

# THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER 2019

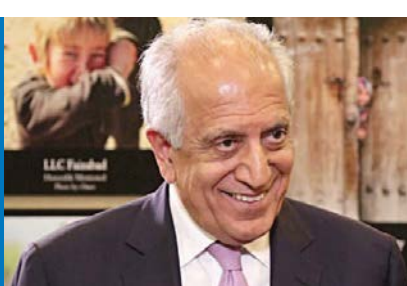
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## NATION | Politics

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

Vol. 26 No. 289 | 32 PAGES | ₹5.00

## WINDOWS



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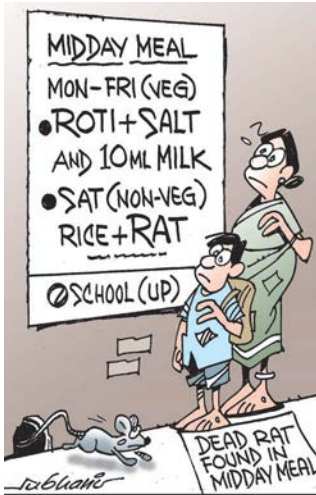
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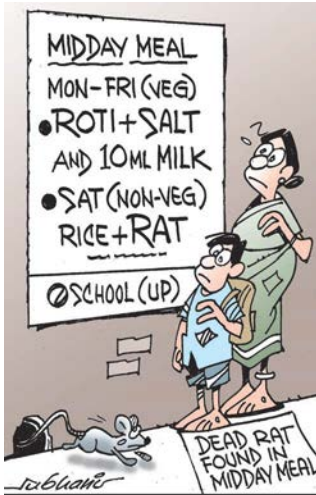
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A textile that has electronic circuitry woven into the fabric

The capability to detect the exact or relative location of a device, particularly a wireless device

# Why does *Panipat* the movie make Afghans see red? It's simply history



Abhijit Bhattacharyya

**No foreign invader is praised as a hero by those who fall victim in their own land. A foreign invader will be portrayed as a villain, and (in)appropriate adjectives will be used. If one turns the pages of history, India stands out as one of the worst sufferers.**

A news item that "Afghanistan raises alarm over reel on Third Battle of Panipat" appeared puzzling to this writer. What is the reason behind Afghan "sensitivities surrounding the upcoming Indian movie *Panipat* that focuses on emperor Ahmad Shah Abdali", or the "perceived insult to an Afghan king" be dealt with by the state? It was certainly avoidable.

It was reported that "there are perceptions that Ahmad Shah Abdali, prompting sharp reactions from many Afghan citizens". But as a student of world affairs, one can say with conviction that Afghanistan need not be extra-sensitive on a movie based on a real battle fought on Indian soil 258 years ago. A bloody battle with far-reaching consequences on the course of Indian history and psyche of people, which cannot be ignored or wished away. In reality, the sensitivities of Indians far outweigh the Afghan admiration for Ahmad Shah Abdali, the multiple foreign invader of India. It would be best if eminent Afghans don't make an issue of mid-18th century history in the 21st century. Let the filmmakers depict history, and let not the 258-year-old confrontation between two characters not be turned into a diplomatic wrangle between the peoples of two friendly nations.

Let's rewind the clock of Indian history to revisit the facts. The Third Battle of Panipat was fought on Indian soil, on the banks of the Yamuna, on Wednesday, January 14, 1761 between two belligerents from Afghanistan and India. Factually, the Afghans were indisputably invaders of a foreign territory and the Marathas were trying to establish their rule over the tottering Mughals of a shrinking Delhi durbar. Hence, if history, real or reel, castigates an invader, one should take it in one's stride and not make a huge issue out of it.

The British directly ruled over India for 89 years; from 1858 to 1947. Indians have castigated several members of the British ruling class, which has been adequately documented. Should the British take offence? There is no ground for that, as they know they came to India, from 8,000 km away, to rule by force. They had no business to be here to oppress and suppress Indians, taking advantage of internal squabbles of various shades.

In Europe, Hitler remains a hated and reviled character, and all signs and symbols connected with the Nazis are abhorred and eschewed. Non-Germans who suffered at Hitler's hands have nasty words to say about Hitler's Germany and its brute force. Do Germans feel humiliated or make issue

with non-Germans? No. Far from it. In fact, they too join in disowning Hitler and his henchmen. So much so, virtually every German feels unabashedly apologetic about the incalculable harm Hitler caused to the whole of Europe, resulting in the psyche of a "collective guilt complex".

The point is that no foreign invader is praised as hero by those who fall victim in their own land. Any foreign invader will be portrayed as a villain, and (in)appropriate adjectives will be used. If one turns the pages of history, India stands out as one of the worst sufferers. It has faced at least 40 major foreign invasions in the past 1,000 years alone; making it one in every 25 years. No sooner was independent India born on August 15, 1947, within 69 days took place an invasion through the northwest by Pakistan-organised Pashtuns, Waziris, Afridis and other tribals. The invasion of India by the Pakistani Army-ISI duo continues till date. Can Indians ever portray these invaders as heroes? Should diplomatic niceties be breached for making a statement of fact?

