DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 11 FEBRUARY 2020

IN BRIEF

Ram temple trust to meet on Feb. 19

Allahabad: Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra will discuss the construction of a temple in Ayodhya during its first meeting in Delhi on February 19, said trust member Swami Vasudevanand Saraswati here on Monday. The Centre had constituted an independent 15-member trust last week to oversee the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya. The announcement was made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha. Saraswati said they will also discuss the inclusion of Shri Ram Mandir Nyas chief Mahant Nritya Gopal Das in the trust.

Killer wife gets jail after 9 years

New Delhi: A Delhi court has awarded life imprisonment to the wife of a restaurant owner and two others for killing him in West Delhi's Moti Nagar area in 2011. Additional Sessions Judge Samar Vishal awarded life imprisonment to Arvinder Kaur, Sant Saran Nehra and Mridul Dixit for murdering Virender Sachdeva by inflict-ing about 55 stab injuries on him. The court also imposed a fine of ₹2 lakh on each of the convicts. The court had convicted the trio under sections 302 (murder), 201 (disappearance of evidence or giving false information), 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Hardik Patel is

missing, says wife Ahmedabad: Gujarat **Congress leader and Patidar** quota agitation spearhead Hardik Patel is untraceable since January 18 when he was arrested in a 2015 sedition case, his wife Kinjal said on Monday. Patel, who is facing sedition cases related to the 2015 Patidar quota agitation, was arrested on January 18 this year after a court here issued a non-bailable warrant for not being present during hearing. He was granted bail four days later but was again picked up in connection with two other cases filed in Patan and Gandhinagar districts.

Pilot suspended for threatening elder

New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA on Monday suspended an IndiGo captain for three months for "intimidating and threatening" a wheelchair-bound senior citizen in a Chennai-Bengaluru flight on January 13, an official said. During investiga-tion, it was found that the pilot-in-command "insisted" on an apology letter from the passengers - the senior citizen and her daughter which further delayed the matter, detaining them for approximately 75 minutes after the deboarding began at the Bengaluru airport.



A woman shows a damaged house after heavy shelling from the Pakistan side, in Mendhar Sector of Poonch district. on Monday.

Second envoys' tour to see 'normal' J&K soon

EU members, West Asian nations to be part of visit

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 10

In another move to further convince the international community that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is returning to complete normalcy, the Union Government will take a second batch of foreign envoys "from different geographical reg-ions" to J&K this week,

possibly on Thursday. According to some reports, envoys from European Union-member nations as well as West Asian countries may be part of the group this time. According to other reports, the foreign envoys may also be taken to Budgam in the Kashmir valley this time.

It may be recalled that the first batch of foreign envoys from 15 nations were taken around on January 9 and 10, It, however, did not consist of Kashmiri anyone from either the EU-member nations or

West Asia. Government sources said on Monday, "Since **MP Lone's son** the last visit of Envoys, we have received several requests from Ambas-sadors to visit the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. A group of Envoys from different geographical regions will be New Delhi/Srinagar, Feb. 10: The PSA was invoked against Hilal visiting Jammu and Feb. Kashmir this week.' It may be recalled that Lone, the son of National the Ministry of External Conference MP Moh-Affairs (MEA) had earlier ammad Akbar Lone, for said after the visit of the belonging to a party first batch that those envoys had been taken whose manifesto is to agitate against abrogation of special status of erstwhile there to "see the efforts being made by the govern-Jammu and Kashmir. offiment to bring the situacials said in Srinagar. The 47-year-old Hilal tion to normal", and had added that "normalcy has Lone, who was under preventive detention since August 5 last year when been restored to a large extent". extent". Last month, 15 envoys from United States, South Korea, Vietnam, Bangl-adesh, Fiji, Maldives, Norway, Philippines, the Centre announced the abrogation of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state's special status besides its bifurcation Morocco, Argentina, Peru, into Union territories, has Niger, Nigeria, Guyana also been accused of being the "brain child" and Togo were part of the behind the "seditious and anti-national" statements given by his father. delegation that visited the newly-created union territory of J&K. They interacted with On Monday morning, security officials, mem-bers of civil society, politithe Deputy Commissioner of Bandipore served Hilal cal leaders and the local the move to revoke Article media. During the discussions 370 while there were others who felt that this with members of civil society, the envoys had would bring new opportuheard a range of views, nities to those sections of with some also critical of society who had felt mar-

Omar's sister moves SC challenging PSA detention

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB, 10

tion following the abroga-The Supreme Court on tion of Article 370 and the Monday agreed to hear the bifurcation of the state plea by Sara Abdullah Pilot — sister of former J&K chief minister Omar into Union Territories. Sara in her petition has contended that there could Abdullah — challenging her brother's detention not be any mew material under Public Safety Act. A top court bench head-ed by Justice N.V. Ramana agreed to listing of the plea by Sara Abdullah upon a mentioning by senior counsel Kapil Sibal seeking an urgent listing. Omar Abdullah, his father and former J&K chief minister Farooq Abdullah and other senior leaders are under detention since August 5, 2019, under the an order of detention.

Recounting the public service rendered by Omar instructions of the Centre and the state administraas CM and as a Union minister, the petition says, "It is rare that those who have served the nation as MPs, CMs, ministers in the Union and have also stood by the national aspi-

for further detaining a rations of India are perperson who is already ceived as a threat. It further says, "It is therefore of the utmost under detention for six months. She has also sought quashing of the February 5, 2020, order importance and of the utmost urgency that this detaining Omar Abdullah court protects not only the under the PSA. Describing individual's Right to Life the detention as "illegal", Sara Abdullah in her peti-tion says, "The grounds and Liberty but also protects the essence of Article 21 which is the corfor the detention order are nerstone of Part III of the wholly lacking any mate-Constitution, a violation rial facts or particulars of which is anathema to all that a democratic nation stands for." which are imperative for

> **LAST MONTH,** 15 envoys from United States, South Korea, Vietnam, Bangl-adesh, Fiji,

Minister details steps by India to prevent nCov

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, FEB. 10

Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Mo-nday informed the Lok Sabha that the Indian government is taking strong measures to prevent the spread of Novel coronavirus (2019 n-CoV) in India.

He stated that 1,818 flights covering 1,97,192 passengers were already screened apart from tight vigil on seas and land ports. The minister added that 369 symptomatic travellers were referred to isolation facilities and are being monitored.

In a *suo motu* statement, Dr Harsh Vardhan said that regular surveillance has also been initiated across the country for all those who had a travel history from China and for people having come into contact with such persons and having fever, cough or preathlessness.

Integrated Through Disease Surveillance net-work, all such persons are tracked and the govern-ment is presently keeping a tab on 9,452 passengers across 29 States/UTs in the country. He added that screening

of passengers is also going on at 12 major seaports and all minor ports,

and land crossings to detect and prevent possible carriers of the coronavirus.

"In view of a confirmed case in Nepal, govern-ment has initiated screening at all integrated check posts from Nepal in colaboration with states of UP, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Sikkim and Bihar and Seema Shastra Bal (SSB) and Land Port Authorities," the minister

said. "All the positive cases in India have travel history from Wuhan, China. They have been isolated and are reported to be clinically stable," the minister said. He further said that National Institute of Virology, Pune is the nodal laboratory conduct-

ing tests. "As part of ICMR's preparedness for emerging/ re-emerging infectious disease, NIV, Pune has established capacity for molecular diagnosis of nCoV. Next generation sequencing is also established. Testing of clinical samples has also been initiated in 11 more laboratories. As of now 1,510 samples have been tested and 1,507 samples were found negative, 3 samples have tested posi-tive and 27 samples are under process," Dr Harsh Vardhan said.



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DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM FEB. 10

The latest laboratory

result of country's first novel Coronavirus patient has been found to be negative. The samples of the patient, a medical student from Wuhan China, who is currently admitted to isolation ward of Thrissur Medical College was found negative after tests at the virology institute. The government on Sundav had announced the result of the fifth sample sent for lab examination. The result of remaining sample which was sent to National Institute of Virology (NIV) on February 8, is awaited. If that test is also found to be negative then the patient will be discharged from the hospital. The student was admitted to the medical college on January 30. Apart from the Thrissur patient, Kerala had reported a positive case

each in Alappuzha and Kasargod respectively. These are the only posi-

tive cases in India so far.



