising from 1,800 in February 2022 to 16,347 in March 2024.

By 2030, EVs are projected to make up almost one-third of India's passenger vehicle market. India is projected to have around 50 million EVs on its roads, with a market size expected to reach \$48.6 billion by 2030.

To achieve a ratio of 1-40 EVs to charging infrastructure, India will need to install over 4 lakh chargers yearly, totalling 13.2 lakh chargers by 2030.

"India needs to scale up public charging infra to meet the growing demand and reduce range anxiety," said Rohit Chaturvedi, partner, Forvis Mazars India.

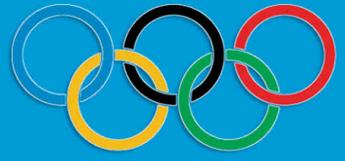
According to Forvis Mazars, India's charging infrastructure demands are unique due to the dominance of two-wheelers and three-wheelers, which primarily utilise



AC slow charging and battery swapping. Four-wheelers and buses require a mix of AC and DC charging solutions. Home and workplace charging is expected to dominate for private two-wheelers and four-wheelers, while commercial fleets will rely on private depots or public charging networks.

The ministry of heavy industries approved 2,877 EV charging stations across multiple states and 1,576 stations on 16 highways and 9 expressways.

Globally, electric car sales surged by 27 per cent in 2023, reaching 130.9 lakh vehicles. This rapid increase underscores the critical need for a robust charging infrastructure to support the growing number of EVs, which totalled more than 400 lakh by 2024.



MEDAL TABLE

COUNTRY	G	S	B	T
USA	40	44	42	126
China	40	27	24	91
Japan	20	12	13	45
Australia	18	19	16	53
France	16	26	22	64
Netherlands	15	7	12	34
Great Britain	14	22	29	65
South Korea	13	9	10	32
Italy	12	13	15	40
Germany	12	13	8	33
India	0	1	5	6

short takes

Eilish, Snoop Dogg at closing ceremony

The closing ceremony for the Paris Olympics will bring out several stars: Billie Eilish, Snoop Dogg and Red Hot Chili Peppers are scheduled to perform Sunday.

The all-star lineup will hit the stage as part of the handover to the 2028 Los Angeles Games. Each of the music artists is a California native, including H.E.R., who is expected to sing the U.S. national anthem live at the Stade de France.

"This is the biggest moment in LA28 history to date, as the Olympic flag passes from Paris to L.A.," said LA28 chairperson Casey Wasserman in a statement.

"We are thrilled to feature the very best of LA with local artists and are grateful to Billie, H.E.R., the Chili Peppers and Snoop for their collaboration on what will be an incredible show to a global audience that will give fans a taste of what's to come in 2028."

The opening ceremony featured Lady Gaga and the return of Celine Dion to the performing stage after her career-threatening stiff person syndrome diagnosis. Los Angeles will host the Olympics for the third time, with previous Games being held there in 1984 and 1932. It will be the first time the city will host the Paralympics.

IOC awards Bindra the Olympic Order

Indian shooting icon Abhinav Bindra was awarded the prestigious Olympic Order in recognition of his "distinguished contribution" to the Olympic movement.

Bindra, who became India's first-ever Olympic individual gold medalist in the 2008 Beijing Games with its top finish in 10m air rifle event, was conferred with the honour by the International Olympic Committee during its 142nd Session here on Saturday.

"When I was a young boy, it was these Olympic rings, which gave meaning to my life," Bindra said.

"And it was a privilege to be able to pursue my Olympic dream for over two decades. Post my athletic career, it has been a great passion of mine to try and contribute back to the Olympic Movement. It has been a privilege and an honour," he added.

The 41-year-old, who is also the vice chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission, said the award will inspire him to continue to work even harder and keep contributing to the Olympic Movement.

Vinesh deserves a silver at least: Dada

Former India cricket captain Sourav Ganguly on Sunday extended his support to wrestler Vinesh Phogat, saying she deserves at least a silver medal for reaching the 50kg freestyle final at the Paris Olympics. The 29-year-old Vinesh was disqualified ahead of the gold-medal bout for being 100gm overweight above the prescribed limit in the morning weigh-in, crushing her Olympic dream. The heartbreak prompted her to announce her retirement from wrestling.

"I don't know the exact rule, but I'm sure that when she reached the finals, she must have qualified properly," Ganguly told reporters when asked for his opinion on the matter on the sidelines of the Kolkata Food Festival.

"So when you go to the finals, it's either a gold or silver medal. Whether she was disqualified wrongfully or not, I don't know, but she deserves the silver medal at least," he added.

Vinesh has appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS), demanding that she be awarded a joint silver medal.



JIVELINE!

Neeraj wants to compete with international javelin stars in India

New Delhi, Aug. 11: Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra hoped to compete with other prominent international names in India sooner than later following his silver medal-winning effort in the Paris Olympics. Chopra bagged the silver at the Paris showpiece with a throw of 89.45m behind Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who hurled the javelin to 92.97m, an Olympic record.