Chinese dictator Mao Zedong had invaded India in 1962, with-

out any provocation, and over 10,000 Indian soldiers died in the high Himalayas. Mao may be a hero to Chinese President Xi Jinping, but he is a villain to me.

Seen in juxtaposition; if Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi of Kathiawad had, on back of his (Chetak-type) favourite horse, personally led an army of two lakh soldiers to invade Kabul, Kandahar, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif eight times, between 1920 and 1939, and killed thousands of Afghans aged five to 105 years, looted, destroyed and come back to India with 50,000 women and children as slaves, as a victory trophy, and died in 1948, how would he be judged by the Afghan successors of those massacred by the Gandhi regiment? Hero or villain? That says it all! So let's go through Ahmad Shah Abdali's list of invasions, beyond Afghanistan, east of the Indus river, spanning Punjab and India's capital, New Delhi.

Ahmad Shah Abdali first invaded India as Nadir Shah's junior commander in 1739 and participated in mass murder in Delhi. He detected "the weakness of the Mughal Empire, and the imbecility of the Emperor". After Nadir Shah's death, Ahmad Shah Abdali revived Afghan power, conquering Kandahar, Kabul, Peshawar and then invaded India in 1748. However, he was defeated at the battle of Manpur. Abdali invaded Punjab a second time, in 1750, and won. In the third invasion, 1751, he captured Kashmir and forced Mughal emperor Ahmad Shah to cede territory around Sirhind.

Abdali's fourth invasion, in November 1756, brought him to the gates of Delhi: "the imperial city was plundered and its unhappy people again subjected to pillage". He also plundered "Jat country, south of Delhi,

and retired April 1757". Abdali's fifth invasion, in October 1759, resulted in the conquest of the whole of Punjab; and this constituted a virtual ultimatum to the Marathas, who were planning post-Mughal political supremacy over Hindustan.

Understandably, this led to the sixth invasion of India by the Afghan Abdali of Kandahar, resulting in the Third Battle of Panipat on January 14, 1761, with the indigenous Maratha regiment under the Peshwa. Indisputably, in one of the bloodiest single-day battles on Indian soil, the Marathas were battered. They were never the same again. Afghan Abdali power too was gone, notwithstanding his two further invasions of India, in 1764 and 1767. It was a pyrrhic defeat for Indians and an equally pyrrhic "victory" for the invading Afghans on the soil of Hindustan.

In this background, if Indians portray the Kandahari Abdali as a bloodthirsty foreign invader who repeatedly resorted to invasions and inflicted immense misery on the people of India, one doesn't see any reason for anyone to feel bad, humiliated or insulted. Reality speaks and bites. Invaders like Hitler, Mussolini, Nadir Shah, Ahmad Shah Abdali, Taimur Lang and Kublai Khan will always be reviled; and no successor, in light of mass murder of predecessors, can be expected to praise foreign invader(s). Thus, foreign invaders will always have a dual place in history; one as a hero in his native place and another as a villain abroad, where he had carried out his acts of violence and misery.

*The writer is an alumnus of the National Defence College and is the author of China in India*

# Season of revolts across the world is likely to continue



Mahir Ali

If there's a common theme that runs through the plethora of mostly spontaneous popular mobilisations that have rocked several continents in recent months, it's corruption. It takes multiple forms, and tends to inspire revolts when it reaches some kind of critical mass. The triggers vary from one country to the next. In Lebanon, for instance, it was a proposed charge on WhatsApp calls, in Chile it was a small increase in metro fares, in Iran it was an unexpected spike in petroleum prices, in Hong Kong it was the prospect of suspects being extradited to mainland China.

In Iraq, it was a more general sense of ennuï propelled by relentless administrative incompetence that prompted initially peaceful protests, which have led to the most horrific death toll in any of the recent revolts.

Malta stands out insofar as the promised resignation of its Prime Minister is the consequence of a criminal inquiry into the assassination of a journalist two years ago. Even there, though, the murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia was prompted by her fearless determination to delve into deep-seated corruption at the highest levels of government.

She named and shamed, among others, a senior minister as well as the Prime Minister's chief of staff in the wake of the Panama Papers revelations. Both have finally resigned, Malta's richest businessman has been charged with complicity in the murder, and Prime Minister Joseph Muscat — himself a former journalist, ironically — has agreed to step down once his party picks a replacement.

That scenario, too, is frequently replicated. In Lebanon, for instance, the protesters succeeded where the Saudi crown prince had failed in securing Saad Hariri's resignation, but he remains ensconced as Prime Minister in a caretaker capacity, and for the time being it seems that a change of face will eventually be engineered within the discredited power structure that the street marchers have been militating against.

A similar scenario appears to be unfolding in Iraq, where Parliament has approved Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi's resignation, but the prospect of a replacement could play out for months — and it anyhow defeats the purpose of the revolting masses, whose chief gripe is against the post-Saddam political system put in place by the US and, inevitably, co-opted by Iran.