MP right to water law soon

DC CORRESPONDENT BHOPAL, FEB. 10

In the ensuing budget session of Madhya Pradesh assembly, the Kamal Nath government is all set to bring in legislation on access to water a fundamental right.

MP would be the first

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC

Two jawans of Comm-

ando Battalion for Res-

olute Actions (CoBRA), the elite anti-Naxal wing

of Central Reserve Police

Force (CRPF), were mar-tyred on Monday and six

others injured in an encounter with Maoists

in Chhatt-isgarh's south

Bastar district of Bijapur.

in the gunfight, a senior CRPF officer said.

According to him, at around 10.30 am, armed

Naxals ambushed a sea-

rch party comprising CoBRA personnel in the

jungle near Irapalli vil-

lage under Bijapur dis-

This led to a fierce gun

trict.

A Maoist was also killed

BHOPAL, FEB 10

field, on Tuesday, sources in chief minister's office (CMO) said on Monday. The state government has convened a meeting of

experts to give a final shape to the draft bill. The state government is planning to implement right to water in the urban areas in MP in the state in the country to first phase and bring the

water envisages provision of at least 55 litres of drinking water per family in the urban areas. The state government plans to renovate the traditional water bodies in the state such as ponds

and lakes for the purpose.

going to launch a project

The state government is

KERALA CRZ VIOLATORS' LIST TO SC

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB.

With the Supreme Court directing Kerala chief secretary to submit a detailed list of constructions in violation of the Coastal Regulation Zone and buildings coming up on encroached lands, the state government is under pressure to bring out the list within six weeks. The apex court on Monday issued directions in this regard to chief secretary Tom Jose. The court will hear the case on March 23, 2020. The directive came from the bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra on a contempt petition. In January, following the directive of Supreme Court, four high-rise apartments were razed in Ernakulam through controlled implosion. The court's directive came on a plea filed by film director and actor Major Ravi accusing the state government of not sharing the list of CRZ violators with the Supreme Court. The director owned a flat in one of the four high-rise apartment buildings in Kochi, which were demolished last month. Major Ravi, along with others, had lodged a strong protest against razing of the apartments. Ernakulum district has the highest number of violations at 24, followed by Thiruvananthapuram 14, Kannur 7, Kollam 6 and Kozhikode 4.

Hilal booked

with a dossier informing him that he had been booked under the PSA as the territorv Union administration felt that his release could hamper the law and order situation in north Kashmir, the officials said. "You being a probable MLA candidate of National Conference are a probable threat to the public peace and tranquility as you belong to the party whose manifesto is to agitate against the abrogation of Article 370, 35-A of Constitution of India," the two-page

detention order said. "Being a poster boy of NC and son of senior party leader Mohd Akbar Lone of Sonawari locality, you will find it easy to exploit the innocent people and will instigate them to agitate against the abrogation" of special status.⁴

ginalised earlier.

India had last year defended its move to revoke Article 370 in August, maintaining that "The recent legislative

Maldives, Norway, Philippines, Morocco, Argentina, Peru, Niger, Nigeria, Guyana and Togo were part of the delegation that visited the newly-created union territory of J&K.

ACCORDING TO other reports, the foreign envoys may also be taken to Budgam in the Kashmir valley this time.

ENVOYS who visited J&K earlier interacted with security officials and civil society members

measures taken by India within the framework of Constitution will its ensure that these progres-sive measures will ... (bring) an end to gender disparity, including on property rights and representation in local bodies" adding, "There will be better protection of juvenile rights and laws against domestic violence. The rights to education, information and work will now be applicable. Long-standdiscrimination ing against refugees and under privileged sections will end.

bring in such legislation. right to water may be finalised by experts in the

2 CRPF jawans

killed in ambush

said.

Kumar,

Mahata,

Pandurang.

be identified.

found on the spot.

rural belt under its The draft bill on the purview in the next phase, sources said. The draft bill on right to

battle between the two

groups. In the exchange,

two commandos of CoB-

RA were killed while six

members of the search

party, including a deputy

commandant, were injured, the CRPF officer

The martyred jawans have been identified as constables Vikash Kumar

The injured are deputy

commandant Prashant

Kumar, head constable Ajit Singh and constables,

Giriwar Oraon, P. Pawan

The body of a Naxal was also recovered from the

encounter site. It is yet to

A weapon was also

Bibha Basu and Pawar

and Purnanand Sahu.

to ensure piped water to each household in the urban areas, as part of the move to implement right to water.

BENGAL BJP MP QUIZZED BY CID IN MURDER CASE

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, FEB. 8

Ranaghat BJPMP Jagannath Sarkar was questioned by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the West Bengal police on Saturday for four hours in connection with the murder of Trinamul Congress MLA of Krishnaganj Satyajit Biswas in Nadia last

year. Mr Sarkar, who is an accused in the case, appeared at the CID headquarters: Bhawani Bhavan at around 12.15 pm after getting summons.

was. however. He allowed to go after his statement was recorded by a CID team.

MARITAL I WOES Protest in front of ex-wife's house, also a cop, stuns police **Rahul tells party** IPS officer stages sit-in to meet kids

Bengaluru, Feb. 10: A dispute involving a divorced IPS couple played out in full public view here with the man, an SP, staging a sit-in outside the residence of his former wife seeking to meet his children and the latter summoning the police to take action against him. It all started when Arun

Rangarajan, serving as the wife Superintendent of Police agaran, at the Kalaburagi Internal Security Division, arrived Home Guards, complainat the Vasanth Nagar resiing he was quarreling

dence of his divorced wife **THE PROTEST** by an in plain clothes and squat-IPS officer created a ted outside it late Sunday, scene with the public and accusing her of not allowmedia gathering there ing him to meet the chileven as local police dren. The dharna by the arrived on being called by Indian Police Service offihis former wife Ilakkiya cer created a scene with Karunagaran, a Deputy public and mediapersons Commandant General of gathering there even as local police arrived on Home Guards, being called by his former complaining he was Ilakkiya Karunquarreling with her. Deputy Commandant General of with her.

matter since Rangarajan was a superior officer, police pleaded with him to move away.

them: Am I creating any nuisance here? I am just sitting here."

for quite sometime. Have you seen me quarrelling with her? But she had called police saying that I am quarrelling with her.

He asked the police under which rule they

were asking him to leave the place, saying he has not created any disturbance.

Ours was a love marriage. We were posted in infested Naxal Chhattisgarh where we got married and within a year differences surfaced. Later, at her insistence we opted to shift to Karnataka cadre. After coming here we got divorced, he said.

Later, he was allowed to meet his children, police said. — PTI

MPs to calm down SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY I DC protests in the House and

NEW DELHI, FEB, 10

Days after members of Parliament from the **Opposition and Treasury** benches nearly came to blows over the issue of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's apology as demanded by Union minister Harshvardhan, the former Congress president on Monday asked party MPs to desist from making "emotional"

Gandhi asked them to take up a particular topic, form a proper strategy and then protest inside the House, sources told this newspaper. Following this, it was

stick to well thought out

strategies before agitat-

At a meeting of party

MPs in the morning, Mr

decided to take up the issue of SC/ST reservation in both Houses of Parliament on Monday.





Apparently caught in a dilemma on how to tackle

Rangarajan then asked Turning to mediaper-sons, he said: You are here



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Chronicle **11 FEBRUARY 2020**

Release former CMs; J&K dossiers surreal

The government's dossiers against Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, two former chief ministers of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state, already languishing in jail for six months — based on which the two were recently charged under the Public Safety Act, J&K's draconian preventive detention law, may have been dismissed as amusing — a typical example of concoctions the police in India are known to insert into their FIRs and investigation reports — if they weren't dangerous, given their wider implications for Kashmir and the country.

Such official justifications against high political personages who also hold an esteemed position in society, are unlikely to have been drummed up by the police and bureaucracy on their own. In high-profile cases, they are known to act based on guidance from above. And since the UT is now under New Delhi's direct rule, one can assume that the political masters at the Centre are the real authors of the loaded dossiers. Let's look at the absurdity. The dossier on Mr Abdullah refers to "the capacity of the subject to influence people for any cause can be gauged from the fact that he was able to convince his electorate to come out and vote in huge numbers even during the peak of militancy and poll boycotts". In any democratic system, such an individual should get high marks for

acting against extremism and militancy and getting people to the ballot box through his words, but not under the stewardship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah. Indeed, the government has determined that Mr Abdullah is a victim of "radical methodolo-gy". Being a vote-catcher can falsely lead to any politician being labelled as a pied-piper who is "radical", losing sight of the real political meaning of that expression. If the capacity to get people to vote is made a criminal offence and attract the charge of causing public disorder or disaffection argument the Cate them call argue rulling a politicing barrier against the State, then all vote-pulling politicians beware. Big Brother is watching!

