



on Sunday



**Withdraw Citizenship Act and stop population register work: CWC**  
page 10



**Indian armed forces will not withdraw from Siachen: Army chief**  
page 11



**Sultan Qaboos, who transformed Oman into a modern state, dies**  
page 12

**Nadal's Spain to meet Djokovic's Serbia in ATP Cup final**  
page 17



PRINTED AT • CHENNAI • COIMBATORE • BENGALURU • HYDERABAD • MADURAI • NOIDA • VISAKHAPATNAM • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • KOCHI • VIJAYAWADA • MANGALURU • TIRUCHIRAPALLI • KOLKATA • HUBBALLI • MOHALI • MALAPPURAM • MUMBAI • TIRUPATI • LUCKNOW • CUTTACK • PATNA

NEARBY



**For AAP, performance is perfect poll pitch**

NEW DELHI  
Ahead of the Assembly election in Delhi, the Aam Aadmi Party is persistently talking about the various ways in which its government has improved the lives of the residents. Experts say the strategy to stay focussed on the work done is likely to help the party in the polls.

CITY ► PAGE 2

**JJP to contest Delhi polls, no decision on alliance**

GURUGRAM  
Jannayak Janta Party, the alliance partner of the BJP in Haryana government, on Saturday announced that it would contest the upcoming Assembly polls in Delhi. However, no decision has been taken yet on its possible alliance with the BJP in the city, the party said.

CITY ► PAGE 2

**Policeman, two Hizb militants held in Kashmir**

SRINAGAR  
A police officer and two Hizbul Mujahideen militants were arrested at a police checkpoint in Kulgam on Saturday. The police followed up the arrests with raids in the Valley where ammunition was recovered.

NEWS ► PAGE 10

MAGAZINE ► 12 PAGES  
CLASSIFIEDS ► PAGE 6

Biting the dust



**Going flat:** H2O Holy Faith, an 19-storey complex at Maradu near Kochi, being brought down by implosion on Saturday following a Supreme Court order. Minutes later, two towers of Alfa Serene were demolished. ■ THULASI KAKKAT (REPORTS ON PAGE 8)

Mamata requests Modi to repeal CAA

Meeting comes amidst massive protests in Kolkata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Following her brief meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday evening, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said she had requested him to revoke the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citi-



Narendra Modi with Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata. ■ PTI

zens (NRC). Ms. Banerjee met Mr. Modi at the Raj Bhavan close to the city's central Esplanade area.

Mr. Modi will dedicate to the nation four refurbished heritage buildings of the city – the Old Currency Building, the Belvedere House, the Metcalfe House and the Victoria Memorial Hall.

“I have requested the Prime Minister to re-think about CAA and NRC. I would like to see those withdrawn,” Ms. Banerjee told journalists after the meeting. There was a nationwide movement going on against the CAA, the NRC and the NPR (National

Population Register) and “any discrimination among people is not wanted.”

Soon after her meeting with Mr. Modi, Ms. Banerjee was on the dais set up by the students' wing of the Trinamool Congress (TMC), opposite the Raj Bhavan, for an anti-CAA protest. Addressing the protesters, Ms. Banerjee said she would continue to oppose the “discriminatory” law.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

India amends rules for U.S. airlines

JAGRITI CHANDRA  
NEW DELHI

In an effort to resolve a persistent concern of the U.S., India will make exceptions for American airlines on its ground handling regulations that prohibit international carriers from operations beyond the check-in area.

However, these airlines will have to allow a security audit by Indian agencies, and ensure that Indian employees are tasked with sensitive operations.

Following the changes, U.S. airlines will have access control to the aircraft, can screen unaccompanied baggage, conduct secondary check of passengers at the ladder point and have security control of cargo.

Until now, foreign carriers had to enter into an agreement with an Indian airline for performing these activities.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Police didn't act on call about mob: JNUSU

Union office-bearers deny charges of violence against them, insist on V-C's ouster

SHINJINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) on Saturday alleged that the Delhi police were informed about the presence of a mob on the campus much before the violence broke out on January 5.

The students' body also said that as the “first step” towards resolving the continuing deadlock over the increase in hostel fees, the union was ready for students to register for the new semester by only paying the tuition fees and not the revised hostel fees.

