



For women cop

Home minister Mahmood Ali says 17 mobile restrooms are being deployed for women police officers on bandobust

IN BRIEF

Sewage board postpones event

Hyderabad: The 'Meet your MD and dial your MD, HMWSSB' programmes, which were to be held every first Saturday of the month, have been postponed. The next date will be intimated shortly.

SURVEY: 52% WANTS RISE IN CUSTOMS DUTY

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 31

In a survey on Local Circles, nearly 52 per cent of the respondents support an increase in customs duty for non-essential goods.

The survey, which was conducted in view of the upcoming Union Budget, assumes that the government will impose restrictions on imports of non-essential goods.

Out of close to 22,000 citizens who participated in the survey, 26 per cent said these customs duty plus IGST rates on non-essential goods should be maintained while 21 per cent said it should be increased by 25 per cent. Another 19 per cent of the respondents said the rates should be increased by 50 per cent and 12 per cent said these rates should be doubled. However, 18 per cent of the respondents said that the customs duty plus IGST rates should be reduced.

According to the Local Circles, non-essential imports from China amount close to ₹4 trillion a year, creating a huge trade deficit. These imports have continuously been rising over the years giving tough and unfair competition to Indian businesses.

The centre may be gearing up to place restrictions on the import of non-essential goods, a move primarily aimed at curbing imports of non-essential items such as toys, plastic goods, sports items and furniture, especially from China.

When asked their view on the proposal to place restrictions on duty-free purchase of sin goods like alcohol and cigarettes, 36 per cent said the existing limits of 2 litres alcohol and 100 cigarette sticks should be continued while 29 per cent of respondents feel the duty-free limit should be halved.

■ About 18% of respondents said that the customs duty plus IGST rates for non-essential goods should be reduced.

■ The Centre government may be gearing up to place restrictions on the import of non-essential goods, a move primarily aimed at curbing imports of non-essential items such as toys, plastic goods, sports items and furniture, especially from China.

■ 29% of respondents feel limit on duty-free purchase of sin goods should be halved

BUDGET WATCH

Lower prices of essentials in Budget

City family with annual income of ₹4.4 lakh rues they still cannot afford a vacation

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 31

Amos Lentin, a 40-year-old graduate, who started as a salesman, has now been working for an MNC, which is a BPO, for a decade. Amos' current annual income is ₹4.4 lakh. He is married to Shailaja, who did her BA, B. Ed and was working till she gave birth to their first child. The couple has two children, both studying in a private school.

Life for Mr Lentin and his family is tough. Asked about his expectations from the Union Budget 2020, he said he wanted the prices of petrol and essential commodities to come down, as they are the biggest burden for middle-class families. The Lentins live in Hydershahade, paying a rent of ₹8,000 per month.

They opted for this area because it is on outskirts of Hyderabad and rentals are much more reasonable than in the city. The couple has one dream - to give their children the best of education, which, they say, is quite expensive. Mr Lentin is trying hard to go abroad, the only motive being good money, so that his family can afford a comfortable living.

As the month starts, the family spends around ₹15,000 on groceries, milk, electricity, cooking gas and water bills, apart from ₹3,000 on petrol for his bike and ₹6,000 on monthly EMIs for household electronics that they have bought. Jennifer, the elder daughter studying in Class 6, is the class topper. She wants to become a doctor. Son Joel is in Class 3, likes cricket and is a crazy fan of Virat Kohli. The family spends ₹8,000 on school fee.

A major grievance of Mr Lentin is that he cannot afford to take his family on a vacation. Whatever he earns lets them have a hand-to-mouth existence. The salesperson feels the cost of living in the country has become too expensive in recent times. It is tough living for a common man. Even the television cable connection, which was ₹150 earlier, is now ₹350. The salesperson wants the government to provide health benefits for middle class also, so that they too can avail health-care benefits. Since they are salaried class, it becomes scary when a family person falls ill.

Mr Lentin wants the government to announce a separate policy for middle class, so that they can survive.



Amos Lentin clicks a selfie with his family

Driver wants govt to make pvt education free for girls

Family with ₹20K income wants cheap goods

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 31

Can there be free education for girls in private schools, asks 52-year-old Allakosa Raju, an autorickshaw driver plying his vehicle every day from the wholesale Monda Market in Secunderabad. Raju's response came when asked what his expectations are from the Union Budget 2020.

His brings in mostly small-time vendors who come to pick up vegetables from Monday Market and sell them in their respective areas. After dropping them at the market, he picks up regular passengers. He has been doing this since last 12 years earning, on an average, ₹600 to ₹800 a day and educating his three daughters studying in tenth, eighth and seventh in a private school. His wife is a homemaker.

Raju is a smart worker who started his career as a helper in a kirana shop. He soon realised there was not much earning in the shop and learnt to drive an auto rickshaw. He works 365 days a year, unless he or his wife falls ill. Raju lived in Sitaphalmandi for a very long time but recently



moved to Dammaiguda near ECIL.

He found it difficult paying the monthly rent of ₹4,000 in Sitaphalmandi and educate his daughters too. His rent now is ₹1,500. Most of his monthly income of ₹20,000 goes towards educating his daughters, and the rest for groceries and rent.

As how his business is, Raju says as weekly vegetable markets have started in many localities, not many vendors are coming to Monday Market to buy vegetables.

He complains of Ola cabs and autos affecting the volume of his business. Asked about his savings, he says, "I am educating my children so that they can have a better life compared to what me and my wife have gone

through. I am sending them to a private school because they get a better education there. The daily use groceries, apart from soaps and detergents, have become very expensive. My fuel prices too have been rising all the time. Luckily, it is my own auto, which I bought taking bank loan. Otherwise, it would have been very difficult for me to pay daily rent for the auto.

When asked what his expectations from the government and coming budget are, he says, "We want a budget that makes the common man's life easier. Why are rates of everything going up; fuel price is high, school fees are high. Can we have a free education for girls in private schools?"

Budget should abolish current taxation system

Family with annual income below ₹15 lakh finds its difficult to deal with rising inflation

RAJESHWARI PARASA | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 31

Abolition of the existing taxation system and introduction of Banking Transaction Tax is one of the biggest economic policy decisions that Surana family, which has a 150-year-old legacy that stretches to various businesses, is expecting from the government.

A 'well-to-do' family with an average annual income of ₹10 lakh to ₹15 lakh is finding it difficult to deal with the rising inflation rate that is resulting in price hike while making education and fuel unaffordable, said financial analyst Jithender Surana, 49, who is managing a joint family in the city along with his wife, Ms Shailaja Surana, who is vice-principal in a private school. Mr Surana has recently admitted his son into a business management course, which is costing more than ₹1 lakh per semester. "Education is important for everyone as it moulds one's future. Given this crucial aspect, there should be more budgetary allocations for education. Besides there should be strict rules to regulate private sector and they should put an end to collection of exorbitant fee." In the 2018-19

Education is important for everyone as it moulds one's future. Given this crucial aspect, there should be more budgetary allocations for education. Besides there should be strict rules to regulate private sector and they should put an end to collection of exorbitant fee.