Mr Abdullah was also accused of speaking out against the revocation of J&K's autonomy under Article 370. This is extraordinary. While this provision was emasculated through the use of the government's brute majority and political arm-twisting by it in Parliament, the constitutionality of the action is still before the Supreme Court. In any case, questioning or challenging the government is not a crime, much less an act against India, which the dossier suggests. The political class and our civil society need to gauge how dangerous the implications of the dossier against Mr Abdullah are.

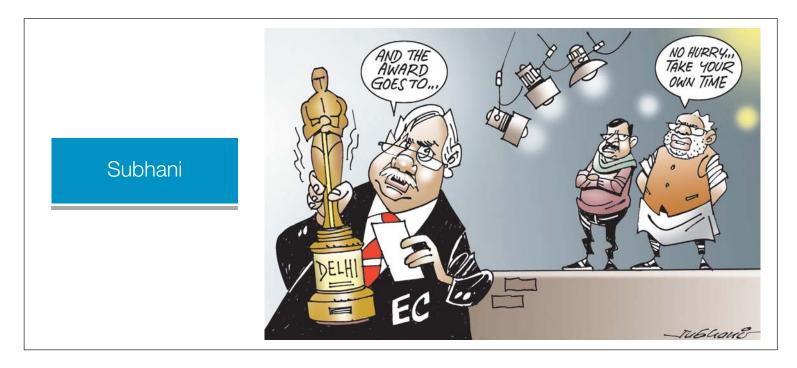
The BJP had no hesitation co-habiting with Mehbooba Mufti's PDP to be in power in J&K, but now the dossier against Ms Mufti accuses her of opposing triple talaq and speaking out against mob lynching, and being "her daddy's girl". It's with her "daddy" that the saffron arty had struck an alliance in J&K. Political prisoners in J&K must be freed, not charged on surreal grounds.

Low expectations

hen Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged visiting Sri Lankan PM Mahinda Rajapaksa to implement the 13th Amendment of his country's Constition (13A), which provides for provincial councils and also makes Tamil an official language, along with Sinhala, he had his eyes set only on Tamil Nadu. Even if this was a bid to appease the south-ern state, now playing truant to the BJP, the request to the same leader, who had presided over the LTTE's decimation, to provide equality, jus-tice, peace and respect to Lankan Tamils was perhaps unduly optimistic.

Welcoming Mr Rajapaksa, accused of brutal genocide in the aftermath of the ethnic conflict that ended in 2009, with a red carpet itself was resented in Tamil Nadu and in some quarters overseas. It's no secret that Mr Rajapaksa always had the Indian government's support, which he acknowledged during the five-day sojourn saying "we would not have won (in 2009) without India's help", it was unnecessary for Mr Modi to pose as someone concerned about the plight of Sri Lankan Tamils. Mr Rajapaksa was honest enough in his expression of gratitude by not referring to India's abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir, and even said: "India is a relative, others are friends"

While he is a frequent traveller to India, either for conclaves or to meet political leaders even when he was in the Opposition or as a pilgrim, this is his first visit as Prime Minister. India could have made use of the opportunity to put real pressure on him to find an immediate and lasting solution to the problems of the Tamil people. His saying that he would talk to elected Tamil representatives may be a ruse to dodge the real issue. Ordinary people are facing the brunt of Sinhala chauvinism and domination, along with official apathy, and it is the Colombo government's duty to address the problem.



Rajapaksas must try to heal civil war's wounds



t's not in India

alone that a majoridangerous minority complex can make sections of the minority commu-nity feel under siege. The government of Sri Lanka, whose bornagain Prime Minister, Mahinda Rajapaksa, is now visiting New Delhi, acts as if the majority's Sinhalese language, cul-ture and Buddhist religion are under constant threat from the minority Tamils and Muslims. It was even more comic (and also tragic) when the People's Congress of Tibet obediently passed a law last month reflecting the nervousness of more than 1.2 billion Han Chinese about the aspirations of 3.2 million Tibetans and nine mil-

lion Uighurs. The Tibet Autonomous Region's more than 40 minorities ethnic account for 95 per cent of its population. The new Ethnic Unity Act, which will become effective from May 1, resembles a similar law introduced four years ago in the autonomous territory of Xinjiang, which China has controlled since 1949 and where 90 per cent of the people are Han. Like Tibet, Xinjiang also houses multiple ethnicities. At least a million Uighur and other Uighur and other Muslims, along with some ethnic Kazakhs and Uzbeks, have been detained in "re-educa-tion camps" in recent times. The action against Muslims who are ethnically and culturally closer to Central Asians than to the Han Chinese intensified after riots in the regional capital Urumqi killed more than 200 people in 2009. Denying the crackdown, Beijing describes the facilities where detainees are held as vocational training centres. Both ethnic unity laws reiterate that these outlying regions peopled by non-Han races have

always been inalienable parts of China, and that it is the common responsibility of all ethnic groups to "strengthen ethnic unity", safeguard national reunification and oppose separatism. This is not the first time that China has invoked ethnic unity. In October 2019, the General Offices of the Communist Party of Central China Committee published a guideline for enhancing ethnic unity, stressing efforts to improve the governance of ethnic affairs, guaranteeing the legal rights and interests of ethnic groups and cracking down on "crim-

tions on senior Chinese officials for their involvement in detaintheir ing Muslims. In order to become law, the bill needs to be first approved by the Senate before it goes to President Donald Trump for approval. His decision will be influenced by the post-Phase One Sino-US trade agreement talks as well as responses to the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act which became law on November 27, 2019 and obliges the US to impose sanctions against Chinese and Hong Kong officials responsible for human rights abuses in former British the colony. Already incensed, the Chinese

Beijing resents any American criticism of

these moves, especially a bill that the US House

of Representatives passed by 407 votes to 1 on December 3 that

seeks to impose sanc-

SRI LANKA

inal acts" that sabotage media describes the ethnic unity or cause ethnic separation. Uighur Bill as part of Washington's "smear Before that, in 2016, campaign" and urges Mr Trump not to sign it. China began a campaign in Xinjiang to promote India-Sri Lankan relaethnic unity and called tions might become

Rajapaksa spoke appre-ciatively this week of Sri Lankan police officers 'participating in antiterrorism courses in India's premier training institutes", of intelli-gence-sharing and counter-terrorism capacity building. No doubt these are important mat-ters, and India cannot deny its smaller neighbour assistance in overhauling national security. But the first charge on the Rajapaksa clan which now controls Sri Lanka is the unfinished business of the disastrous 27-year civil war which ended technically on May 18, 2009 but has left behind a trail of bitterness, broken lives and shattered hopes. Sinhalese Buddhists account for 75 per cent of Sri Lanka's 23 million population. The largely

Hindu Tamils are 11 per while Muslims cent (Tamil, Malay and Moor) comprise under 10 per cent. Being so well-entrenched, the majority should have the confidence to share governance with the two minority communities, knowing that it is the only way of ensuring willing cooperation. The 13th amendment to Sri Lanka's constitution, introduced at India's urging as part of Rajiv Gandhi's 1987 peace accord with J.R Jayewardene, envisaged a federal dispensation instead of the present autocracy. The Rajapaksa brothers – The Gotabaya and Mahinda have a dual task. Not only must they tackle what the Lessons Learnt Reconciliation and Commission signally failed to achieve, but

they must also live down

their own roles during

those 27 years of blood-shed. There may not be enough energy left for

the Liberation Tigers of

Tamil Eelam to rise

again, but surly silence

should not be mistaken

for peaceful cooperation.

The Rajapaksas' decision

to drop the Tamil version

of Sri Lanka's national

anthem from last week's

Independence Day cele-

brations doesn't augur

The writer is a senior

journalist, columnist

and author

well for the future.