Iranian symbols have come under attack, and the myth of Tehran's mystical hold over Iraqi Shias has demonstrably been shattered. But the systemic deliverance being demanded by often fearless demonstrators does not automatically follow. The US sanctions against Iran, which a handful of European nations are gradually finding ways to dodge, no doubt account to a considerable extent for the faltering economy. But unemployed young Iranians — who are legion — are also impressed by their government's tendency to devote substantial resources to throwing its weight about in Iraq, Lebanon and Syria, at the expense of domestic investment that could conceivably revive the economy.

Iran may be one of the only countries, perhaps alongside Egypt, where recent protests have prompted outright repression without recompense or accommodations. Even elsewhere, although concessions have been made, the kind of change that the angry populace desires seems remote.

Arguably, the sole exception has been Bolivia, where regime change has been effected through a right-wing coup, following allegations of electoral malpractices that largely remain unsubstantiated. Even there, fresh elections have been promised, but no one can guarantee that they will be fair or free. In Chile, there is finally the prospect of a post-Pinochet constitution. But how that process will play out under the ruthless presidency of Sebastian Pinerá remains to be seen. Overall, in the wake of almost universally inadequate to the popular impetus for systemic change, it seems likely that the lately witnessed season of revolt will not only slip into 2020 but substantially widen its remit.

By arrangement with Dawn

# On the meanings behind Advent symbols



Dominic Emmanuel

ing where Jesus was born, Advent season too has its own special symbols.

As the most important of Advent symbols, an especially prepared wreath is placed in prominent places in churches, institutions and homes. It is not your normal wreath but is decorated with four candles of different colours. Its use during Advent is a long-standing Catholic tradition originally adopted in the Middle Ages to make spiritual preparation for Christmas.

The evergreens in the wreath mean continuous life. The circle signifying no beginning or end symbolises the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul and the everlasting life one eventually discovers in Christ. The pine cones that decorate the wreath symbolise life and resurrection. The wreath reminds us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us



through Christ.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the colour violet is a liturgical colour that signifies a time of prayer, penance and sacrifice.

The first candle, purple in colour, symbolises hope, remembering also the prophecies made about the birth of Christ in the Old Testament. The second candle, also purple, represents faith and reminds us of Jesus' parents Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem for the census ordered by emperor Augustus. The third candle is pink and symbolises joy. Similarly, the third Sunday of Advent is known "Gaudete" (joyful) Sunday and reminds us of the joy the world is expected to experience at Jesus' birth. It is the midpoint of Advent. On the fourth week of Advent,

the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance awaiting the birth of the Saviour. This candle symbolises peace, reminding of the message to the angels: "Peace on earth, goodwill toward all people." Some people have now started to also add an extra white candle placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Eve.

The significance of the Advent season is to help people prepare their hearts and minds spiritually for the unique event of God taking on an incarnation in the form of the person of Jesus. The faithful are helped in doing this by the appropriate set of prayers and hymns. They are also encouraged to meditate on the selected Bible passages that speak of the Messiah's advent in the world.

**Father Dominic Emmanuel,**  
a founder-member of the Parliament of Religions, can be contacted at [frdominic@gmail.com](mailto:frdominic@gmail.com)



















## Arthur at helm

Seasoned South African Mickey Arthur is set to take over as Sri Lanka's new national cricket coach on a two-year contract with Grant Flower and David Sekar as his support staff



Members of Team India train in Hyderabad ahead of the first T20I against West Indies.

— S. Surender Reddy



Maybe one day I will get another chance to knock 400 off.

— David Warner, Australian opener believes he will get another chance to have a crack at Brian Lara's world record score

### SHORT TAKES

#### BCCI Apex Council gets its CAG rep

New Delhi: The BCCI will have senior India Audit and Accounts Service officer Alka Rehani Bhardwaj as the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) representative in its Apex Council as per the new constitution approved by the Supreme Court. Rehani Bhardwaj is a 1993 batch IA&AS officer and is currently serving as a Director of Regional Training Institute in Mumbai. Vikram Murugaraj, Principal Director (Personnel) of CAG, in a letter informed Rehani Bhardwaj of the "competent authority" nominating her as one of the councillors in the Indian cricket board's all powerful apex council. As per the SC-approved BCCI constitution passed on August 9, 2018, the apex council will constitute a representative of the CAG as its member. Accordingly, Rehani Bhardwaj will officially become the first government nominee in a BCCI working group. "The BCCI is in receipt of a letter from Office of CAG about Alka Rehani Bhardwaj's appointment. We believe she would be present from the next Apex Council meeting," a BCCI source said on conditions of anonymity. — PTI



Bob Willis

#### Former England captain Willis dies

London: Former England captain and fearsome pace bowler Bob Willis has died aged 70, his family announced on Wednesday. Willis, who captained his country between 1982 and 1984, played in 90 Test matches with his most memorable performance taking eight for 43 in the Australian second innings of the third Ashes Test in 1981. "We are heartbroken to lose our beloved Bob, who was an incredible husband, father, brother and grandfather," read the Willis family statement. "He made a huge impact on everybody he knew and we will miss him terribly." — AFP