— JITHENDER SURANA Financial analyst

■ Jithender Surana wants the government to implement some of the proposal mentioned in 'Arthakranti proposal' of economy to be implemented in the country.

Budget, only 3.4 per cent was allocated for education, which was 3.74 per cent in the Budget before that. "Despite dealing with everyday financial hurdles, what is steadily increasing is the price of fuel. We spend around ₹15,000 on fuel alone for a two-wheeler and a four-wheeler that we have," added Mr Surana.

He thinks that some of the points from 'Arthakranti proposal' of economy to be implemented in the country.

On the taxes that ought to be scrapped, it is believed that it should result in increasing the purchasing power of the family as they would bring in more salary to home. This will also mean all commodities including petrol, diesel, FMCG

would become cheaper by 35 to 52 per cent and there won't be any question of tax evasion. With no scope for black money, it will boost business sector as well.

And instead of existing taxes, the Arthakranti proposal insists on Banking Transaction Tax of 0.7 to 2 two per cent. According to the proposal, it would generate more revenue than the existing taxation system.

And it requires no separate machinery like income tax department and tax amount would be directly deposited in State or Central or District administration account immediately. As transaction taxes would be less, the public will prefer it to paying huge direct and indirect taxes.



Jithender Surana and his family pose for a family photograph

Fresh CAA protests erupt after Juma prayers

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 31

Fresh protests erupted on Friday after the Juma prayers at different places in the city against the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Population Register.

Youths came out from Masjid Azizia, Humayunnagar, after the prayers, raised slogans of 'azadi' and staged a protest at the crossroads.

They demanded revoking of the CAA and withdrawal of the proposal to hold the NPR and the National Register of Citizens to ascertain nationality. Youths claimed that they will continue their struggle to safeguard the Constitution of India. They also sang the National Anthem.

Youths held similar protests in front of Jamia Masjid, Moazzampura, Mallepally, and Jamia Masjid at Barkas. Different clans gathered on the ground in front of Jamia Masjid, Barkas, and pledged to continue the protests till the CAA revoked. In Mallepally youths holding the Tricolour and raised slogans against the BJP government at the Centre.

In another development, the Hyderabad police has granted conditional permission to the Akhand Bharat Sangharsh Samiti to organise a meeting in support of the Citizenship Amendment Act at the Quli Qutub Shah stadium on Sunday. Additional commissioner of police, law and order, D.S. Chauhan accorded permission to the samiti to conduct the programme between 6 pm and 9 pm.



Students from different universities protest at OU Arts college against CAA.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

AV College students protest for 5th day

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 31

About 4,000 students boycotted classes at the AV College of Arts, Science and Commerce at Domalguda on Friday, the fifth day of their protest against the proposed privatisation of the aided institute. The students raised slogans against the government's 'inaction'.

Starting from sending postcards, tying black ribbons to cooking on roads, students were trying to grab the attention of the government. "Certain aided courses are being turned into self-finance courses, which demand more fees. If the fee is ₹2,000 for an aided course, it is ₹20,000 for a self-financed course. This is a burden on most of the students who come from poor financial backgrounds," said a student.

Student leader N. Rakesh said, "All this is a part of privatisation and the government, instead of creating opportunities, is snatching them away by giving way to privatisation."

An AV College official said, "Some of our surplus staff were redeployed to a government college in 2018. According to the GO

STARTING FROM sending postcards, tying black ribbons to cooking on roads, students were trying to grab the attention of the government.

THE COMMISSIONER of Collegiate Education had taken the decision. Students demanded that aided colleges should not be privatised but should be strengthened for the welfare of students.

No. 890, the surplus staff should be sent to another aided college. However, the commissioner has violated the order and has redeployed the staff to a government college."

He added that the conversion of courses from aided to self-finance had been done without approval from the Telangana State Council for Higher Education Council (TSCHE) or the Osmania University. The Commissioner of Collegiate Education had taken the decision. Students demanded that aided colleges should not be privatised but should be strengthened for the welfare of several economically marginalised students.



Saddened state

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal says it is saddening to see convicts in Nirbhaya case escaping death sentence by using legal loopholes

SHORT TAKES

GOODS TRAIN TO HAVE GUARDS

New Delhi, Jan. 31: In a first, railways will allow armed escorts provided by private agencies in goods trains to ensure safety of commodities susceptible to pilferage and theft, according to an order issued by the national transporter...

It was in 2014 that escorts of freight customers were allowed on board goods trains to secure their consignments. However, they were not allowed to carry any weapons.

THREE JEM MILITANTS SHOT DEAD

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, JAN. 31

Three suspected Jaish-e-Muhammad cadres attempting to enter Kashmir Valley after reportedly sneaking into Jammu and Kashmir from across the border at Hiranagar, 56-km east of winter capital Jammu, were shot dead by security forces...

J&K Director General of Police Dilbag Singh said in Jammu that three to four militants in a truck which was intercepted by the police at Ban toll plaza at Nagrota...

The terrorists were believed to be part of a freshly infiltrated group which may have sneaked into Jammu and Kashmir along the International Border (IB) somewhere near Hiranagar in Kathua district.

The police said that after the truck was signalled to stop at the toll plaza for routine checking the men on board opened fire triggering an encounter between them and the security personnel.

Three terrorists were killed and one of our jawan was injured, the police chief said. A map shows the location of Nagrota in the Jammu region.

FIR FILED AGAINST WB BJP MP

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, JAN. 31

West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh has been booked in an FIR by the police for his sexually outrageous remarks on a young woman, Sudeshna Dutta Gupta, for her protests against the CAA and NRC during his Abhinandan Yatra in the city on Thursday.

This is the second time within a month that the BJP MP of Midnapore faced a case for making controversial comments.

A case was booked at the Patuli police station under sections 354 (outraging modesty), 506 (criminal intimidation), 509 (words intended to insult the modesty of a woman), 427 (mischievous), 341 (wrongful restraint) and 33 (Act) of the Indian Penal Code on Friday.

Gupta said, "I lodged the complaint against Mr. Ghosh on the basis of murderous intent and sexual remarks made by him. I have also sought for police protection anticipating threats in the coming days."

Following Gandhi



A child wears a Mahatma Gandhi mask during the ongoing protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens at Shaheen Bagh in New Delhi on Friday.

Coronavirus: 1,471 persons under observation in Kerala

Condition of infected medical student satisfactory, says health minister

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVNANTHAPURAM, JAN. 31

The condition of the Kerala medical student who tested positive for the novel coronavirus, is improving in the isolation ward of Thiruvananthapuram Medical College where she was shifted on Friday. Health minister K.K. Shailaja said the condition of the girl was satisfactory.

The police took action against three persons for spreading fake news about coronavirus. The health authorities decided to conduct awareness programmes on coronavirus in schools from Monday.