LETTERS **BUDGET EXEMPTIONS**

As a super senior citizen who donates money to different charities every year, I wish the Union Budget had not removed Section 80G (donations), from the list of eligible exemptions. It is cruel, not to those who pay the tax, but the donees, like Cancer Society, Save the Children and many others who do a wonderful job of looking after several helpless members of our society. By removing the sop, taxpayers will stop donating money and the sufferers will be those vulnerable people. I appeal to the FM to maintain status quo on this. Secondly, citizens above 80 are exempt from tax up to ₹5 lakh per annum. This was removed. The tax lost because of this exemption is worthwhile.

S.R. Mohan Secunderabad

TAX EVASION PLOY

The objection to the GHMC staff photographing properties in Old City for GIS suspecting it to be related to CAA/NRC was nothing but an attempt to thwart assess-ment of property tax by elements who pay no taxes (*GHMC survey* triggers fear, *DC*, Feb. 10). K. Gopal Rao Hyderahaa

Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com. You can also send them to Editor,

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on people to respect the cultures of the minorities who call the region home. Even Xi Jinping urged the people to strengthen the community spirit and called on ethnic groups to unite. In September 2019 he emphasised the importance of "patriotic teaching" at an event to honour role models and groups on ethnic unity and progress. In November 2019, the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council published an outline for promoting "patriotic education" in what President Xi calls "New Era". sly, "patriotic the Obviously, "patriotic education" is seen as an important vehicle for promoting values that further "ethnic unity". This is in line with "New Era" thinking which marks a departure from previous attempts at establishing a system of ethnic autonomy.

testy give Minister equally Prime Narendra Modi's frank speaking to Mr Rajapaksa, as earlier to his brother, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who made New Delhi his first overseas destination after taking office in November. However, there is also a danger now that evidence of Islamist fundamentalist activity in Sri Lanka culminating in last year's vicious Easter Sunday bombings might tempt New Delhi to make common cause with Colombo against terrorism. Mr

The Rajapaksas' decision to drop the Tamil version of Sri Lanka's national anthem from last week's Independence Day celebrations doesn't augur well Understandably, for the future

Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.

Fall in standard of **English deplored**

By a staff reporter HYDERABAD, Feb. 7. A two-day University Teachers' Seminar, intended to bridge the ever-increasing gap between thought and its expression in English, as experienced by Indian students, was today inaugurated at the Central Institute of English. The Semi-

the Union Ministry of Education, being



attended not only by professors and senior teachers of English from universities, but also by specialists from institutions conducting professional courses.

The Seminar was inaugurated by the former Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University, Dr. D.S. Reddy, Prof. Gokak, former director of the institute, presided.



Of partying & feeling like Lady Macbeth

was walking up St James' and happy to be in London. For a change I was not rushing but strolling in a leisurely manner. on time for lunch with Charles Moore at his club, when the lack of deference of certain Americans hit me like the proverbial pie in the face: "I mean, like, who the f*** does she think she is? I'm not taking this crap from anyone. This is my life and this is me..." The young woman bellowing at the top of her screechy voice had those ubiquitous wires hanging from her ears, was wearing leggings — she was not bad-looking, incidentally - and was as unaware of her surroundings, as she shouted into her contraption, as it is possible to be. St James' is a quiet street of gentlemen's clubs, demure shops selling men's shoes and an old-fashioned men's hairdresser. The oblivious American kept at it, heading for Piccadilly. I turned into a club and that was that.

I mentioned this during lunch and Charles Glass, the third in our

party, cringed. What is it about loud American women that makes men like Charlie Glass and myself, two fairer sex-obsessed males. wince? Is it their pushiness and assertiveness, the high decibels, or the aggression? Perhaps it's just that I'm old, used to sweet young Southern belles and the shy debs of long ago. Never mind. Lunch with two very old friends was wonderful: one, my ex-editor Charles, a fountain of knowledge and good sense; the other, Charlie, writing books non-stop, his latest about Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen and the shell-shock hospital they were sent to after World War I. The problem was poor little me. The moment I opened my mouth, I coughed, the result of the bronchitis I've had since before Christmas. Both my lunch companions put manners ahead of self-preservation, never mentioning the Chinese virus threatening to lower the world's population. And instead of listening to myself talk. I learned

things. Then a funny thing happened. Charlie Glass and I left the club, drank some brandies next door, and puffed away like gangsters in the black-and-white films of the 1940s. It was obviously the worst thing to do for my poor old lungs, but the cough disappeared quicker than you can say tuberculosis. So I continued boozing and puffing away, and then it was time for Charlie's dinner to celebrate his 69th birthday.

But first I was driven to the *Spectator* in order to give Fraser Nelson a bottle of his favourite scotch whisky. Once there I realised that I had forgotten to buy it, so I made do with making a fool of myself in front of a pretty pregnant lady and Fraser. Charlie's dinner was an all-male do with his two sons, George and Edward, and my boy, John Taki, providing the gaiety missing from the faces of older lefties who are close friends of the birthday boy. I sat next to the famous war photographer Don

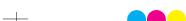
McCullin, who keeps his political opinions to himself and is a very cool cat. What made my evening, of course, were the patronising looks of the self-regarding "enlightened" folk who made up the rest.

A couple of them looked so annoyed at my presence they made me feel like a combination of Messalina and Lady Macbeth. Here was this drunken older man, selfsatisfied and dressed in a very expensive Anderson & Sheppard suit, with a silly smile on his face that said "We won" and trying to flirt with the young waitress. Can anyone think of anything more annoying to people still grieving over recent electoral events? After a while, Charlie's boys and JT decided that I had tortured the dinner guests enough and deposited me in a taxi. The next day my boy and I flew back to good old Helvetia but I would return to London for a party to celebrate you-know-what on the 31st, and the next night the 40th birthday of the son of a great

friend, which promises to be the blast of the year.

Once back on Swiss soil, I read that the Sackler family have sold their digs in the Bagel and are moving to Switzerland. Well, it's a very smart move. Back in the good old U S of A Sacklers' Purdue Pharma is facing around 2,600 lawsuits implicating its OxyContin in drug users' deaths. Switzerland has a far more tolerant view of rich people. What they do outside the country is none of Switzerland's business. And if they spend their ill-gotten gains there, everything's hunky-dory. That is a smart outlook, but it tends to attract the wrong types. It's one of the reasons I have to fly to London and New York to attend parties nowadays. The only one who hasn't bought a chalet in the Alps is Al Capone, and he has very good reasons for failing to buy.

> By arrangement with the **Spectator**







IN BRIEF

Phone output to fall to 5-yr low

Seoul: Researcher TrendForce said on Monday it expected global smartphone production to fall by 12% to its lowest level in five years in the first three months of 2020 because a virus outbreak in China. TrendForce said it cut its forecasts for the global smartphone output, expect-ing Huawei, Apple and other companies to bear brunt of the market slowdown. — Reuters

Cohen, Musk hit out at FB again

New Delhi: One of the Facebook's most prominent critics is actor Sacha Baron Cohen. Indeed, his speech in November, characterising Facebook as the "greatest propaganda machine in his-tory," quickly went viral. Now, he tweeted, "We don't let 1 person control the water for 2.5 billion people. We don't let 1 person control electricity for 2.5 billion peo-ple. Why do we let 1 man control the information seen by 2.5 billion people? Facebook needs to be regulated by governments, not ruled by an emperor! Soon after, Tesla founder Elon Musk responded to the morning diatribe, himself tweeting "#DeleteFacebook it's lame."



Bill Gates orders a superyatch

New Delhi: In a first. Bill Gates has ordered a hydrogen-powered superyacht, worth an estimated £500m (\$644m) that features an infinity pool, helipad, spa and gym. The billionaire cofounder of Microsoft has commissioned the Aqua ship - a 112-metre (370ft) luxury vessel completely powered by liquid hydrogen - which was publicised last year at the Monaco yacht show by the Dutch design firm Sinot, reports The Guardian. Speaking about the project last year, the marine designer Sander Sinot said: "For the development of Aqua we took inspiration from the lifestyle of a discerning, forward-look ing owner, the fluid versatility of water and cutting-edge technology, to combine this in a superyacht with truly innovative features." Gates, 64, who is currently ranked as the world's second-richest man with a \$118bn (£92bn) fortune, is a regular superyacht holidaymaker who has not previously owned his own vessel. - Agencies

Samsung's Oscar ad reveals new foldable

Korean firm aired the advertisement ahead of its launch

San Francisco, Feb. 10: however, expected to be Samsung Electronics, the world's top smartphone maker, gave a glimpse of new square-shaped fold-able phones in a surprise TV commercial aired during the Academy Awards on Sunday. The ad, broadcast only in the US, comes two days before its Galaxy Z Flip

phones, which open and Apple's pricey models,' close vertically like a flip said Tom Kang, an analyst phone, are due to be at research firm Counterunveiled at an event in point, adding that Samsung had taken the lead in foldable phones at San Francisco. While there were many shots of the phones, which a time when Chinese come in at least purple rivals looked set to leap and black, there were few other details. They are, into the nascent market.