#### ROHIT ONE HIT AWAY FROM A MILESTONE

New Delhi: Rohit Sharma is just one six away from becoming the first Indian to reach 400 sixes in international cricket. He will also become just the third player overall to cross the milestone after former Pakistan and West Indies captains Shahid Afridi (476 sixes) and Chris Gayle (534 sixes). Rohit has been a stalwart for India at the top of the order in limited overs cricket. While his Test career did not hit the same heights for a long time, the Indian team's decision to let him open the batting seems to have done the trick. In his first series as India's Test opener against South Africa in October, Rohit broke the record for most sixes hit during a Test series by hitting 19 maximums. He scored a whopping 529 runs in four innings which included a maiden Test double ton. Rohit will next be seen when India take on the West Indies in a limited overs series starting here on December 6. The two sides first play a three-match T20I series and that will be followed by an ODI series consisting of as many matches. Speaking to the media, Greenfield International Stadium pitch curator Biju said that two pitches have been readied and has been cleared by the ICC representatives. — Agencies

# Not here to replace Hardik: Dube

GANDHARV KAMALA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

For someone who gave up playing cricket from the crucial ages of 13 to 17, to being a part of the Indian men's side at 26, Shivam Dube's ascent to the top has been rapid. Ever since he went from 110 to 75kg — within a year — the Mumbai-born all-rounder has stood out with his consistent performances in the domestic circuit, India 'A' and the recently concluded Vijay Hazare Trophy. After collecting the Man of the Series award at the end of the four-day game series for India 'A' in the West Indies, the match-winning knocks against South Africa 'A' at home and the quick-fire 67-ball 118 against Karnataka in Vijay Hazare, Shivam started knocking on the senior team's door. The timing was perfect too. With India's fast bowling all-rounder, Hardik Pandya, out since September 22, the Men in Blue needed a fast bowling all-rounder, someone who could change the innings lower down the order. And in came Shivam. But the Mumbaikar has plans of his own. "I don't think I am looking to replace anyone. I don't see this — being a part of the Indian team — as an opportunity to replace Hardik Pandya. I have got a job at hand and that is to do well for my country. I think I am capable enough to make a mark of my own."

a confident Shivam said. On being asked if there is a new regime he is following to maintain the international standards of fitness, he said, "I am not doing anything different from what I used to do while playing in the domestic circuit or for India 'A'. Being an all-rounder, I have to maintain higher standards of fitness because I have to perform at my best in both batting as well as bowling." In the previous series against Bangladesh, the all-rounder picked three wickets giving away 55 runs. But the six-footer is confident of putting up a good show in the T20 series against Windies, starting on Friday. "I know the opposition (West Indies) have some powerful hitters in their batting order but we have done our homework and know how to handle them. At the moment, this Indian team is the best team in the world and we will win this series," he concluded.



All-rounder Shivam Dube during a training session in Hyderabad.

— S. Surender Reddy

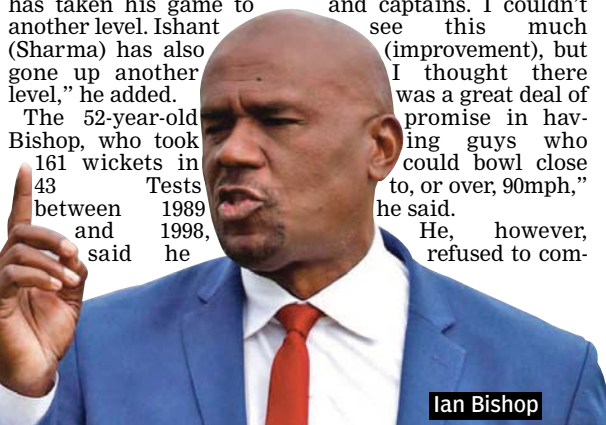
I have got a job at hand and that is to do well for my country. I think I am capable enough to make a mark of my own.

— SHIVAM DUBE, India all-rounder

## Bishop hails India's pace revolution

New Delhi, Dec. 4: Former West Indies speedster Ian Bishop says the foundation of India's "another level" fast bowling unit was laid by the likes of legendary Kapil Dev and built on by current captain Virat Kohli, who believes in the attack. He said Kohli's passion to put together a strong fast-bowling unit has made it easier to build on the foundation that Kapil laid. "Let's remember that this group of bowlers did not emanate right now. The foundation was laid — if you go back to Kapil (Dev) and down the line, Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan, Munaf Patel, Sreesanth," Bishop said in an interview with 'ESPNCricinfo'. "Now it's been built on

with a captain who likes fast bowlers, who believes in them. But also the fact that you've found a generational talent in Jasprit Bumrah. "Generational because he plays all formats of the game very well. And (Mohd.) Shami has taken his game to another level. Ishant (Sharma) has also gone up another level," he added. The 52-year-old Bishop, who took 161 wickets in 43 Tests between 1989 and 1998, said he couldn't have predicted that India's fast bowlers would come to the Caribbean and do to the West Indians what they did to others decades ago. "So credit to Bharath Arun, the bowling coach, and the administrators and captains. I couldn't see this much (improvement), but I thought there was a great deal of promise in having guys who could bowl close to, or over, 90mph," he said. He, however, refused to compare the Indian unit to the fearsome West Indians of the past. "Well, they have been performing that well that the comparisons are going to come. I would want to stay away from it, because I don't know how you measure it. "When people talk about (Michael) Holding and (Joel) Garner and (Malcolm) Marshall and (Colin) Croft and (Andy) Roberts — who bowled together for so many years — how do you compare with that?" he asked. Bishop was also reluctant to pick the best among the current crop of fast bowlers in the world. "There are so many. Jofra Archer. I almost feel when he's on song that it's the perfect streamlined technique." — PTI