Nirbhaya's mother says convicts have no right to live

Will fight till convicts hanged: Asha Devi We have to follow the law, says judge

New Delhi, Jan. 31: Nirbhaya's mother Asha Devi on Friday said she will continue her fight till the convicts in the 2012 gangrape and murder case are hanged, shortly after a Delhi court postponed the execution of death warrants till further order.

These convicts have no right to live. We keep getting disappointed by the system. I will continue my fight till the convicts are hanged," she said. A Delhi court postponed the execution of death

Army sets up quarantine unit for Wuhan returnees

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 31

Indian Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police have created quarantine facilities where families and students arriving from Wuhan, China can be monitored for any signs of coronavirus infection. Air India is sending a special flight to rescue Indians struck in Wuhan which has been hit by coronavirus.

The health minister reiterated that those who returned from China should immediately report to the nearest hospitals or medical centres. Those with suspected symptoms should avoid public functions, marriage ceremonies and mass transport systems for the time being.

Warrants of the four convicts in the Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case till further order. Additional Sessions Judge Dharmendra Rana passed the order on a plea by the convicts seeking a stay on their execution on Saturday, February 1.



The Army's quarantine facility at Manesar.

signs of infection. They will be hosted by ITBP. Indian Army officials said that screening and quarantine will be a two step process.

Isolation wards have been set up in 85 centres in the private sector. The results of the samples of three students who had returned from China are still awaited from NIV.

FAMILY CAN'T MEET STUDENTS UNDER WATCH

FROM PAGE 1

During the screening, they will be classified into three groups — suspect case, close contact case and non-contact case. Indian Army officials said that the facility consists of accommodation barracks for the students, administrative areas and medical facility area.

The screening at the airport followed by quarantine at Manesar and if any individual is suspected to be infected, he/she will be shifted to the isolation ward at Base Hospital (BH-DC), said the officials.

Another student taking part in the peaceful protest on Friday said, "We have been protesting peacefully for the last two months. On Thursday, we were heading for a peaceful march towards Rajghat. But police had already put up barricades at several intersections."

Maha girl assault video goes viral

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, JAN. 31

In an instance of moral policing, a group of villagers in Jalna brutally assaulted a boy and his female friend after finding them together and shot a video clip of the assault which has since gone viral.

The police said that the incident took place Thursday and after the said clip went viral, state home minister Anil Deshmukh issued orders to the police for timely and stringent action against the culprits.

The police filed a case of assault, molestation and acts of common intention against the accused under the Indian Penal Code and further investigation was underway.

identity of the remaining accused, who are yet to be apprehended. There is no clarity on why the accused attacked the duo," the police said.

The state government issued orders citing the severity of the incident. Mr. Deshmukh said, "The incident that took place in Jalna is condemnable. I have issued orders to take measures for stopping it (circulation of the video). Speedy action will be taken against the perpetrators."

State police chief Subodh Jaiswal said that the police had been asked to look into the incident and also inquire if police action was delayed. The home minister had ordered an inquiry into the local police in the assault case and sought a report on them.

The police filed a case of assault, molestation and acts of common intention against the accused under the Indian Penal Code and further investigation was underway.

Jamia students strike after firing

INJURED STUDENT DISCHARGED FROM AIIMS

New Delhi, Jan. 31: Students of Jamia Millia Islamia on Friday gathered outside the gate of the varsity to stage a peaceful protest against the amended Citizenship Act, a day after a man fired a pistol at a group of agitators there, injuring a student.

Condemning the attack on students, the protesters said they were shocked when they saw the man emerge from the crowd and open fire in full public view amidst heavy police presence.

The population of these sectors will not be allowed to intermingle with each other, or with outsiders, including their family members. No civilians or serving personnel detailed working inside the facility will be allowed to go outside unless compelled by an extreme emergency.

PIL on UP's order to recover damages

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN. 31

The SC on Friday sought response from UP government on a PIL seeking the quashing of the notices issued to alleged protesters for the recovery of damages caused to public property during anti-CAA-NRC protests in the State.

He cited instances where the notices have been issued for recovery of damages caused to public property in the course of the anti-CAA agitation to the people long dead or to those who are nonagenarian. The PIL petitioner has also sought an independent judicial probe, on the lines ordered by the Karnataka high court, into the incidents of alleged violence during protests against CAA and NRC.

New Delhi, Jan. 31: Jamia Millia student Shahdab Farooq, who suffered injuries after a man fired a pistol at a group of anti-CAA protesters outside the university, was discharged from AIIMS on Friday morning.

Al-Ameen, a student of Jamia's Mass Communication department and Farooq's friend, said he was discharged from the hospital around 8 am. "His father reached Delhi on Thursday night, but Shahdab won't go back home in Kashmir. He will stay at the university," Al-Ameen said.

part in the peaceful protest on Friday said, "We have been protesting peacefully for the last two months. On Thursday, we were heading for a peaceful march towards Rajghat. But police had already put up barricades at several intersections."



Heartbroken

London Mayor Sadiq Khan says he is heartbroken over Britain's imminent departure from European Union

IN BRIEF

Pak: No proposal for PoK merger

Islamabad: Pakistan has rejected reports that the government intended to merge Pakistan-occupied Kashmir with the country, saying there is no such proposal. Pakistani daily Dawn reported that the speculation about the merger had been doing the rounds for a little over six weeks now. It started with comments attributed to Farooq Haider Khan that he had been told that he would be the last "prime minister" of the PoK. The rumours grew after the government renamed one of the bureaucracy's service group, the daily said. "There is no such proposal under consideration," Foreign Office spokesperson Aisha Farooqui said on Thursday when asked about the reports. She also rejected that government was thinking to change the status of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Israel hits Hamas targets

Jerusalem: Israeli aircraft struck Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip early Friday in response to new rocket fire from the blockaded territory, the army said. Three rockets were fired at Israel overnight without causing any casualties. Two were intercepted by air defences, a statement said. Israel swiftly retaliated against Hamas, the Islamist movement which rules Gaza and which Israel generally holds responsible for all rocket fire from the territory. The military struck "Hamas targets in the south of the Gaza Strip", the army said. Israel has deployed additional troops to the Gaza border area since US President Donald Trump unveiled a controversial new peace plan on Tuesday that was rejected by the Palestinians.

UNSC for end to fighting in Yemen

United Nations: The U.N. Security Council called Thursday for an immediate end to a "significant" escalation in fighting in Yemen between Houthi Shiite rebels and the Saudi-led military coalition supporting the government. Member nations on the U.N.'s most powerful body "underlined their disappointment" at the return to violence in a statement, saying it "threatens to undermine progress made during the recent period of de-escalation in Yemen." The council expressed hope "that a renewed de-escalation would create space for the Yemeni parties to move towards comprehensive and inclusive U.N.-led negotiations urgently, on the security and political arrangements necessary to end the conflict and move towards a peaceful transition." The council statement followed a briefing Tuesday by the U.N. special envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths.

SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 3 IN NIGERIA

Kano, Nigeria, Jan.31: A girl detonated a bomb, killing three boys at an Islamic seminary in northeast Nigeria in an attack that bore the hallmarks of Boko Haram, a local militia and residents said Friday. The girl, aged around 12, detonated the device late Thursday when open-air classes were on in Muna Dalti, on the outskirts of Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state. She walked up to the group of boys who were just ending their lessons and "blew herself up in their midst," Mohammed Bola, head of the militia in the area, said. "She killed three boys and injured four others," Bola said about the attack which happened around 1900 GMT. Moments earlier, another young girl stormed into a house in the area and detonated her explosives, injuring one person, said resident Salisu Mohammed. "The house was totally destroyed. Luckily, no one was killed as the occupants of the house were outside chatting with neighbors," he said. The two bombers sneaked into the area together but split to attack different targets, Bola said. The scene of the bombings, a popular night time venue for residents, has been repeatedly targeted by suicide attacks blamed on Boko Haram. The militant group is notorious for suicide attacks on civilian targets including schools, mosques and motor parks.

Senate poised to acquit Trump

End draws near in impeachment trial as Democrats likely to fall short in vote

Washington, Jan. 31: Republican Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee will oppose calling more witnesses in President Donald Trump's impeachment trial, all but dashing Democratic efforts to hear more testimony and boosting odds the Senate will vote to acquit Trump as early as Friday. A vote on witnesses, expected Friday, could lead to an abrupt end and assured acquittal in only the third presidential impeachment trial in American history. Trump was pressing for action in time for his State of the Union address, and that now seems likely. As the Senate adjourned late Thursday, it set the date for Tuesday night's speech. Despite the Democrats' singular, sometimes-passionate focus on witnesses after revelations from John Bolton, the former national security adviser, the numbers are now falling short. It would take four Republicans to break with the 53-seat majority and join with all Democrats to demand more testimony. Chief Justice John Roberts, in the rare role



Anti-Trump activist Stephen Parlato arrives at the Capitol in Washington on Friday. — AP

US support for Ukraine will not waver, says Pompeo

Kiev, Jan. 31: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday expressed the United States' unwavering support for Ukraine after he met President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kiev. "Today I'm here with a clear message: the United States sees that the Ukrainian struggle for freedom, democracy and prosperity is a valiant one. Our commitment to support it will not waver," Pompeo told a press conference. "The US understands that Ukraine is an important country," Pompeo

said, in a clear reference to reports that he had told a US journalist that not care about the country. Pompeo is the most senior US official to visit Ukraine since the start of the impeachment process against US President Donald Trump, who is accused of withholding military aid to push Kiev into investigating his Democratic rival Joe Biden. Washington has been an important backer of Ukraine in its conflict with Moscow-backed separatists in the country's

east, providing both military aid and diplomatic support. Zelenskyy, who has taken a series of steps aimed at resolving the conflict since coming to power last year, said he wanted Washington to be more involved in resolving the conflict. —AFP

Boris: Brexit not an end but a start

After years of political drama, Britain finally set to leave European Union

London, Jan. 31: Britain's exit from the EU is not an end but a new beginning, according to Prime Minister Boris Johnson who is set to deliver a message of unity to mark Brexit Day on Friday when the country finally leaves the bloc, over three years after the landmark Brexit vote. In a video message recorded in Downing Street on Thursday and to be aired at 22:00 GMT on Friday, an hour ahead of the UK's scheduled exit time, the Conservative Party leader who took charge as UK prime minister last year with a "do or die" Brexit pledge will characterise the historic moment as a new beginning for the country. "This is the moment when the dawn breaks and the curtain goes up on a new act. It is a moment of real national renewal and change," Downing Street said in a read-out of Johnson's address to the nation. "Our job as the government - my job - is to bring this country together and take us forward. And the most important thing to say tonight is that this is not an end but a beginning," it reads.



Brexit supporters hold the Union Jack with a text reading 'Goodbye EU' next to a man wearing the EU flag in London on Friday. — AP

NEW BEGINNING FOR EUROPE

Brussels: The EU's three chiefs hailed Britain's departure from the bloc on Friday as "a new dawn for Europe", warning London would not keep the benefits of membership when it leaves. Charles Michel, Ursula von der Leyen and David Sassoli - the presidents of the EU Council, European Commission and European Parliament, respectively - used an open letter published in European newspapers to say they would do "everything in their power" to make the new relationship with Britain a success. Britain's 47-year membership of the bloc will end on the

stroke of 23:00 GMT - midnight Brussels time, three and a half years after a shock referendum vote to leave. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has promised to "get Brexit done" and unite the country in a new era of prosperity, but months of difficult negotiations with Brussels about the shape of future ties lie ahead. The three EU leaders made clear they would not roll over easily or allow Britain to "have its cake and eat it", insisting Britain could not have full access to the EU market unless it agrees to follow European labour, taxation and environmental rules. —AFP

New dawn or biggest gamble? British headlines on Brexit day

London, Jan. 31: Britain's Brexit-day front pages expressed both joy at the country's imminent departure from the European Union and remorse and trepidation on Friday as the UK prepares to go it alone after nearly half a century as part of the bloc. "Yes, we did it!" said the *Daily Express* tabloid, a fervent campaigner for Britain to leave the EU. The headline was imposed over a map of the UK made up of front pages from the newspaper from the 43 months since the June 2016 vote, which saw

three Brexit deadlines come and go before the British parliament finally ratified the divorce agreement. "A new dawn for Britain," said its rival and fellow Brexit-supporting tabloid *The Daily Mail*. "At 11 pm our proud nation finally leaves the EU - still a friend of Europe, but free and independent once more after 47 years." The left-leaning *Guardian* was more circumspect, leading its front page with the words "Small Island" and describing Brexit as "the biggest gamble in a gener-

ation". "PM wants Canada-style trade deal with Brussels," said the *Times*, leading with an article on Boris Johnson's attempts to flesh out his ideas for a free trade agreement along the lines of a recent EU deal with Canada. "Britain bows out of EU with a mixture of optimism and regret," said *The Financial Times*. "It's been quite a ride," splashed the business City AM paper over a mock-up of a roller coaster carriage filled with prominent faces from the Brexit saga. —AFP

IRAN STRIKE: MORE US TROOPS WERE INJURED

Washington, Jan. 31: The number of US troops injured by an Iranian missile strike in Iraq this month has risen to 64, according to new figures released by the Pentagon. US President Donald Trump had initially said no Americans were hurt by the missiles fired on a base housing US soldiers in the country's west on January 8. Democrats later accused Trump of trying to downplay the injuries. The American personnel have been diagnosed with mild traumatic brain injury (TBI), Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Campbell, a Pentagon spokesman, said in a statement Thursday. The Pentagon said Wednesday that 50 soldiers were injured in the Iranian strike on the Ain al-Asad base. The latest total is an increase of 14 on those numbers. Iran fired on Iraqi bases housing US troops in retaliation for an American drone attack that killed Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani in Baghdad, raising fears of war. Of those diagnosed with TBI, 39 troops have returned to duty, the Pentagon said, while the rest have either been sent back to the US, are waiting to be sent back or are currently being evaluated. At the time of the strikes most of the 1,500 American soldiers at the Ain al-Asad base were in bunkers, after they were given advance warning from superiors. —AFP

■ Iraq's security forces have resumed operations with the US-led coalition to fight Islamic State group sleeper cells, the global alliance said, after tensions led to a more than three-week pause.