In the less expensive than the \$1,980 Galaxy Fold which video, the Galaxy Z opens like a book and was Flip is launched in September, delayed by several months mostly shown sitafter problems with its ting on a screens. "The new Galaxy Z Flip foldable phone will table and create a halo effect for Samsung's brand and help folded at a 90-degree it better compete with angle, allowing users to easily video chat and also view themselves

During its brief 30-second runtime, the ad also offers a look at the Galaxy Z Flip's small outer touch display, which sits next to the device's dual camera and shows an incoming call which can be interacted with directly.



FLAW ALLOWS

MALWARE TO

BE SENT VIA BT

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs

Security researchers at

ERNW have discovered

a bug in Android phones

that allows attackers to silently deliver malware

via the phone's blue-

The bug, BlueFrag, for now, affects Android smartphones that run on

older version of the OS-

Oreo and Pie. However,

users can protect them-

selves from the vulnera-

bility by installing the

According to the researchers at ERNW,

the intruder only needs

to know the Bluetooth

MAC address of the tar-

get that can easily be guessed by looking at the Wi-Fi MAC address.

The nature of the flaw

means that the attacker

will have to be relatively

close to its target. This will mainly be a concern

in public spaces where there's an abundance of

However, Android 10

can users can breather easy as the vulnerability

doesn't affect them. But,

ERNW researchers did-

n't confirm if the older

versions before Android

8 are also affected. The

team hadn't "evaluated the impact" on older

targets.

February patch.

tooth.

HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

FIVE THINGS TO CHANGE TO MAKE YOUR SMART DEVICES REALLY SECURE

Agencies

While big tech companies wants us to cram as many smart gadgets as possible into our homes, offices and cars, users will need to be wary of these cheaply priced products.

In many cases the data those sensors gather during the course of the day is stored, analysed and repackaged. It's sliced and diced and re-used by companies who want to understand us and what we do. That second revenue stream is why so many of these things are cheap in the first place.

Recently, the UK government made a first attempt at coming up with a set of rules for IoT security that gadget makers must stick to if they want to sell their devices in the country.

All consumer internet-connected device passwords must be unique and cannot be reset to any universal factory setting

Makers of consumer IoT devices must provide a public point of contact so anyone can report a vulnerability and agree it will be acted on in a timely manner

Consumer IoT devices makers must state the minimum length of time that the device will receive security updates at the point of sale, either in store or online However, here are five things that can be done to make IoT devices more secure.

how and where it is stored and for how long.

clear whether that data it creates is encrypted (and how) and who has access to the data and the keys

IoT device makers should keep a list of what of the data collected they are analysing or monetising or reselling, even if anonymised, and a list of who they sold it to.

Users of IoT devices should be able to see what data is

All IoT devices should be capable of being automatically upgraded if bug fixes become necessary

While no tech company will their business being made public, they expect us to allow them to eavesdrop and watch our every intimate moment. So, the faustian bargain about privacy and security will continue.



HOW TO SHARE FILES SECURELY ONLINE

Well, there's a plethora of option to share files securely online, yet most people tend to use their email or popular cloud storage services. Here are our top picks



WETRANSFER

WeTransfer allows users to send files without having to sign up for a new service. You can share one or multiple files via a custom link, which stays active for a week by default.

SENDANYWHERE

It's simple, fast, and free (for the basics, anyway). Open the site, click the red plus icon, and you can share a file or files using a unique link or a six-digit code.

FIREFOX SEND

It allows users to use—with or without the Firefox browser—and lets you share files up to a total size of 2.5TB, free of charge.

DROPBOX

Dropbox gives you 2GB of cloud storage for free, with paid plans starting at \$12 a month for 2TB of storage. Besides enabling file-sharing across the web, it keeps your files and folders synced between your devices and the cloud, lets you showcase files on the web, collaborate on files with others, and more.

GOOGLE DRIVE

Google gives you 15GB of cloud storage for free, split across its various services (including Google Drive, Gmail, and Google Photos). Paid plans start at \$2 a month for 100GB of storage and go up from there—and of course you get Google Docs, Sheets, and the rest of Google's online office app suite as well.

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ONEDRIVE

OneDrive from Microsoft gives you 5GB of cloud storage for free: you can upgrade that for a fee, with prices starting at \$2 a month for 100GB of storage

ICLOUD

Apple's cloud storage service iCloud lags behind the competition when it comes to file sharing, though there are signs of improvement; the ability to share folders as well as individual files was recently added in iOS 13.4 and macOS Catalina 10.15.4.

Sony, Amazon join MWC exodus over nCoV scare

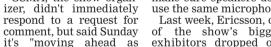
London, Feb. 10: Sony and Amazon are the latest companies to pull out of a major European technology show due to fears over the outbreak of the new coronavirus.

Sony said Monday it's scrapping its appearance at Mobile World Congress, the world's biggest mobile industry trade fair, in

ing," Sony said in a statement.

Amazon is withdrawing "due to the outbreak and continued concerns about novel coronavirus," the ecommerce giant said in a brief statement. GSMA, the show organ-

a constantly evolving situation that will require fast adaptability," the GSMA said. It had already planned to step up clean-ing and disinfecting measures, recommend a "no handshake policy" and make sure speakers don't use the same microphone. Last week. Ericsson, one the show's biggest exhibitors dropped out. along with South Korean electronics giant LG and graphics chip maker Nvidia. China's ZTE, meanwhile, scaled back by dropping its press conference. More than 1 lakh people, including 5,000-6,000 from China, typically attend Mobile World Congress and organizers were expecting similar figures this year.



hands-free.

Every IoT device should make

being held and have the right to have it permanently deleted.

agree to this level of data about

Every IoT device should come with a clear explanation of how any data created is transmitted,

releases, said ERNW. However, the problem remains that the flaw remain unpatched as Google directs popular phone makers to provide security updates for nearly two years.

In that regard, the Android 8 OS is well past that two year mark. Moreover, Vendors go up to 90 days before patching a flaw.

Barcelona, this month. Instead, the company will launch its latest devices through its YouTube channel on Feb. 24, the first day of the show.

"As we place the utmost importance on the safety and well-being of our customers, partners, media and employees, we have taken the difficult decision to withdraw from exhibiting and participat-

But to push that number into the 40

to 50 percent range, you have to take

Scientists have known how to make

engineering processes involved in

manufacturing them.

graphite completely out of the picture.

silicon anodes for years, but they have

struggled to scale the advanced nano-

it's moving planned" with the event, and outlined additional health and safety measures. They include banning visitors from China's Hubei province, where the outbreak originated, requiring people who have been in China to prove they left at least 14 days earlier, and carrying out temperature screening. "We are contending with

Lithium miner seeks to monitor water scarcity in Chile

Santiago, Feb. 10: With residents and courts ringing the alarm about depleted water supplies in Chile's Atacama salt flat, the world's top lithium miner Albemarle quietly filed a proposal in December for a network to monitor flows beneath the parched desert floor.

The previously unreported move is an indication of how important it has become for miners to prove their supplies of the so-called "white gold" battery metal are sustainable as they court automakers preparing for the coming electric vehicle revolution.

Car companies have ratcheted up scrutiny in the Atacama, by far the biggest source of supply in South America's so-called "lithium triangle," where one lithium producer is locked in a court battle over pumping of brine and a copper miner has opted for pricey desalination over drawing water from local aquifers.

"What we're seeing is a scruti-ny of how lithium is being produced, and particularly, in the Salar de Atacama," Ellen Lenny-Pessagno, Albemarle's Chile manager, told Reuters in an interview in capital city Santiago. "They want data."