Ian Bishop

## Kohli regains No.1 spot in Test as Smith slips a rung

Dubai, Dec. 4: India captain Virat Kohli on Wednesday regained the top spot in the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Test rankings after Australian Steve Smith slipped a rung in the latest list issued here. Kohli, who had struck a fine 136 in the day-night Kolkata Test against Bangladesh last week to reach 928 points, is now five points clear after Smith's knock of 36 in the Adelaide Test against Pakistan saw him slip to 923 points from 931 before the match. Cheteshwar Pujara has held on to his fourth spot, while Ajinkya Rahane has come down a spot to sixth in the latest update. Among the bowlers, Jasprit Bumrah is the highest-placed Indian at the fifth position. Senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin was also static at ninth in the rankings. "Australia opener David Warner's epic 335 not out has lifted him 12 places to the fifth position while Marnus Labuschagne is in the top 10 for the first time after being ranked as low as 110th at the start of the year," the ICC said in a statement. Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc is another Australia player to gain in the latest rankings, which also takes into account performances in the drawn New Zealand-England Test in Hamilton and the one in Lucknow that saw the West Indies defeat Afghanistan by nine wickets. — PTI

pare the Indian unit to the fearsome West Indians of the past. "Well, they have been performing that well that the comparisons are going to come. I would want to stay away from it, because I don't know how you measure it. "When people talk about (Michael) Holding and (Joel) Garner and (Malcolm) Marshall and (Colin) Croft and (Andy) Roberts — who bowled together for so many years — how do you compare with that?" he asked. Bishop was also reluctant to pick the best among the current crop of fast bowlers in the world. "There are so many. Jofra Archer. I almost feel when he's on song that it's the perfect streamlined technique." — PTI



Virat Kohli

## Windies rope in Monty as coach ahead of series

Hyderabad, Dec. 4: The West Indies on Wednesday named Monty Desai as their batting coach ahead of the limited-overs series against India beginning here on Friday. Desai, who has been handed a two-year contract, has joined the team here before the first T20 International on Friday. He has held coaching roles with Afghanistan, Nepal, Canada, Indian regional teams and former IPL sides Rajasthan Royals and Gujarat Lions in a career of over 12 years. He was most recently the batting coach of the UAE team.



Monty Desai

"Desai joined the West Indies ahead of the start of the T20 International Series against India, which bowls off on Friday, December 6 at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Hyderabad," the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) said in a statement. — PTI

The series against India comprises three T20 Internationals followed by an equal number of one-dayers. West Indies head coach Phil Simmons said: "I have worked with Monty before and he is an excellent coach. He has proven he has the ability to get players to improve on their talent and also to perform better in matches. "He has vast knowledge of the game and it is good he is starting here with us in India. I look forward to seeing him work with our batsmen in all formats as we look to get better in all areas." — PTI

## Now, a coach is arrested

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, DEC. 4

The fixing saga around the Karnataka Premier League refuses to die down as another case came into the spotlight on Wednesday. Bengaluru city police arrested Sudhindra Shinde, the coach of Belagavi Panthers, on charges of match-fixing on Wednesday. "The arrests so far are backed by a lot of evidences. On the basis of it, we are arresting them. Sudhindra Shinde has been arrested on the basis of evidences," Bengaluru police commissioner Bhaskar Rao said. The Central Crime Branch which is probing the matter had grilled Shinde for two days and has finally been arrested.

Explaining how the process went about, Sandeep Patil, Joint Commissioner (Crime) said that the accused Shinde ran a Social Cricket Club in Jayanagar. Ashfaq Thar Ali, the owner of Belagavi Panthers visited the club and sponsored players and those players went on to find places in various KPL teams and help fix the matches. Shinde had appeared before the CCB (Central Crime Branch) for questioning on Tuesday but refused to answer any questions. There were contradictions to his statements and the witness statements and findings of the investigation. His house was also raided by the CCB two days ago.

### KPL FIXING

Sudhindra Shinde Shinde is a member of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) managing committee from the Raichur zone and coaches the Karnataka Under-19 cricket team. Police seek help The police commissioner has asked the cricketers to come forward and assist the investigation in the Karnataka Premier League and not wait for the police to come and knock on the doors. "Do not wait until the police knock on your doors" he said. Hinting that there are more people involved in the scam, the police commissioner implored the players to turn approvers and gain immunity in bargain. "Under CRPC (Code of criminal procedure), the players can become approvers and help the police in the investigation. There are many more involved in the scam. The players can give the information and could prevent the arrests," he maintained. The latest turn of events follow on the heels of the arrest of Ballari Tuskers players CM Gautam and Abrar Kazi who was arrested last month for match-fixing.