ARMY AFFAIRS Afghanistan ranks last in Asia-Pacific region for corruption, says global watchdog

Afghans will need billions more in aid as US leaves

Kabul, Jan. 31: Afghanistan will need vast amounts of foreign funding to keep its government afloat through 2024, a US agency said Friday, even as foreign donors are increasingly angry over the cost of debilitating corruption and the US seeks a peace deal with Taliban to withdraw its troops from the country. International money pays for roughly 75 per cent of all of Afghanistan's costs while government revenue cov-

ers barely a quarter of Afghan public expenditures. The Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction, which issues reports quarterly to US Congress, monitors all US spending in the 18-year war in Afghanistan, America's longest war. The agency's latest report was sharply critical of the Afghan government's efforts to curb corruption, saying it is one of the biggest concerns among frustrated donors.

President Ashraf Ghani's administration "is more interested in checking off boxes for the international community than in actually uprooting its corruption problem," the report said, referring to the Afghan government's failing anti-corruption drive. Ghani's future is uncertain as final results of last year's presidential election have yet to be announced, though the preliminary results gave Ghani the win.

His main rival, Abdullah Abdullah, who serves as the country's chief executive in a fragile national unity government with Ghani, has claimed fraud. Afghanistan ranked last in the Asia-Pacific region for corruption, a global watchdog said earlier in January. According to Transparency International, Afghanistan's global ranking last year at 173 of 180 countries it surveyed was the worst since the group began ranking the

country in 2005. Even as the international community is paying billions of dollars annually, the poverty rate in Afghanistan is climbing. In 2012, 37 per cent of Afghans were listed below the poverty rate, surviving on less than USD 1 a day. Today that figure has risen to 55 per cent of Afghans. The United States is paying USD 4.2 billion yearly just for Afghanistan's security and defense forces. —AFP



Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie (centre), top US commander for the Middle East, makes an unannounced visit, in Kabul on Friday. — AP



Engagement

Bill Gates' eldest daughter Jennifer announces engagement to Egyptian equestrian Nayel Nassar

IN BRIEF

ESA's Solar Orbiter launch on Feb. 7

Michigan: A solar orbiter mission by the researchers of the University of Michigan will be launched on February 7 for studying the physics of the Sun and will also be the first to capture the images of Sun's poles. The European Space Agency's Solar Orbiter will function in coordination with Parker Solar Probe of NASA which was launched earlier in August 2018. According to researchers, the orbiter will be launched from Cape Canaveral. Solar storms are generally the torrents of charged particles and electromagnetic fields that travel from the Sun and rattle the magnetic field Earth. Disturbances can harm power lines and put expensive transformers at risk and can also damage satellites. The ability of humans to predict the threats arising from solar activity used to come from the data that is collected from spacecraft and telescopes that were stationed far from the action on the Sun.

Man killed in Japan avalanche

Tokyo: The body of a French man was found on Friday after an avalanche struck a northern Japanese mountain where he was backcountry skiing with seven other French citizens, local police said. The death of Mr Sylvain Lethier, 38, was confirmed after a rescue team found his body off the slopes of the Tomamu ski resort in the northern Hokkaido region, a brief police statement said. The avalanche happened on Thursday afternoon, when the group of eight went off the resort's ski courses to venture into the untouched snow on the mountain. Seven of the group were able to descend on their own by Thursday evening, leaving Mr Lethier, who was "unconscious and in critical condition", according to a local fire official.

NASA says goodbye to Space Telescope

New Delhi: After nearly two decades, NASA has finally bid adieu to one of its iconic telescopes. Spitzer Space Telescope that has taken images of the most ancient objects in Universe was decommissioned on Thursday, a tweet from NASA Spitzer handle said. "Farewell, Spitzer. Thank you for the great science", the tweet added. Spitzer was the part of NASA's four Great Observatories and displayed an infrared view of the cosmos. Launched in 2003, the telescope was planned only for five years, but it lasted nearly sixteen and a half years. Saturn's new ring, directing light from exoplanets, and finding an entire solar system are some of the major discoveries of the Spitzer telescope. Spitzer's observation also helped in discovering the oldest galaxy we've ever found.

TOXIC WATER TO BE FLOWED INTO SEA

Tokyo, Jan.31: Radioactive water from the stricken nuclear plant in Fukushima should be released into the ocean or vaporised into the air, an expert panel advised the Japanese government on Friday. The proposal is non-binding and sets no deadline for the government to decide or carry out procedures to deal with the water. The panel has been weighing the issue for more than three years, but a decision is becoming urgent as space at the site to store the water is running out. The TEPCO-operated nuclear plant suffered a meltdown in 2011 after it was hit by an earthquake-triggered tsunami. The radioactive water comes from several different sources including water used for cooling at the plant, and groundwater and rain that seeps into the plant daily and is put through an extensive filtration process. The panel convened by the industry ministry said releasing the water into the sea or into the air using vaporisation are "realistic options." Discarding the water into the sea "can be done with certainty," they added, because the method is also used at normal nuclear reactors. The panel only has an advisory role, and in their proposal they hope the government "will make a decision with a sense of responsibility and determination".

20 nations hit, 10k people in China

British evacuation plane leaves Wuhan with 110 people, US issues travel advisory

Wuhan/London/Washington/Paris: With more than 20 countries now affected by the coronavirus disease, nations stepped up travel restrictions on arrivals from the Asian giant on Friday even as nearly 10,000 people were infected in China. Countries have scrambled to evacuate their nationals from Wuhan, with US and Japanese citizens leaving first on Wednesday.

Britain and France airlifted hundreds of their nationals on Friday. The UK government on Friday confirmed the first two cases of the deadly coronavirus in the country and said the patients were members of the same family who were receiving specialist care.

The UK's Department for Health stressed that the National Health Service (NHS) is "well-prepared" to deal with the virus, which originated in Wuhan in China and has claimed 213 lives there. We can confirm that two patients in England, who are members of the same family, have tested positive for coronavirus, said Chris Whitty, the UK's Chief Medical Officer. The patients are receiving specialist NHS care, and we are using tried and tested infection control procedures to prevent further spread of the virus. The NHS is extremely well-prepared and used to managing infections and we are already working rapidly to identify any contacts the patients had, to prevent further spread, he said. Three people aboard Japan's first evacuation flight tested positive after landing back home, two of whom showed no symptoms, underscoring the difficulty detecting the coronavirus.