She said a team from Germany's biggest car maker Volkswagen — which expects to produce 1.5 million electric autos by 2025 — visited the Atacama last month to scope out the social and environmental impact of mining operations there.

A source at Volkswagen, who asked not to be named, confirmed a recent trip had been

Berdichevsky founded Sila Nanotechnologies to build a better battery. His secret ingredient is nanoengineered particles of silicon, which can supercharge lithium-ion cells when they're used as the battery's negative electrode, or anode.

In 2011, Gene

Today, Sila is one of a handful of companies racing to bring lithiumsilicon batteries out of the lab and into the real world, where they promise to open new frontiers of form and function in electronic devices ranging from earbuds to cars.

By this time next year, Berdichevsky plans to have the first lithium-silicon bat-teries in consumer electronics, which he says will make them last 20 percent longer per charge.

IT'S THE ERA OF SUPERCHARGED LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

When a lithium-ion battery is charging, lithium ions flow to the anode, which is typically made of a type of carbon called graphite. If you swap graphite for silicon, far more lithium ions can be stored in the anode, which increases the energy capacity of the battery. But packing all these lithium ions into the electrode causes it to swell like a balloon; in some cases, it can grow up to four times larger.

said Juan Carlos Cayo, an attor-

ney for communities in Atacama, following that deci-

The battle for water in salt

flats has intensified. Residents

and environmental groups worry that mining of lithium

and copper is damaging a regi-

onal ecosystem home to an

sion.

The swollen anode can pulverize the nanoengineered silicon particles and rupture the protective barrier between the anode and the battery's electrolyte, which ferries the lithium ions between the electrodes. Over time, crud builds up at the boundary between the anode and electrolyte. This both blocks the efficient transfer of lithium ions and takes many of the ions out of service. It quickly kills any performance improvements the silicon anode provided.

• One way out of this problem is to sprinkle small amounts of silicon oxide-better known as sand-throughout a graphite anode. This is what Tesla currently does with its batteries. Silicon oxide comes pre-puffed, so it reduces the stress on the anode from swelling during charging.

At NanoGraf, Researchers are boosting the energy of carbon-silicon batteries by embedding silicon particles in graphene, graphite's Nobel Prize-winning cousin.

made to Chile to check on local conditions. The carmaker declined to comment.

That came after a Chilean judge sided with local indigenous communities and knocked back an environmental remediation plan from top rival SQM in December, warning of "fragility" in the Atacama's ecosystem.

ancient indigenous culture and "Developing a greener world turquoise lagoons inhabited with rare pink Chilean flamincan't come at the cost of an entire territory ... and culture,"

For Albemarle, the world's largest producer of lithium, resolving the water issue is a "business decision", Lenny-Pessagno said, adding the firm was open to working with other miners on the matter including rival SQM. "Whatever happens in the salar will ultimately impact our business," she said, confirming the plan for a twodecade monitoring network to get a fuller picture of the issue. A government study intended

to provide similar information has been repeatedly delayed since 2018, leaving a void. A spokeswoman for Chile develop-ment agency Corfo, which is managing that process, said the report was nearing completion.

HIDDEN IN THE BRINE

Salt-rich brine holds in suspension the lithium that automakers covet. Miners use freshwater beneath the flats for industrial processes. Both

water and brine are scarce commodities in the world's driest desert.

miner BHP Last week scrapped plans to continue pumping water from the Atacama basin to feed its massive Escondida copper mine, the world's largest. It said it would use desalinated water instead. Albemarle, too, shelved longer-term plans to expand its operations at Atacama following questions from regulators

in 2018 about technologies that would allow the company to produce more lithium without pumping more brine.

Rival SQM's operations are also in limbo after a plan to lessen its environmental impact was thrown out by judges who said a green light from regulators had relied on junk science and warned about a "high level of scientific uncertainty" about the behavior of the Atacama's water table.

SQM has criticised the court's ruling and appealed to the Supreme Court. A decision is

pending. Lenny-Pessagno said Albemarle's near-term focus would be developing technologies to extract more lithium from the brine it already had permits for. She said the company had "no intention of asking to increase our pumping rate.'

She confirmed plans to open the La Negra III and IV lithium processing plants in Chile by next year, boosting the firm's production capacity in the country to 85,000 tonnes.

May, Albemarle Last announced a project to boost its Atacama lithium production by 30 per cent without extracting more brine.

When asked if that technology, or others, might help revive plans to produce over 85,000 tonnes, she said both the market and technology would dictate timing. "These technological improvements take time, it's still a work in progress. We want to be rational in terms of what our goals are," she said. — Reuters

pa 12

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 11 FEBRUARY 2020

IN BRIEF **Pak cleric agrees**

to vacate mosque

Islamabad: Deposed cleric of Pakistan's Lal Masjid Maulana Abdul Aziz, who occupied the state-owned mosque here and asserted his claim to be its prayer leader, has agreed to vacate it by Tuesday after striking a deal with the government. Aziz was removed from the post on the orders of the court in 2004 following a fatwa he issued against the army and the operation against terrorists in Waziristan. However, he was reinstated after his release from prison in 2009, but he stirred another controversy in 2014 after he openly extended support to the perpetrators of the Army Public School attack in Peshawar by calling it a reactionary move by the terrorists. Lal Masjid is a state-owned mosque in Islamabad and Maulana Abdullah, father of Aziz, was its first cleric. After his assassination in the 1990s, Aziz was appointed the cleric by the Islamabad Capital Territory's (ICT) Augaf Department.

Angela Merkel's

successor quits

Berlin: German Chancellor Angela Merkel's designated successor unexpectedly threw in the towel Monday, plunging her conservative party into deeper crisis as it struggles to agree on its future political direction after losing votes to the far right. Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer told leading members of the Christian Democratic Union that she won't be seeking the chancellorship in next year's election, upending Merkel's plans to hand her the reins after more than 15 years in power. Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert told reporters in Berlin that Germany's longtime leader stood by her decision not to run for a fifth term in 2021, despite the latest development. Kramp-Karrenbauer's announcement reflects the growing split with the Christian Democrats exposed last week in its handling of the election of a governor in the state of Thuringia.

ISRAEL STRIKE POSED RISK TO RUSSIAN JET

Moscow: Russia's Defense Ministry said that a passenger jetliner in Syria was endangered by Israeli fighter jets that used it as shield while striking the suburbs of Damascus the previous day. The allegation comes as tensions run high in Syria, where fighting has escalated in the northern province of Idlib. Syrian government forces, backed by the Russian military, have clashed with Turkish troops that support the opposition there after failing to observe a cease-fire. A spokesman for the Israeli prime minister did not respond to a request for comment. Israel rarely acknowledges strikes carried out in Syria. Israel has repeatedly struck Syrian and Iran-linked targets in Syria in recent years and has vowed to push back against increasing Iranian influence in its neighboring country. The news of the alleged nearmiss came amid jitters just a month after a Ukrainian passenger plane crashed shortly after take-off from Tehran, killing all 176 people on board.

NH vote: Dems trade barbs Manchester, Feb. 10: Bernie Sanders and Pete

test in Iowa - marred by messy confusion about

the result - giving each

momentum as Democrats

seek a candidate to take on Donald Trump in

president Joe Biden.

"I am running against a candidate, Pete Buttigieg, among others, who has

raised contributions from

heastern state.

away.

aires,

this country.

November.

US DEMOCRATIC presidential candi-Buttigieg locked horns in their fight for the US date Pete Buttigieg Democratic presidential narrowly won the nomination Sunday as chaotic lowa cauthey scrambled for votes cuses, collecting 14 with just two days to go before New Hampshire's delegates, ahead of closely-watched primary. The 78-year-old Vermont Bernie Sanders with 12, according to the senator and the 38-yearstate party. old former mayor of South Bend, Indiana came top of the first con-

last month. Buttigieg, appearing separately on *CNN*, turned aside the billionaire charge, quipping, "Well, Bernie's pretty rich, and I would happily accept a contribution from him."

Turning serious, he said he was "building the movement that is going to Sanders, a leftist who won the New Hampshire primary by a landslide in 2016, led in four polls defeat Donald Trump, released Sunday, each of boosted by donations which had the moderate from some two million Buttigieg in second folpeople.