Abdul Razzaq

## Bumrah is a baby bowler, says Razzaq

Karachi, Dec. 4: Former Pakistan all-rounder Abdul Razzaq has said that had he been active till now, he would have "easily dominated and attacked baby bowler" Jasprit Bumrah. The 40-year-old, who has played 46 Tests, 265 ODIs and 32 T20Is for Pakistan, said having faced world-class bowlers like Australia's Glenn McGrath and compatriot Wasim Akram, it would be easy to counter Bumrah. "I have played against great bowlers like Glenn McGrath and Wasim Akram, so Bumrah is a baby bowler in front of me and I could have easily dominated and attacked him," Razzaq said. — PTI

## Simmons says Virat's wicket is key

Hyderabad, Dec. 4: West Indies coach Phil Simmons says his bowlers will have to avoid being "too scared" of Virat Kohli when they take on India in a limited-overs series as it will make it a difficult task of getting the Indian skipper out, tougher. Stating that Kohli is a "difficult proposition" to dismiss, Simmons jovially listed some out of the box ideas to get Kohli out. "One, I can make him bat with a stump. Two, we can sign a book and in the ODIs, we can give him a 100 and bowl at the rest of the players or we can make sure that our plans to him are spot on," he said. — PTI

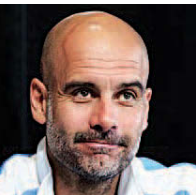






## Arnold turns Santa

Liverpool's Trent Alexander-Arnold helps out at St Andrew's – a place where 25 per cent of donated food comes before and after Liverpool and Everton home games



We played a good game, we controlled them and we didn't concede much.

— Pep Guardiola, Manchester City coach after their 4-1 victory

### SHORT TAKES

#### Indian colts beat New Zealand 2-0

**Canberra:** The Indian junior women's hockey team started its campaign at the Three-Nation tournament on a positive note, beating New Zealand 2-0 here on Wednesday. Lalrindiki (15th minute) and Prabhleen Kaur (60th) were the two goal scorers for the winners. India started the match with an aggressive brand of hockey, pinning down New Zealand, who had defeated hosts Australia 3-1 in their first match on Tuesday.

India's dominance in the opening quarter saw them win an early penalty corner in the third minute, but they failed to utilise the chance. A defensive lapse from New Zealand then handed India a golden opportunity at the stroke of the quarter break and Lalrindiki found herself with enough space in front of the goal to slot the ball home. New Zealand had a chance to equalise in the second quarter, but Indian goalkeeper Bichu Devi Khariabam save to keep her side ahead. — PTI

#### Mumbai look to go past Blasters

**Mumbai:** Mumbai City FC will be eyeing their first 'home' win of the season when they take on Kerala Blasters in an Indian Super League game here on Thursday. The Jorge Costa-managed team have played two 'home' games this season at their usual fortress the Mumbai Football Arena in suburban Andheri, but suffered defeat on both the occasions.

First, it was Odisha FC who stunned Mumbai with a 4-2 win here and later, FC Goa defeated the hosts by a similar margin on November 7. Moreover, this would be Mumbai's first 'home' game after it was announced that the City Football Group has acquired a majority of shares in the team. Both Mumbai and Kerala are placed in the lower half of the points table and a win would help them improve their position. Mumbai have played six games so far, of which they have won one, drawn three and lost two. Kerala have also played six, won one, drawn two and lost three. — PTI

**Burnley, Dec. 4:** Gabriel Jesus scored twice as Manchester City showed no signs of giving up their Premier League title without a fight as a 4-1 victory at Burnley cut the gap on unbeaten leaders Liverpool to eight points.

Pep Guardiola's men have struggled to match the blistering standards they set in back-to-back title-winning seasons, but looked more like their old selves in what could have been a tricky trip to Turf Moor.

Jesus made the most of his chance to shine in the absence of the injured Sergio Aguero with two brilliant finishes either side of half-time to end an eight-game goal drought before long-range strikes from Rodrigo and Riyad Mahrez moved City above Leicester into second place on goal difference.

The visitors were dominant from first minute to last and could have been far more convincing winners but for some wayward finishing and Nick Pope's resistance in the Burnley goal.

"We played a good game, we controlled them and we didn't concede much apart from the goal in the last minutes. Our level was so good in most of the games," City coach Pep Guardiola said.

Jesus did not look like a striker searching for confidence as he opened the scoring with a sumptuous curling effort that found the far corner from David Silva's pass.

Pope then stood up well to block with his feet from Raheem Sterling and Bernardo Silva to keep Burnley in the game until the break.

Jesus gave City a cushion five minutes into the second half with a thumping finish from Bernardo's inswinging cross.

Rodrigo continued a night of fantastic finishes when he capped a brilliant individual display by drilling high past Pope 22 minutes from time.

The Spanish midfielder insisted City would be ceaseless as they attempt to chase down Liverpool in the title race.

Mahrez came off the bench to score his 50th Premier League goal with a precise strike on his weaker right foot from outside the box.

Brady denied City a first clean sheet in eight games, but that was the only negative for the champions ahead of Manchester United's visit to the Etihad.