South Korea said 18 of around 350 people who were repatriated from Wuhan were hospitalised after showing symptoms. The US State Department raised its warning alert to the highest level, telling Americans "do not travel" to China and urged those already there to leave. Singapore, Vietnam and

We're working very closely with China and with a lot of other people and a lot of other countries on combating the outbreak of the Coronavirus. We think we have it very well under control. We have very little problem in this country at this moment.

— DONALD TRUMP
US President

Mongolia went a step further. Citing a likely "sharp rise" in the spread of the virus, Singapore's government barred arrivals and transit passengers who visited China in the past 14 days, and stopped issuing all forms of new visas to Chinese passport holders. Mongolia will ban Chinese nationals and foreigners coming from the neighbouring country by plane, train or road from Saturday until March 2. Mongolians will be barred from going to China over the same period.

In Vietnam, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc ordered the suspension of new tourist visas for Chinese citizens and foreigners who have been in China over the last two weeks. Trade with China will also be "discouraged" until the outbreak abates, he said. Japan, meanwhile, joined Britain, Germany and other countries that have recommended that their citizens avoid China. Russia sealed its remote far-eastern frontier. Papua New Guinea went so far as to bar all visitors from "Asian ports".

Some countries banned entry for travellers from Wuhan, the city in central Hubei province where the virus first surfaced. Italy, which has stopped all flights to and from China, declared a state of emergency on Friday to fast-track efforts to prevent the spread of the virus. In Bangladesh's biggest airport, workers held up digital thermometers to passengers' heads. A beeping alarm sounded as a passenger walking through a thermal scanner registered a fever. — Agencies



A man wearing a face mask lies dead on the pavement at ground zero of China's virus epidemic, a plastic shopping bag in one hand. —AFP

Dead man lies on an empty street in Wuhan

Wuhan (China): A grey-haired man wearing a face mask lies dead on the pavement at ground zero of China's virus epidemic, a plastic shopping bag in one hand. On what would typically be a crowded street in Wuhan, an industrial city of 11 million under quarantine, there are only a few passersby and they dare not go near him. Journalists saw the body on Thursday morning, not long before an emergency vehicle arrived carrying police and medical staff in full-body protective suits. The man lay straight on his back in front of a closed furniture store.

Medical staff in blue overalls gently shrouded his body with a blue blanket. The ambulance left, and police stacked supermarket cardboard boxes to hide the scene. AFP could not determine how the man, who appeared to be aged in his 60s, had died. AFP contacted police and local health officials afterwards but could not get details on his case. But the reaction of the police and medical staff in hazmat suits, as well as some of the bystanders, highlighted the fear pervading the city. A woman standing near the man, wearing pink pyjamas and a Mao cap,

said she believed he had died from the virus. "It's terrible," she said. "These days many people have died." Wuhan is the epicentre of the outbreak of the new coronavirus, which is believed to have jumped from wild animals at a city market into humans. The virus, which emerged late last year, has claimed at least 213 lives and infected thousands in China, with at least 159 deaths in Wuhan alone. With the virus spreading to other countries, the World Health Organisation has declared the crisis a global health emergency. — AFP

I'M MORE USEFUL HERE: FRENCH DOCTOR STAYS PUT IN WUHAN

Wuhan, Jan 31: France is preparing to airlift hundreds of its citizens from the Chinese city at the centre of a deadly coronavirus outbreak, but one Frenchman is staying put. Philippe Klein is head of the International SOS Hospital in Wuhan, the first city to be locked down by Chinese authorities as they battle the spread of the virus. "It's not an act of heroism. It's been well-thought out, it's my job," Klein said of his decision to stay. "I think I'll be much more useful here than in France." The new coronavirus has killed 170 people so far in mainland China, with thousands infected across the country.

Klein said he wants to help the local French community. Some 500 French nationals are registered with the nation's consulate in Wuhan. French auto giant PSA and Renault have factories in the city, and the local universities run exchange programmes with institutions in France. Not all French nationals are leaving - some for professional or family reasons, and others do not want to spend 14 days in quarantine upon their return to France. But Klein, a father of four who has been based in China for six years, recommends they do leave. The coronavirus has sparked fear of a wider, global outbreak. — AFP

Bushfire: State of emergency in Canberra

Canberra, Jan. 31: The Australian capital region declared a state of emergency on Friday because of an out-of-control forest fire burning erratically to its south. It's the first fire emergency for the Australian Capital Territory area since 2003 when wildfires killed four people and destroyed almost 500 homes in a single day. The threat is posed by a blaze on Canberra's southern fringe that has razed more than 21,500 hectares (53,000 acres) since it was sparked by heat from a military helicopter landing light on Monday, the Emergency Services Agency said. "The state of emergency sets a clear expectation for our community that we need you to be vigilant," Emergency Services Minister Mick Gentleman told reporters. "This is the worst bushfire season in the ACT since 2003."



A wildfire glows on the hills near Clear Range, south of the Australian capital Canberra on Friday. —AP

The fire is burning at emergency level — the highest on a three-tier scale of danger — and embers have created dangerous spot fires nearby, agency officials said. Residents of southern Canberra suburbs and surrounding villages have been advised to prepare to either protect their homes

or evacuate. Roads were blocked to the village of Tharwa late Friday because the fire posed too much danger for

residents to evacuate or return to their homes. The fire is the most dangerous of dozens of blazes burning Australia's drought-

stricken southeast. Unprecedented fires across southern Australia have claimed at least 33 lives since September, destroyed more than 3,000 homes and razed more than 10.6 million hectares (26.2 million acres). The fire danger is forecast to escalate across the southeast in the Australian Capital Territory and the states of New South Wales and Victoria as summer temperatures rise over the weekend. The state of emergency gives Canberra's local government additional powers to block roads, direct people's movements, control their property and undertake firefighting work on private land. — AP

The state of emergency sets a clear expectation for our community that we need you to be vigilant, this is the worst bushfire season in the ACT since 2003 — MICK GENTLEMAN
Emergency Services Minister

Greta nominated for Nobel prize

Stockholm, Jan. 31: Teen climate activist Greta Thunberg and the global protest movement "Fridays for Future" were nominated Thursday for the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize by two Swedish lawmakers. "Greta Thunberg is a climate activist, and the main reason she deserves the Nobel Peace Prize is that despite her young age, she has worked hard to make politicians open their eyes to the climate crisis." Left Party parliamentarians Jens Holm and Hakan Svnenning wrote in a letter to the Norwegian Nobel Committee. "The climate crisis will produce new conflicts and ultimately wars. Action for reducing our emissions and complying with the Paris Agreement is therefore also an act of making peace," they said. The pair added that without the Fridays For Future movement and Greta Thunberg, "the climate issue would not have been on the agenda to such an extent as it is today" Thunberg, 17, was mentioned as a possible Nobel Peace Prize winner in 2019, when the honour ultimately went to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed for his efforts to resolve a long-running conflict with neighbouring Eritrea. In just over a year, the climate activist, who suffers from a form of autism called Asperger's, has become the voice of a generation haunted by the climate crisis. She began her "School Strike for the Climate" outside the Swedish parliament in August 2018, and has since inspired and mobilised millions of young people to get involved. — AFP