Buttigieg and lowed by Massachusetts Both Senator Elizabeth Warren Biden whose status as national frontrunner for and then former vice the nomination was shak-"I think we have an excellent chance to win," en by taking fourth-place in Iowa's caucuses - said Sanders told CNN as he it would be much harder for the party to defeat Trump with Sanders. The started a final push on the ground in the small nortsenator's position at the very left of the American spectrum - with pro-grammes like extending With the primary season underway in earnest, earlier collegiality among Democrats has fallen the Medicare program to

all Americans - have been seized on by the president, who told an inter-viewer last week, "I think he's a communist. Buttigieg said it would be "a lot harder" for the

more than 40 billion-Sanders said. 'Our support is coming party to win with Sanders from the working class of than a more moderate candidate, with Biden similarly telling *ABC* it His campaign, based heavily on small donors, would be "incredibly says it raised \$25 million more difficult". — AFP

Taiwan F-16s push back China H-6s

Taipei, Feb. 10: Taiwan's Pacific having passed air force scrambled for a through the Bashi Channel that separates Tai-wan from the Philippines, second day in a row on Monday to intercept Chinese jets that approached the island claimed by the ministry added and shared a picture of a Beijing as its own, as ten-Taiwan F-16 accompanysions between the two ing one of the H-6 took on a potentially danbombers. China has been flying what it calls "island encigerous military dimen-sion. Taiwan's Defence Ministry said Chinese rclement" drills on-off jets, accompanying H-6 since 2016 when Taiwan bombers, briefly crossed President Tsai Ing-wen an unofficial mid-line in first took office. Beijing the Taiwan Strait that believes Tsai, who won re-

S. Korea's Parasite beats H'wood greats to win Oscar

South Korean satire on class divides wins Academy Award for best film

Los Angeles, Feb. 10: Parasite, a stinging satire on class divides in South Korea, jumped the 'one inch long subtitle barrier" to land on the Oscar stage — and in record books - as the first non-English film to win an Academy Award for best picture. Coloured in various

shades of black, Bong Joon Ho's wicked comedy that found resonance the world over also won the best director Oscar as well as the awards for original screenplay and best international feature. While the big wins for Parasite, the first South Korean film at the Oscars, came as a surprise for many, given the Academy Awards' 92year history of favouring English cinema, the awards in the acting categories were along expected

lines.

Joaquin Phoenix won best actor for Joker and Renee Zellweger bagged best actress for Judy. Brad Pitt and Laura Dern won the supporting gongs for Once Upon a Time in Hollywood and Marriage Story. "Four times... It's crazy. It's an unbelievable night. It's such a great honour. I feel like I'll wake up to find this all a dream," Bong, who famously spoke on foreign language films overcoming the "one inch sub-title barrier" when his film won the Golden Globe for best foreign film, said backstage after his Oscar wins. With his film eclipsing big budget extravaganzas such as 1917, Once Upon a Time in Hollywood and The Irishman, an over-whelmed Bong said he looked forward to the day when it would not be such a big deal for a foreign film to win in mainstream categories.

"I applaud and sup-port the new direction that this change svm-



ANIMATED FEATURE BEST ADAPTED | BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY | SCREENPLAY SCREENPLAY Taika Waititi, Bong Joon-ho, Toy Story 4 Jojo Rabbit Parasite

Joaquin talks of cow insemination

Los Angeles, Feb. 10: Hollywood star Joaquin Phoenix finally ended his dry run at the Oscars. He said that he believes we've become "more disconnect

the natural world and plunder it of its resour-ces," Phoenix said. "We feel entitled to artificially inseminate a cow and then steal her baby, even

SIDELIGHTS

REMEMBERING KOBE

eteran director Spike Lee, who won the best adapted screenplay V adapted screenplay Oscar last year for race drama BlacKkKlansman, rocked purple on the red carpet once again — this time to honour late basketball legend Kobe Brvant.

His jacket lapels bore the number 24, worn by the Lakers icon and Oscar winner, who was killed in a helicopter crash two weeks ago.

"Tribute. Honor. Homage. We all miss him," Lee told ABC.

WOMEN'S 'FIGHT CLUB'

In a year that saw female directors snubbed, the big question was — who would speak out about gender equality? The answer turned out to be: almost everyone.

Past Oscar winner Natalie Portman donned a Dior cape with names of women left out stitched into it, saying it was her "subtle way" of responding to the omissions.

In her opening musical number, Janelle Monae praised "all the women who directed phenomenal films."

DOWN SYNDROME HOST

Another moment of Oscars history was made when Zack Gottsagen, of the indie hit The Peanut Butter Falcon, appeared on stage alongside co-star Shia LaBeouf to hand out the best live-action short award. Gottsagen became the first Oscars presenter with Down syndrome, slightly hesitating over his lines before being encouraged by LaBeouf. 'Shia was offered to present an Oscar. He said he would do it if he can share that moment with co-star Zach Gottsagen, tweeted Alma Har'el, who directed LaBeouf

Obamas' film wins best documentary

Barack and Michelle Obama-produced film American *Factory* snagged an Oscar on Sunday for best a win

BEST ACTOR

Phoenix, Joker

MUSIC (ORIGI-

NAL SONG)

Once Upon a

The Neighbors'

ANIMATED SHORT FILM

Hair Love

Time... in

Window

Joaquin

Belt community's journey from optimism at the giant plant's reopening, which brought back vital iobs, towards creeping anger and disillusion ment, as the Chinese management imposed strict, exhausting demands on workers – and sacked those who did not comply. — Agencies

verbal warnings to leave. The Chinese aircraft then withdrew to the western side of the line, the ministry added, without identifying the jets. The H-6s were on a

separates the two, prompting its air force to

rush to intercept and give mal independence. Tsai says Taiwan is an independent country called the Republic of China, its official name. On Sunday too, Chinese jets flew into the Bashi Channel then out into the training mission in the Pacific. – Reuters

election last month, wish-

es to push the island's for-

Penelope Cruz.

bolises," the 50-yeared from the natural old said while acceptworld," and that humaniing the international ty has become egocentric film Oscar from actor about our place in the universe. Then things got a -PTIlittle strange: "We go into

though her cries of anguish are unmistak able." In a lengthy speech, Phoenix touched upon racism, climate change and gender inequality.

documentary for Netflix, which backed the story of a manufacturing plant in the US Midwest reopened by a Chinese billionaire. The film charts a Rust

Thai city copes with fallout of shooting



People attend a memorial service at Terminal 21 Korat shopping mall in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand, -AP

Nakhon Ratchasima (Thailand), Feb. 10: Authorities in northeast-Thailand began ern releasing bodies to relatives on Monday after security forces cornered and killed a soldier who carried out the country's worst mass shooting in an hourslong siege at a shopping mall.

The soldier killed 29 people starting with his commanding officer in a stunning tragedy that began and ended Saturday Sunday morning when security forces shot dead the heavily armed attacker in Terminal 21 Korat, an airport-themed mall in Nakhon Ratchasima. The gunman, Sgt. Maj.

Jakrapanth Thomma, 31, was infuriated at a land deal brokered by his commander's mother-in-law, as far as authorities have been able to determine. She was another of his victims.

The death toll surpassed Thailand's last major attack on civilians, a 2015 bombing at a shrine in

Bangkok killing 20 people that was allegedly carried out by human traffickers in retaliation for a crack-

down on their network. Messages of sympathy for the latest tragedy were sent by several countries. The US Embassy said it "stands with the people of Thailand, saddened by tragic events in Nakhon Ratchasima.'

Throughout Monday, pe-ople dropped by the Terminal 21 mall to offer flowers and leave notes expr--APessing sympathy.

Iran again fails to put sat into orbit

Tehran: An Iranian rocket failed to put a satellite into orbit on Sunday, state television reported, the latest setback for a pro-gramme the US claims helps Tehran advance its ballistic missile programme. The launch happened at 7:15 pm local time at Imam Khomeini Spaceport in Iran's Semnan province, some 230 km southeast of Tehran. A Simorgh, or 'Phoenix', rocket couldn't put the

Zafar 1 communications satellite into orbit, how ever, due to a low speed, Iranian state TV reported. "Stage-1 and stage-2 motors of the carrier functioned properly and the satellite was successfully detached from its carrier, but at the end of its path it did not reach the required speed for being put in the orbit,' Defense Ministry spokesman Ahmad Hosseini told state TV.