Crystal Palace moved up to fifth with a 1-0 win over Bournemouth despite playing for more than 70 minutes with 10 men at Selhurst Park. Mamadou Sakho was sent off for a wild challenge on Adam Smith, but Palace frustrated the Cherries and then struck 14 minutes from time when Jeffrey Schlupp burst through the Bournemouth defence and fired low and hard past Aaron Ramsdale. — AFP

#### THE RESULTS

<b>Manchester City</b>	<b>4</b>
(Gabriel Jesus 24, 50, Rodri 68, Riyad Mahrez 87)	
<b>Burnley FC</b>	<b>1</b>
(Robert Brady 89)	
<b>Crystal Palace</b>	<b>1</b>
(Jeffery Schlupp 76)	
<b>Bournemouth</b>	<b>0</b>

### GABRIEL'S BRACE FIRES UP CITY IN PREMIER LEAGUE

# JESUS!



Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus celebrates scoring his side's second goal during their Premier League game against Burnley at Turf Moor in Burnley, England, on Tuesday. City won 4-1. — AP

## Ole comfortable on Jose's return

**Manchester, Dec. 4:** Ole Gunnar Solskjaer believes he has the backing of Manchester United fans ahead of a huge week for the Norwegian if he is to maintain the faith of his superiors at the club.

United welcome former manager Jose Mourinho back to Old Trafford on Wednesday with the Portuguese having taken Tottenham above the Red Devils in the Premier League table during his first week in charge of Spurs.

Solskjaer's men, who sit 10th in the table, then travel to neighbours Manchester City on Saturday.

Mourinho, sacked by United last December, replaced Mauricio Pochettino in one of three managerial changes in the Premier League over the past two weeks, but Solskjaer does not believe he is close to meeting that same fate.

"I'm not going to tell anyone how to run their football clubs, but I think everyone knows continuity is one of the keys of success," said Solskjaer.

"Some clubs have more patience than others, some clubs don't have that time and continuity. For me, with Man United, we have a plan in place and hopefully we can get the results to speed it up.

Paul Pogba, who repeatedly clashed with Mourinho during their time together at Old Trafford, will not be fit to exact some revenge on the Portuguese with Solskjaer revealing the French midfielder is still some way off a return from a long-term ankle injury.

Scott McTominay and Nemanja Matic are doubts, leaving Solskjaer's options in midfield limited. However, Solskjaer insisted he will still drop those he believes and under-performing and that some are playing for their long-term futures at the club.

"Players are never undroppable. I've been part of a squad where you're never guaranteed a place in the team and that's where we're going to get to," said the former United striker.



**I'm not going to tell anyone how to run their football clubs, but I think everyone knows continuity is one of the keys of success. Some clubs have more patience than others, some clubs don't have that time and continuity. For me, with Man United, we have a plan in place and hopefully we can get the results to speed it up.**

— OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER  
Manchester United manager

## Fixtures are a howler: Wolves coach

**London, Dec. 4:** Wolves manager Nuno Espirito Santo has branded his side's December schedule "absurd" and hit out at the decisions of the Football Association and Premier League.

The Molineux club are playing eight games this month, seven of them in the league, culminating in matches against Manchester City and Liverpool within 48 hours.

Wolves host champions City on the evening of December 27 before travel-

ling to Anfield on December 29 for an afternoon kick-off. Espirito Santo's men have already played 27 games this season due to their progress in the Europa League.

"It's crazy. This schedule doesn't make sense," he said.

"In our case we are the team who has more competitions already and we are going to play with 45 hours between games. It's absurd," he added.

"Every time we have a meeting with the FA, we try to make them understand

what it means to the players. It's not human, the amount of games we have. If we increase that with international players it becomes really tough." The demands of television broadcasters have been blamed for the staggering of games around the festive period.

When the schedule was released, City also complained that the "sporting integrity" of the Premier League was being compromised by the scheduling. Wolves will have a day less than Liverpool to recover

before the sides meet. "We are a team who have had a lot of competitions and the gap between games is not being respectful," added Espirito Santo.

Despite their fixture pile-up, Wolves are sixth in the table and have already secured their place in the last 32 of the Europa League.

The job done by Espirito Santo at Molineux has seen him linked with the vacant managerial job at Arsenal following Unai Emery's sacking on Friday. — AFP

## JUANAN NETS BENGALURU'S WINNER

**Pune:** Bengaluru FC extended their unbeaten start in the ongoing Hero Indian Super League to seven games with a narrow 1-0 win against Odisha FC at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex here on Wednesday.

Centre-back Juanan scored his first goal of the season to secure Bengaluru's third win of the season and take them to the top of the table. Carles Cuadrat's side have 13 points while Odisha are sixth. The teams were off the blocks in quick time and Gurpreet Singh Sandhu was called into action within minutes.

Nandhakumar Sekar latched onto a pass from the deep, cut in from the left to shift the ball to his right foot and attempted a ferocious strike that looked destined for the bottom right corner but a vital fingertip save by the Bengaluru goalkeeper kept the shot out.

The teams missed chances to score as Jerry Mawhimthanga shot wide from a corner and Sunil Chhetri failed to hit the target from an Udanta Singh cross. With the contest heating up, centre-back Juanan showcased his centre-forward skills to give Bengaluru the lead. Nishu Kumar's lob into the box was flicked into the defender's path by Erik Paartalu before the Spaniard outfoxed Carlos Delgado to send a scuffed shot that went in off the post.