Greta Thunberg

PERILS OF PLASTIC ■ The city's air quality has been ranked one of the worst in the world, says activist

Bangladesh capital awash with plastic-coated posters

Dhaka, Jan. 31: Dhaka is awash with millions of plastic-laminated campaign posters ahead of elections in the Bangladesh capital, and environmentalists are up in arms. These posters — of which there are an estimated 304 million — will likely end up in sewers, rivers and canals, says activist Sharif Jamil. "If they are burnt, they will pollute the air," he adds. The city's air quality has been ranked one of the

worst in the world. "The posters will take 400 years to decompose," says Jamil, who is general secretary of the Bangladesh Environment Movement, a campaign group. Each contains about two grammes of polypropylene plastic, according to the Environment Organisation (ESDO). Spokesman Hossain Shahriar said the plastics were non-biodegradable and non-recyclable. "We will be choking

under these plastics since we don't have proper recycling mechanisms in the city" — SHARIF JAMIL
General secretary of the Bangladesh Environment Movement

under these plastics since we don't have proper recycling mechanisms in the city," he said. Bangladesh's High Court last week ordered a halt to the production, display and disposal of plastic-laminated posters for the mayoral and council elections, which take place on Saturday. But to no avail. Black-and-white posters continue to festoon the streets and parks of the congested, cacophonous metropolis of 18 million people. Manjur Hossain, head of Dhaka City Corporation's waste management department, said they would deal with the waste after the polls. — AFP



The Bangladesh High Court has ordered a halt to the production, display and disposal of plastic-laminated posters for the mayoral and council elections. —AFP



Uphill task

Saina Nehwal (in pic) has to make it to four quarterfinals or semifinals in the next eight tournaments to make the cut for Tokyo Olympics, says husband and mentor Parupalli Kashyap

SHORT TAKES

Niveditha out of TT Nationals

Hyderabad: Telangana's Niveditha Balusri put up a brave fight before going down 2-3 (7-11, 7-11, 11-7, 11-8, 11-13) to Maharashtra's Manasi Chiplunkar in the women's single round of 128 match in the UTT 81st Senior National Table Tennis Championships that got underway at the Saroonagar Indoor Stadium here on Friday. The Telangana girl gave it her all, even in the decider, she rallied from 7-10 to save a match-point, but the Maharashtra girl prevailed, winning it on her second match-point. Niveditha was two sets up and she also had the measure of her opponent. But the Maharashtra girl staged a fine recovery to level the score before nailing the Telangana girl in the decider. In another match, Anuska Dutta defeated Aditi Sinha 3-2. The other state girls that failed to advance are Pranitha Garlapati, V. Lassya and Nikhitha Yenibera.

Women's singles results (Round of 128): Garima Goyal (Del) bt Priyadarshini Das (RBI) 3-1, Shreya Deshpande (Rlys) bt Manisha Sharma (Raj) 3-0, Kritika Upadhaya (Asm) bt Pranitha Garlapati (TS) 3-2, Anuska Dutta (Ben 'B') bt Aditi Sinha (Mah) 3-2, N. Vidya (TNTTA) bt Anjali Rohilla (Har) 3-0, V. Kowshika (TTTA) bt K. Anitha (Ker) 3-0, Manushree Patil (Mah) bt Kausha Bhairapure (Guj) 3-0, V. Kushi (Kar) bt Itri Sharma (Raj) 3-0, Nithyashree Mani (TTTA) bt Phalgun Charvi (AP) 3-0, Sanya Sehgal (Har) bt V. Lassya (Telg) 3-1, Sataporni De (Ben 'B') bt Himani Chaturvedi (MP) 3-2, S. Sharmitha (TNTTA) bt Tamanna Saini (Del) 3-2, Malika Gogoi (Goa) bt Sayani Bose (MCT) 3-2, Varun Jaiswal (TS) bt Tanushree Dasgupta (Meg) 3-1, Jasmin Sunny (Ker) bt Nikita Sarkar (Ben 'B') 3-1, Pooja Sharma (IA&AD) bt Aanchal Malhotra (Del) 3-1, Manasi Chiplunkar (Mah) bt Niveditha Balusri (TS) 3-2, A. Samyuktha (Kar) bt Prasuma Parekh (TTFI) 3-0, Prajakta Tipale (LIC) bt swetapadma Dalai (Odi) 3-0, Munmun Kundu (AI) bt Bhuvaneshwari Rathore (Raj) 3-0, Neha Patil (Pun) bt B. Nagasravani (AP) 3-2, Vartica Bharat (P) bt Nikhitha Yenibera (TS) 3-0, Maria Rony (Kar) bt Suhana Saini (Har) 3-0, Trisha Gogoi (Asm) bt Anushree Hazra (Rlys) 3-1.

Sindhu, Saina to skip Asian event

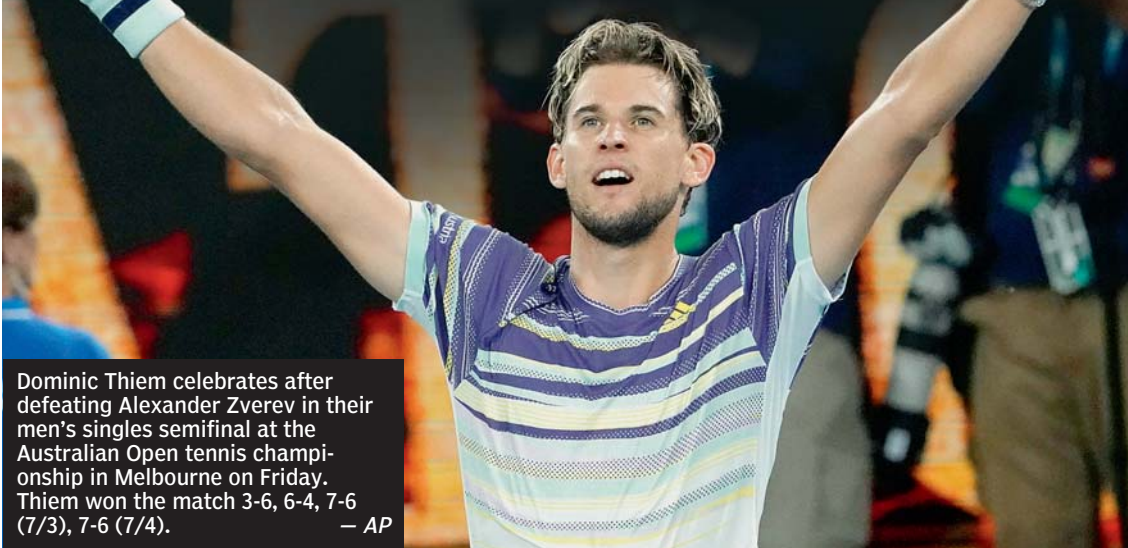
New Delhi: India will field a full-strength men's team at the Asia Team Championships but the women's side will be led by young shuttlers Ashmita Chaliha and Malvika Bansod after Saina Nehwal and P. V. Sindhu decided to give the continental event a miss.