"It's a dream of mine to compete with other international stars in India. Hopefully, there will be an international competition soon in India and I can do that," Chopra said.

But before that, Chopra, whose silver was his second successive Olympic medal after the gold in Tokyo, said he wanted to work on certain areas of his game.

"I am entering a new season now. So, I don't have that much time to change training methods or technique. But I hope to improve upon a couple of areas, especially the line of the javelin."

I am entering a new season now. So, I don't have that much time to change training methods or technique. But I hope to improve upon a couple of areas, especially the line of the javelin.

— NEERAJ CHOPRA

GRAND WELCOME BY FANS MARK NADEEM RETURN

Lahore, Aug. 11: Passionate celebrations by fans and an emotional reunion with his family marked the return of Arshad Nadeem, Pakistan's first individual Olympic gold medalist, after his flight touched base here on Sunday accompanied by water cannon salute.

It was a welcome befitting a national hero as thousands of fans cheered and jostled to get a glimpse of Nadeem, who won the javelin throw gold after finding a distance of 92.97m at the Paris Games.

Upon his arrival, Nadeem embraced his mother, father and elder brother as they garlanded him during an emotional reunion inside the state lounge at the airport.

Later, he also met his other family members and some villagers, who travelled all the way from his home town of Mian Channu in the rural Khanewal area of Punjab Province.

Once Nadeem and his family reached the exit gate of the terminal people, who were carrying placards and posters, rushed to garland him and tried to hoist him on their shoulders.

The rush, in fact, forced the security officials to take him back to the state lounge. The fans were waiting near the arrival terminal of the airport from 9 PM local time although his flight was scheduled to land around 1.29 am early morning from Istanbul. A drove of government ministers and officials were also present at the state lounge to greet and garland Nadeem.

— PTI

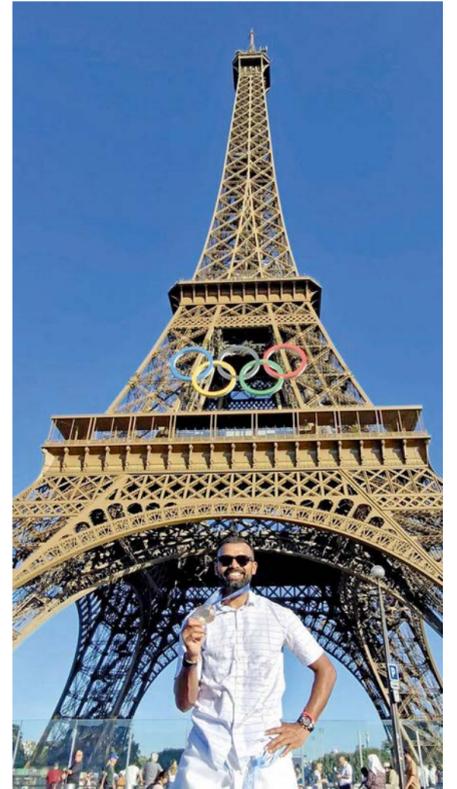
PRaise FOR SREEJESH, MANU

Chopra lauded shooter Manu Bhaker for showing perseverance to grab two bronze medals in the Paris Games after experiencing utter disappointment in the Tokyo edition.

"The way Manu Bhaker prepared her mind and came from her Tokyo setback is impressive. Her mindset appeared to be very strong this time while taking part in back-to-back competitions. I think it's just a start for her because I saw even people over 50 (age) were participating in shooting," he said.

The 26-year-old also hailed Indian hockey team's goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who retired from top-level competition with a bronze at Paris. "He has so many years of experience and he knows how to tackle the pressure situations. He seemed to be in his zone when I met him before the bronze medal match," he said.

— PTI



Indian hockey goalkeeper P. R. Sreejesh poses with his bronze medal wearing Kerala's traditional mundu (lungi) in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris on Sunday.

SREEJESH FEELS SOMEONE WILL REPLACE HIM SOON

Paris, Aug. 11: Just-retired P. R. Sreejesh, who stood like a wall defending the goal for nearly two decades before bowing out on a high with a second Olympic hockey bronze medal here, believes India has talent aplenty to find a suitable replacement for him.

Sreejesh, 36, stood rock solid in India's campaign at the Olympics and played a key role in their hard-fought 2-1 victory against Spain in the bronze-medal match.

"There won't be a vacuum. Someone will come in my place, for sure. All the sports are like that. Sachin Tendulkar was there and now there is Virat Kohli, and someone will take his place tomorrow. So, Sreejesh was there yesterday, but someone else will come and take his place tomorrow," the goalkeeper stalwart said here.

Sreejesh, who has been offered to take up a mentoring role in the Indian junior team set-up, said that all these years his life had revolved around hockey and now that he has retired, he doesn't know what he will do.