## Shuttlers dominate South Asian Games

**Pokhara, Dec. 4:** Indian shuttlers continued their dominating show at the 13th South Asian Games with four individuals and as many doubles pairs cruising into the semifinals to assure themselves of medals, here on Wednesday.

Top seed Siril Verma started the day on a winning note for India when he beat Pakistan's Murad Ali 21-12, 21-17 in a men's singles quarterfinal match.

In the women's singles, 16-year-old Gayathri Gopichand stunned second seed Mahoor Shahzad of Pakistan with a convincing 21-15, 21-16 win.

Joining Gayathri in the semifinals was top seed Ashmita Chaliha, who also thrashed Pakistani opponent, Palwasha Bashir 21-9 21-7.

Aryaman Tandon was another Indian after Verma to reach the men's singles semifinals after registering 21-17, 21-17 win over Sri Lanka's

**Indian men's and women's kho kho teams claimed gold medals after defeating Bangladesh and Nepal respectively. Men's team won by an innings and seven points.**

Ranthushka Karunathilake.

The Indian women's doubles pairings of Kuhoo Garg/Anoushka Parikh and Meghana S. Jakkampudi/

While, Garg and Parikh beat Bristi Khatun and Rehana Khatun 21-18, 21-11, Jakkampudi and Nelakurthi notched up 21-14, 21-11 victory over Shalpa Akter and Alina Sultana.

#### KHO KHO TEAMS EARN YELLOW METALS

The Indian men and women's kho kho teams claimed gold medals after defeating Bangladesh and

Nepal respectively at the 13th South Asian Games here on Wednesday.

The 2016 gold medalists crushed the men's team of Bangladesh with an innings and seven points and a scoreline of 16-9.

Deepak Madhav was the top-scorer for India with five crucial wickets for the team and stayed on the mat for more than two minutes.

In the women's final, captain Nasreen led from the front as she chased down five points while her teammate Kajal Bhor also made a vital contribution by claiming five more points.

The Indian team wrapped up the match 17-5 to finish on top of the podium with an innings

and 12 points win for their gold.

#### TAEKWONDO ADD TO THE MEDAL RUSH

India dominated the taekwondo events by clinching six medals, including three golds here on Wednesday.

Laitika Bhandari (under 53kg), Jarnel Singh (under 74kg) and Rudali Barua (over 73kg) won a gold each on day three of competitions.

Saurav and Gangjot clinched a silver medal each in the men's under 63kg and women's 62kg events respectively, while Chaitnya Inamdhar bagged a bronze in the men's over 86kg category.

On Tuesday, the taekwondo players had won

one gold and three bronze medals.

#### TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS CONTINUE MOMENTUM

Indian paddlers bagged the gold and silver medals in both the men's and women's doubles events.

In an all Indian affair, Harmeet Desai and Anthony Amalraj defeated compatriots Sanil Shetty and Sudhanshu Grover in the men's doubles final to win the gold.

The duo of Harmeet and Amalraj defeated compatriots Sanil and Sudhanshu 8-11, 11-7, 11-5, 8-11, 12-10 in the title clash.

Nepal's Santoo Shrestha and Vinesh Khaniya secured the bronze medal as did the Sri Lankan pair of Chambers Ginige and Rashmika Krishnanand.

In the women's doubles final, Madhurika Patkar and Sreeja Akula beat Sutirtha Mukherjee and Aayika Mukherjee 2-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-6, 5-11, 11-5 to win. — PTI

## Nikhata powers Rhinos to win

**Greater Noida, Dec. 4:** NE Rhinos' Nikhat Zareen beat Pinki Rani of Bengaluru Brawlers in the women's 51kg to help her team notch up a win on the second day of the Big Bout Indian Boxing League here on Tuesday.

Pinki Rani gained the upper-hand in the first round, impressing the judges. That brought Nikhat Zareen under pressure and she responded well to rally to a 3-2 verdict in the most eagerly awaited bout of the day.

She inspired NE Rhinos to rally from 1-3 down to 4-3 win against the Brawlers. Daksh and Laldin Mawia posted victories in the men's 75kg and men's 52kg bouts over Nitin Kumar and Ashish Inshah to help NE Rhinos pull the rug from under Bengaluru Brawlers' feet. Daksh was overwhelmingly dominant while Laldin Mawia

claimed a split decision win.

NE Rhinos picked up their first point through Mandeep Jangra who marked his return to the boxing ring with a hard-fought split decision win over Dinesh Dagar in the men's 57kg bout.

Mandeep, who has been away from the limelight for a while now, showed no signs of nerves as he let Dinesh tire himself with an aggressive approach. He waited for the right opening to land scoring punches and win approval of four of the five judges.

Reyal Puri, Simranjeet Kaur and Gaurav Bidhuri's victories for the Brawlers left the NE Rhinos facing a tall order.

Reyal Puri gave Ergashev Timor a bloody nose in the second round of the opening bout to force the referee to stop the 91kg class contest. — PTI