Presenting a chronology of the events on campus on the evening of January 4 that continued into the night, JNUSU office-bearers said at a press conference that despite a message being sent out to the police as early as 3 p.m. on Sunday, no action was taken to prevent the violence.

Union president Aishe Ghosh, who was among the students attacked and injured by the masked mob,



JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh and other students addressing a press conference on Saturday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

said: “When I called them [the police], I was told not to worry as all of them [the mob] had been removed. If that was indeed the case, then how did the violence take place?”

The union office-bearers denied charges made by the police on Friday. Reacting to police allegations of having led a mob into Periyar Hostel, Ms. Ghosh said, “There was heavy stone pelting happening and there was no sign of any security personnel when we reached Periyar. What is

the Delhi police expecting? When we get SOS calls, is it not our responsibility to ensure safety of the students? The video is being zoomed in to treat me like a suspect.”

‘Clear conspiracy’  
Terming Friday's press conference by the police “fraud and bogus”, the JNUSU alleged that there was a “clear conspiracy” and that the police, the JNU administration and the ABVP were complicit in it. “If you see how the rooms were targeted in Sa-

barmati [Hostel], you will see that it is proof that the ABVP was involved. Rooms which had ABVP posters were not attacked while the others were,” the students' body said.

Regarding allegations against the protesting students of having attacked the university's computer server rooms, the JNUSU said: “If the optical fibre cables and servers were down, how did students get a mail on January 5 from the official server?” The members displayed screenshots of emails sent out by the administration on Sunday afternoon.

Maintaining that the union's demand for the removal of Vice-Chancellor M. Jagadeesh Kumar remains, Ms. Ghosh said, “January 5 has changed our lives immensely. We still love the university but it will take time to get over the trauma. This is why sacking the V-C is the only option as he has no moral ground to continue.”

SEE ALSO ► PAGE 3

AMU V-C seeks security for himself

ANUJ KUMAR  
GHAZIABAD

With Aligarh Muslim University set to reopen on Monday, Vice-Chancellor Tariq Mansoor has sought security for himself and his family from the district administration.

In a letter addressed to the Aligarh SSP, Prof. Mansoor said some ‘antisocial and lumpen elements’ were threatening him and trying to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere of the university. AMU Students' Union president Salman Imtiaz described the V-C's claim as “hoax and ridiculous”.

DETAILS ON ► PAGE 5

Iran admits its missile shot down Ukraine jet

Strike on passenger plane ‘unforgivable mistake’: Rouhani

AGENCE FRANCE PRESS  
TEHRAN

Iran said Saturday it had “unintentionally” shot down a Ukrainian passenger jet, killing all 176 people aboard, in an about-turn after initially denying Western claims that the aircraft had been struck by a missile.

President Hassan Rouhani said a military probe into the tragedy had found “missiles fired due to human error” brought down the Boeing 737, calling it an “unforgivable mistake”.

Iran's Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei offered his condolences and ordered the armed forces to address “shortcomings” so that such a disaster does not happen again.

The acknowledgement came after officials in Iran had for days categorically denied Western claims that the Ukraine International Airlines airliner had been struck by a missile.

The jet, which had been bound for Kiev, slammed into a field shortly after taking off from Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport before dawn on Wednesday.

The accident came only hours after Iran launched a wave of missiles at bases hosting American forces in



**Irreparable loss:** Members of Montreal's Iranian community paying homage to the Ukrainian plane crash victims. ■ AP

Iraq in response to the killing of Qassem Soleimani, one of Iran's top generals, in a U.S. drone strike.

‘Mistook jet for missile’

The aerospace commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards accepted full responsibility for the tragic mistake. However, Brigadier General Amirali Hajizadeh said the missile operator acted independently when he shot down the Boeing 737 after mistaking it for a “cruise missile”. “He had 10 seconds to decide. He could have decided to strike or not to strike and under such circumstances he took the wrong decision.”

Iran had come under

mounting international pressure to allow a “credible” investigation after video footage emerged appearing to show the plane being hit by a fast-moving object.

Ukraine and Canada have called for accountability after Iran's admission.