"It's like missing my life. I don't know anything other than hockey. From the first day I went to the camp in 2002 until now, I've been with them. I don't know what all I will miss; maybe when I'm home, I will figure out. From morning, I'm out with them — training, gym, on the field — there is always a fun atmosphere. The celebration days after a win or crying together after a loss, it's been my life," he said.

YET TO DECIDE ON COACHING

Sreejesh said that he will speak to his family before deciding on taking up the job of junior national coach offered by Hockey India (HI). HI president Dilip Tirkey and secretary-general Bhola Nath Singh have said that Sreejesh is set to become the junior India coach. "I just got the offer. I spoke to Bhola sir. It's just time to head back home now, speak with my family and take a decision," Sreejesh said.

— PTI

SHINING STARS OF PARIS OLYMPICS

Paris, Aug. 11: There were many contenders to be crowned stars of the 2024 Olympic Games which wrap up on Sunday. Look at six of the best:

SIMONE BILES

Biles proved as popular a draw as the Eiffel Tower, the 1.42m bundle of brilliance standing tall on her return to the Olympics after the trauma of Tokyo. In Japan she was forced to withdraw from most of the Games with a debilitating mental block known as the "twisties". Three years on, watched by an enraptured full house at Bercy Arena including her husband, NFL player Jonathan Owens, Tom Cruise and Lady Gaga, Biles resumed the gold run she had begun at Rio 2016.

The 27-year-old pipped Rebeca Andrade for the coveted all-around crown on her last tumble on the floor. That was book-ended by titles with the US team and vault — where she executed her Yurchenko double pike, the Biles II, her sixth eponymous skill.

Stumbles on the final day as tiredness — both mentally and physically — set in left her with silver behind Andrade on the floor. In a mark of her class as a person she bowed to the Brazilian on the podium.



Simon Biles

LEON MARCHAND

A new star was born in the Paris pool with Leon Marchand enthralling packed houses at La Defense Arena by completing a feat not seen since the days of Michael Phelps.

The 22-year-old emphatically won all four of his individual races — the 200m butterfly, 200m breaststroke and 200m-400m medley double.

It thrust him into elite company as the first male swimmer to do so at a single Games since the American legend in 2008.

In an ominous warning, Marchand said "it's only the beginning", with his sights already set on Los Angeles in 2028.



Leon Marchand

NOAH LYLES

Lyles arrived in Paris shouting about wanting to cement his legacy as the rightful heir to Usain Bolt. The American did win a 100 metres that will live long in the memory, edging Kishane Thompson of Jamaica by five thousandths of a second.

But he looked out of sorts in the 200m as Letsile



Noah Lyles



Novak Djokovic



Antoine Dupont

ANTOINE DUPONT

Half-time at a packed Stade de France and two-time Olympic champions Fiji looked in control against the hosts in the rugby sevens final. Enter Antoine Dupont.

Dupont, arguably the world's greatest 15-a-side player, had started on the bench so he could make the maximum impact with fresh legs in this high-octane sport. That impact was immediate. Dupont then scored two tries of his own to bring home the gold 28-7, in a fevered atmosphere that even seasoned commentators said they had never experienced at a rugby match.

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

At the age of 37, Novak Djokovic finally won an Olympic gold medal to go along with his 24 Grand Slam titles.

The Serb defeated Carlos Alcaraz, 16 years his junior, in a memorable final at Roland Garros where he has already been crowned French Open champion three times.

Djokovic achieved his dream the hard way — having to defeat career-long rival Rafael Nadal in the second round in the pair's 60th meeting.

He then overcame aggravating a knee injury which had needed surgery in June during his quarter-final win over Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Djokovic said he wants to defend his title at the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles when he will be 41.

THE CROWDS

Any doubts about the French crowd's commitment to the Olympics were dispelled by the huge roar the first-time swim sensation Marchand dived into the La Defense pool.

The French and fans from around the world also turned the spectacular beach volleyball venue next to the Eiffel Tower into a party every night that lit up millions of Instagram accounts.

— AFP

IOC CHIEF BACH SAYS WILL NOT SEEK 3RD TERM

Paris, Aug. 11: International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach said at the Paris Games on Saturday he will not seek to remain in charge for a third term.

"New times are calling for new leaders," the 70-year-old German lawyer, who has led the Olympic movement since 2013, told a session of IOC members in the French capital.

Bach said he was asked to stay in his role but insisted he would not attempt to extend his mandate by changing the Olympic charter that limits the president to a maximum of 12 years in the role.

His successor will be elected during the IOC's 143rd session in Greece on March 18 to 21, 2025.

— AFP

Published by K. Sudhakar for and on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Jawaharalal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002. and Printed by him at BFL Infotech Limited, C-9, Sector - III, Noida - 201301. Editor - Kaushik Mitter, RNI Registration number 57290/94 Price in Nepal - Rs.20.00 per copy.