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NEARBY



Mob attacks policemen in Muzaffarpur district

PATNA
A video in which a group of villagers are seen thrashing some policemen in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar went viral on social media on Sunday. The villagers turned violent after the bodies of two local youths who were missing for the last two days, were found in a rivulet outside the village. The incident took place at Madhuban Desi village on Friday.

NATION

Minor domestic help rescued

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Commission for Women on Sunday said it had rescued a minor girl who had been working as a domestic help at a house in Ashok Vihar. The DCW had received an anonymous call on its women helpline number, 181.

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4 PAGES

Trump calls off secret talks with Taliban

U.S. President criticises bomb attack in Kabul

MICHAEL CROWLEY
LARA JAKES
MUJIB MASHAL
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump said on Saturday that he had cancelled a secret meeting at Camp David with Taliban leaders and the President of Afghanistan and was calling off months-long negotiations that had appeared to be nearing a peace agreement.

"Unbeknownst to almost everyone," Mr. Trump wrote in a series of tweets, Taliban leaders and Afghan Presi-



A trigger: A U.S. soldier was one of the victims of the car bomb explosion in Kabul on Thursday. •AP

dent Ashraf Ghani were headed to the United States on Saturday for a meeting at the President's official Camp David retreat in Maryland.

But Mr. Trump said that "in order to build false leverage," the Taliban had admitted to a suicide car bomb attack on Thursday that had

killed a U.S. soldier and 11 others in Kabul. "I immediately cancelled the meeting and called off peace negotiations," he wrote.

"If they cannot agree to a ceasefire during these very important peace talks, and would even kill 12 innocent people, then they probably don't have the power to negotiate a meaningful agreement anyway," Mr. Trump added. "How many more decades are they willing to fight?"

A senior official said the meeting had been planned for Monday. NY TIMES

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AFGHANS CAUTIOUS ▶ PAGE 14

100 days on, BJP showcases action on Jammu & Kashmir

Cong. points to mismanagement of economy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Cornered on the state of the economy with the GDP at a six-year-low of 5%, the Narendra Modi government, celebrating the first 100 days of its second tenure, showcased the withdrawal of provisions of Article 370 and Article 35A as its biggest achievement.

But the Congress tried to pin it down on the dire state of the economy.

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar, addressing a press conference on the occasion, said the biggest de-

cision by way of revoking Article 370 and Article 35A was to ensure that Jammu and Kashmir is no longer sequestered from the rest of the country.

"Modi government 2.0 in its first 100 days has made historic and landmark decisions, with speed, be it Jammu and Kashmir or decisions regarding Unlawful Activities Prevention Act or reflections on the state of the economy," he said.

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READY TO TACKLE ANY CHALLENGE: MODI ▶ PAGE 12

We won't dilute Art. 371, Shah assures NE States

He says the special provisions will stay

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday assured the northeastern States that the Centre would never touch Article 371 of the Constitution that grants special provisions to the region.

Mr. Shah, also the Chairman of the North Eastern Council (NEC), gave the assurance in his inaugural address at the 68th plenary session of the NEC here.

The meeting was attended by the Governors, the Chief Ministers and officials

of the eight northeastern States. "There is a vast difference between Article 370 and Article 371," the Home Minister said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Chandrayaan-2 orbiter spots lander on moon

ISRO chief Sivan confirms hard landing of module

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU
Chandrayaan-2's lander Vikram has been located on the lunar surface and it must have been a hard-landing, ISRO Chairman K. Sivan said on Sunday.

"Yes, we have located the lander on the lunar surface. It must have been a hard-landing," Dr. Sivan told PTI.

The image of the rover Pragyan, housed in the lander, was captured by the camera on the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter, which is safe and functioning normally in the intended orbit around the moon.

The orbiter camera is the highest resolution camera (0.3m) in any lunar mission so far.

The pictures are among the early images sent later on Saturday by the main Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft, which continues to orbit the moon from pole to pole from a 100-km distance.

The lander was spotted some distance away - possibly half a kilometre - from its intended touchdown point. The originally chosen region was about 70° south of the lunar equator and about 600 km from the lunar South Pole.

The lander module had lost communication with ground stations, just 2.1 km

Slip before touchdown

A television screen-grab of the descent trajectory of Chandrayaan-2's Vikram lander shows deviation at an altitude of 2.1 km from the lunar surface

Damage likely
Asked if the lander was "damaged" during the "hard landing", Dr. Sivan said, "That we do not know."

However, space experts have said the lander suffer-

ing damage in the hard landing could not be ruled out.

"It may not have landed at a desired level of velocity. It may not have landed on its four legs. Impact shock may have caused damage to the lander," an official at the space agency said.

"When the system does not work well, it [the lander] will go and hit the moon. There is no ambiguity in that," another veteran space expert said.

(With inputs from Madhumati D.S.)

VIKRAM MAY NOT SPRING BACK TO LIFE ▶ PAGE 13
SO CLOSE, YET SO FAR ▶ EDITORIAL

Gangster gunned down in Narela

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A gangster was gunned down by a group of assailants in north Delhi's Narela on Sunday in what appears to be a case of gang war.

They shot the victim over 20 times, the police said

"More than 40 rounds were fired at the car. It all happened about 200 metres from the Narela police station," said an eyewitness. The victim was involved in 13 heinous crimes, including murder and robbery.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 3

Ram Jethmalani passes away at 95

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI
Ram Jethmalani, twice Law Minister, criminal lawyer, jurist, teacher, litigator and parliamentarian who relished the epithet "unchanged and unrepentant maverick", passed away at

95 on Sunday.

Mr. Jethmalani remains an enigma in modern times as he was a man who spoke and acted out of personal conviction.

"I do not claim to be inflexible, but even my most trenchant critics would not

deny that I speak and act out of personal conviction. I write also to stir debate and have the humility to retract my views when bested in such debates," he wrote in *Maverick Unchanged and Unrepentant*.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 12

5 journalists in U.P. booked for circulating 'fake news'

Targeted for factual reporting: mediapersons

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD
The Uttar Pradesh police booked five journalists in Bijnor on Friday for allegedly circulating fake news reports. In an FIR filed by the Bijnor police, two journalists, one working with a local daily and another engaged with a TV news channel, have been named, along with three unidentified reporters.

The FIR said Ashish Tomar and Shakil Ahmed tried to vitiate social amity by circulating fake news about a Valmiki family from Titarwala Basi village by putting up their house for sale after not being allowed to collect water from the village hand pump by an influential Dalit family from the same village.

The police said the issue had been resolved by the police and the village 'pradhan.'

One journalist had put the "house for sale" message on the wall to present the local administration in a bad light.

The FIR quoted Lokesh Devi, wife of Gopal Valmiki, stating that the journalists had asked her to paint the "for sale" information.

When she said she was illiterate, one of them wrote it on the wall with a wooden stick and coal powder. However, the news report mentioned Premchand Valmiki as the head of the family.

The journalists have been booked under Sections 153 A (promoting enmity), 268 (nuisance) and 503 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC and Section 66A of the IT Act.

Protest police action
The journalists stand by their story and on Saturday several local mediapersons held a meeting against the police action, alleging that the scribes were being targeted for factual reporting.

When it was pointed out that the name that appeared in the news report and the one in the FIR did not match, Bijnor SP Sanjeev Tyagi told *The Hindu* that the house on which the "for sale" message was written belonged to Lokesh Devi.

Mr. Tyagi admitted that there was a clash between two groups over collection of water from the hand pump, adding that the investigation was on.

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