The majority of passengers on the flight PS752 were dual national Iranian-Canadians but also included Ukrainians, Afghans, Britons and Swedes.

Iran has invited the U.S., Ukraine, Canada and others to join the crash probe.

PUNISH THE GUILTY, UKRAINE TELLS IRAN ► PAGE 12

HOW IS THE PLANE CRASH BEING PROBED? ► PAGE 14

Nirbhaya case: SC to hear plea on Jan. 14

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A five-judge Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana will examine the curative pleas filed by two Nirbhaya gang-rape case convicts, Vinay Sharma and Mukesh, on January 14.

The other judges on the Bench are Justices Arun Mis-

hra, Rohinton Nariman, R. Banumathi and Ashok Bhushan. The judges will examine the petitions in their chambers at 1.45 p.m. and decide to either accept or reject them. The curative petitions were filed by both convicts on January 9, just days after a Delhi sessions court

scheduled the execution of all the four convicts for January 22, at Tihar Jail.

Sharma and Mukesh, in separate petitions, said there had been a sea change in the death penalty jurisprudence since their convictions.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Bangladesh Minister cancels Delhi visit

Shahriar Alam's is the fourth official visit from Dhaka to be called off since Dec.

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh Deputy Foreign Minister Shahriar Alam on Saturday cancelled his visit to Delhi scheduled for this week, making this the fourth visit by senior officials from Dhaka that has been cancelled in the past month.

According to the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry, Mr. Alam, who was due to visit Delhi to address the MEA's annual Raisina Dialogue Conference from January 14-16, has conveyed to the MEA's organising partner thinktank, Observer Research Foundation, that he would be travelling to the United Arab Emirates instead, accompanying Prime



Shahriar Alam

Minister Sheikh Hasina on a visit there.

**Denies reports**

“The Ministry would like to convey that State Minister Mohammad Shahriar Alam was invited as a speaker at

the Raisina Dialogue which coincides with his visit to the UAE to accompany the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. As such State Minister Alam could not avail the participation,” said a statement from the Foreign Ministry.

“The inability of his participation has no other connection,” the statement added, in response to reports that it was linked to tensions between New Delhi and Dhaka over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens.

Mr. Alam's decision comes after the cancellation of scheduled visits by Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen on December 12,

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan on December 13 and a delegation of senior officials for the Joint River Commission talks on December 18, the timing of which raised speculation they were connected to disquiet over the passage of the CAA in Parliament on December 11.

The Ministry of External Affairs played down Mr. Alam's cancellation, saying he was not coming on an “official bilateral visit”.

“It is understood that he had to cancel his India visit as he has to accompany the Bangladesh PM on her visit abroad,” an MEA official said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

# PES UNIVERSITY

## ADMISSIONS 2020

Ring Road Campus

Electronic City Campus

Hanumanthnagar Campus

BTech (CS, ECE, Mech, EEE, BT & Civil)		LAW (Honours)	
BArch	BDes	BBA/MBA	MCA
BCom/MCom		MTech	MS/PhD
For full list of programs, check <a href="http://www.pes.edu/programs">www.pes.edu/programs</a>			

# PESSAT

ALL INDIA ONLINE ENTRANCE EXAM FOR ADMISSION TO PES UNIVERSITY

**PESU Scholarships**  
40% tuition fee waiver for the Top 20% of students. Over ₹ 25 Crore merit scholarships given till date.  
[pes.edu/scholarships](http://pes.edu/scholarships)

**Flexible Curriculum**  
BTech Major/Minor and MTech Integrated Program  
[pes.edu/btech](http://pes.edu/btech)

**Research Driven Learning**  
[pes.edu/research](http://pes.edu/research)

**International Internships**  
[pes.edu/summer](http://pes.edu/summer)

#1 University in Karnataka (New Universities Under 5 Years) - KSRUF

# PES UNIVERSITY

INFO SESSION **JAN 19**  
SUNDAY 4 PM

JOIN US FOR A SESSION TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PES UNIVERSITY & PESSAT.

+91 80 2672 9391 / 9449794000   [pesat@pes.edu](mailto:pesat@pes.edu), [admissions@pes.edu](mailto:admissions@pes.edu)