THE SQUADS

Men: B. Sai Praneeth, K. Srikanth, H. S. Prannoy, Subhankar Dey, Lakshya Sen, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty, Dhruv Kapila and M.R. Arjun. **Women:** Ashmita Chaliha, Aakarshi Kashyap, Malvika Bansod, Gayatri Gopichand, Ashwini Bhat, Shikha Gautam, Rutaparna Panda and K. Maneesha.

Thiem tames Sascha

Dominic beats Zverev to make Oz Open final



Dominic Thiem celebrates after defeating Alexander Zverev in their men's singles semifinal at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne on Friday. Thiem won the match 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/4). — AP

Melbourne, Jan 31:

Tireless Dominic Thiem came from a set down to outlast German Alexander Zverev and make his first Australian Open final Friday, booking a showdown with seven-time champion Novak Djokovic.

The 26-year-old fifth seed, the first player from Austria ever to reach the Melbourne decider, battled past seventh-ranked Zverev 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/4) on a sweltering evening.

Defending champion Djokovic awaits him after the second seed ended Roger Federer's dreams in straight sets Thursday to make his eighth Melbourne Park final.

Thiem has his work cut out against the Serb who is on a 12-match unbeaten streak this season and has won all seven of the Australian Open deciders he has contested.

And if Djokovic needs extra motivation, winning on Sunday will see him reclaim the world number one ranking after Rafael Nadal crashed to Thiem in the last eight.

"It was an unreal match, two tie-breakers, so tough and so close. It was almost impossible to break him," said Thiem.

Thiem had dealt with semifinal pressure before, although always on the slower red clay at Roland Garros.

A jittery Thiem was broken in the opening game, saving two break



Kristina Mladenovic (left) and Timea Babos share a light moment during the presentation ceremony after their 6-2, 6-1 win over Hsieh Su-wei and Barbora Strycova in the women's doubles final at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on Friday. The pair won their second title in three years. — AFP

points before sending a backhand wide to immediately be on the back foot.

Dominic Thiem said a burst of Sweet Caroline during a stadium lights

I like this song. I felt like I was in Austria on skiing holidays, because that's where they play that song all the time. That loosened me up a bit.

— DOMINIC THIEM on the song Sweet Caroline helping him unwind in the semifinal

when the semifinal was halted for nine minutes to fix a light which had gone out behind the baseline. But Thiem said the Neil Diamond classic, played to entertain the crowd during the delay, reminded him of good times on skiing holidays with friends.

"I like this song. I felt like I was in Austria on skiing holidays, because that's where they play that song all the time. That loosened me up a bit," Thiem said.

Once play resumed, Thiem went on to win the third and fourth sets and with it the match. — AFP

THE RESULTS

Men's singles semifinal: Dominic Thiem (Austria x5) bt Alexander Zverev (Germany x7) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4).

Women's doubles final: Kristina Mladenovic/Timea Babos (France/ Hungary x2) bt Barbora Strycova/Hsieh Su-wei (Czech Republic/ Chinese Taipei x1) 6-2, 6-1.

ALL EYES ON MADRID DERBY

Madrid, Jan. 31 Real Madrid were supposedly in a mess last summer and Atletico Madrid about to challenge for the title but each have defied expectations ahead of their meeting at the Santiago Bernabeu on Saturday.

With Real marching to the top of Spanish League and Atletico languishing in fifth, the city derby this weekend is less a contest of rivals and more a moderately awkward assignment for the now title favourites. But Atletico will need a similar reversal of form, after four games without a win, in which they have lost to Eibar, drawn at home to Leganes — now themselves last in Spanish League — and been knocked out of the Copa del Rey. In term of competitions, Real have won the Spanish Super Cup, pulled three points clear at the top of La Liga and eased into the cup quarterfinals, all without Eden Hazard.

Meanwhile, Lionel Messi scored twice as Barcelona hammered Leganes 5-0 on Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of the Copa del Rey and deliver a much-needed boost for new coach Quique Setien. — AFP

LIVE ON: Facebook from 8.30pm

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20

Printed and Published by T. Venkateswarlu on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal Village, Vallabh Nagar Taluk, Medchal Malkajgiri Dist. Telangana and Published at 36, S.D. Road, Secunderabad-3. RNI Registration No. 3081/1957. Editor: Aditya Sinha

Short Term Coaching for

ICET (TS/AP) 2020
Start early to complete your preparation before semester exams

- 11 Study Material Booklets & 90+ Handouts
- 15 Mock ICETs (Paper Based & Online)
- 80 Online topic wise tests
- Regular doubt clarifying sessions
- College selection counselling after ICET

Batch starting on 4th Feb. Enrol Now!

T.I.M.E. Tel: 40088300/40088400
Management Education Pvt. Ltd. www.timeeducation.com



Indian Spring by fabindia

fabfamily | fabindia.com



a biker's delight -

MRF NYLOGRIP EZEERIDE

Make Every Ride An Ezeeride



ALSO SHOWCASING NYLOGRIP PLUS AND RIB — THE ALL-TIME FAVOURITES OF INDIAN BIKERS



- WIDER CENTRE BLOCKS | EASY ON STRAIGHT RIDES
- SUPERIOR GROOVE DESIGN | EASY ON WET RIDES
- UNIQUE TREAD PATTERN | EASY ON ZIG-ZAG RIDES
- SUPERIOR COMPOUND | FOR LONGER LIFE

Available for the following popular bikes - **Hero:** Splendor Plus/Pro, Super Splendor, Splendor iSmart, HF Deluxe, Passion Plus/Pro, Glamour, CD 100. **Honda:** Shine SP/125, Dream Yuga, Dream Neo, Livo, CD 110. **Bajaj:** Discover, Platina, CT 100, Boxer. **TVS:** Star City, Victor/125. **Yamaha:** Saluto, YBR/125. **Suzuki:** Hayate (Old). **Royal Enfield:** Bullet Standard, Electra. **Harley Davidson:** Street 750.

Available at all MRF T&S Outlets | **FRANCHISEE** | MRF Tire Tok Outlets | MRF Exclusive Outlets | **Exclusive** and MRF Authorised Dealerships | **MRF**
Toll free: 1800 419 4888 | www.mrf tyres.com | f/mrfcorporate | t/MRFWorldwide | For further assistance, email us at: write2us@mrfmail.com

Available in tube and tubeless types for both front and rear fitments.