1,000 bomb hoaxes per day in Moscow

Moscow, Feb. 10: Moscovites are mystified by a flood of bomb hoaxes forcing the evacuation of courts, schools and malls while authorities appear unable to find the culprits even after months of disruption to public life.

The warnings of planted bombs, all of them false, have been sent to numerous Russian cities, but particularly targeted the capital, where around 16 million live and work, with up to 1,000 threats per day.

Since late November, more than 1.6 million people have been evacuated from buildings in Moscow, the Interfax news agency said citing sources.

Yet, both the authorities and Kremlin-controlled television channels stay mostly clear of the topic.



People stand outside Basmanny Court after an evacuation due to a warning of a planted bomb in Moscow. – AFP

Yulia Olshanskaya, a local government official, said her daughter Maria's school was evacuated "sometimes several times a day" throughout December. Agencies

HUGE SETBACK Fine Gael takes a battering in the face of surge in fortunes of Sinn Fein Irish PM Leo's party pushed to 3rd place



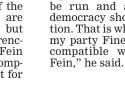
Indian-origin Irish PM Leo Varadkar

out an alliance with Sinn Fein historically associated with the Irish Republican Army and dedicated to the reunification of Ireland. The final results of the weekend's election are still being counted but with all first preferenc-es counted, Sinn Fein has 24.5 per cent compared to 22.2 per cent for Fianna Fail and 20.9 per cent for Fine Gael 'Nobody can be forced into some sort of forced marriage or forced coalition," said 41-year-old Varadkar, who took over as the Irish Taoiseach or Prime Minister in 2017. "In order to form a government together, you have to have roughly the same views around the courts and the criminal justice system; around how the economy and society should be run and also how

democracy should function. That is what makes my party Fine Gael not compatible with Sinn -PTI



Sinn Fein leader Mary Lou McDonald celebrates with supporters after topping the poll, at the RDS count centre in Dublin, Ireland.







setback in the general election as his liberalconservative Fine Gael party took a battering in the face of an unprecedented surge in the fortunes of the nationalist party Sinn Fein. As the poll results pou-

red in overnight on Su-nday, Varadkar's party was pushed down to third place with Sinn Fein in the lead, followed by conservative Fianna Fail in second place. The process of government formation is likely to be long drawn with

Varadkar having ruled

pg **13**

IN BRIEF

Bill Gates buys hydrogen yacht

San Francisco: Microsoft cofounder and the world's second richest man Bill Gates has commissioned himself a futuristic superyacht that's powered entirely by liquid hydrogen - meaning its only emission is water - for ₹4,600 crore. Gates is a regular superyacht holidaymaker but has not previously owned his own vessel and has preferred to rent during his summer trips. The plans of buying the superyacht were unveiled at the Monaco Yacht Show last year in December. Notably, this is the first of its kind being powered by liquid hydrogen. The luxury liner is 370ft-long and comprises five decks complete with space for 14 guests, 31 crew members, a gym, yoga studio, beautv room, massage parlour and cascading pool on its rear deck, The Daily Mail reported on Sunday.

Solar Orbiter to tell Sun's secrets

Miami: The US-European Solar Orbiter probe launched Sunday night from Florida on a vovage to deepen our understanding of the Sun and how it shapes the space weather that impacts technology back on Earth. The mission, a collaboration between ESA (the European Space Agency) and NASA, successfully blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral at 11:03pm (0403 GMT Monday) and could last up to nine years or more. At 12:24am Monday (0524 GMT) the European Space Operations Centre in Darmstadt, Germany, received a signal from the spacecraft indicating that its Solar panels had successfully deployed. Space Orbiter is expected to provide unprecedented insights into the Sun's atmosphere, its winds and its magnetic fields, including how it shapes the heliosphere, the vast swath of space that encompasses our system.

AFRICA HOLDS 'SILENCE THE GUNS' SUMMIT

Addis Ababa, Feb. 10: Af rican heads of state gather on Sunday at the headquarters of the African Union for a summit meeting due to focus on how the body can play a more prominent role in resolving conflicts proliferating across nent The two the conti

Global virus spread tip of iceberg: WHO

A team led by WHO leaves for China to probe epidemic; countries told to be prepared for virus arrival

Geneva, Feb. 10: The head of the World Health Organisation said on Monday there have been "concerning instances" of coronavirus among people with no travel history to China, warning that it could be the "tip of the iceberg", as he urged all countries to prepare for the possible arrival of the novel virus that has killed over 900 people.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus lauded the doctors, nurses and health workers for doing "their utmo-st" at personal risk to contain the epidemic, terming them "true heroes" of the outbreak that first surfaced in December in Wuhan city in China's central Hubei province where millions of people are under lockdown in a bid to stop it from spreading. "There've been some concerni-ng instances of onward 2019nCoV spread from people with no travel history to China. The detection of a small number of cases may indicate more widespread transmission in other countries; in short, we may only be seeing the tip of the iceberg," tweeted Ghebreyesus, Director-Ge-neral of the WHO.

Health team in China An advance team of international experts led by the World Health Organisati-on (WHO) has left for Beij-ing to help investigate China's coronavirus epidemic, which authorities said on Monday had claimed 909 lives on the mainland. WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebrevesus, who made a trip to Beijing for talks with President Xi Jinping and Chinese ministers in January, returned with an agreement on sending an international mission. But it took two weeks to get the government's green light.

I've just been at the airport seeing off members of an advance team for the @WHO-led #2019nCoV international expert mission to #China - TEDROS ADHANOM

GHEBREYESUS WHO director-general

who usually visit family during the annual Lunar of people in China returned to work on Monday aft-

er an extended holiday aimed at slowing the spread of a coronavirus, with the extra travel deepening contagion concerns as the

toll climbed above 900. And although the World Health Organisation (WHO) has said there are signs the epidemic is stabilising, the agency's chief warned on Monday there could be more infections abroad in people who have never travelled to China. In an attempt to contain the virus, cities in Hubei have been locked down onomy. and transport routes acro-

ss the country cut to stop the movement of hundre-ds of millions of people

Xi in Beijing; 98 new goes missing deaths take toll to 909 Beijing, Feb 10: Chinese

President Xi Jinping, wearing a mask, on Monday toured Beijing city to oversee the efforts to contain the coronavirus outbreak and said though the situation remained "very serious" China can score a full victory over the epidemic, which has emerged as the biggest challenge to his leader-

The death toll from the outbreak rose to 909 with 98 new fatalities reported on Sunday, mostly in the

worst-affected Hubei province. The confirmed cases of infection spi-ralled to 40,235, Chinese health officials said.

Mr Xi, who mostly remained indoors while his No. 2 Premier Li Keqiang, and other senior Communist Party officials toured affected areas including virus-hit Wuhang. Wearing a mask, virus-hit Mr Xi spoke to the doctors and learnt about the treatment of infected patients. He made video calls to hospitals in Wuhan.—*PTI*

past couple of weeks, Chinese citizen journalists Chen Qiushi and Fang Bin have served as the world's eyes and ears inside Wuh-an, the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak.

Broadcasting via their mobile phones, they've offered a glimpse of how dire things have been. Many of those videos have been posted to Twitter and reposted on YouTube. Now one of them is missing.

Chen has been out of reach for more than 20 hours. Fang, who was silent much of Friday until a vi-deo posted in the evening,

was named Coronavirus

In 2017, Asterix villain

INFECTED 40,600 Coronavirus outbreak has infected over 40,600 peo-

ple globally. The latest figures reported by global health authorities as of Monday: China: 908 deaths, 40,171 confirmed cases. Hong Kong: 36 cases, including one death. Japan: **161** Singapore: 43 Thailand: 32 South Korea: 27 Malaysia: 18 Taiwan: 16 Australia, Germany, Vietnam: 14 United States: 12 Macao: 10 US: One died in China France: 11 United Kingdom: 8 UAE: 7 Canada: 6 Philippines: 3 cases. including 1 death India, Italy: 3 Russia, Spain: 2 Belgium, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Cambodia, Finland: 1 — AP

In this photo released by Xinhua news agency, Chinese President Xi Jinping, wearing a protective face mask, speaks to residents as he inspects the novel coronavirus pneumonia prevention and control work at a neighbourhood in Beijing on Monday.

After holiday, Chinese start work Citizen journo Beijing, Feb. 10: Millions

New Year holiday. The unprecedented mea-sures included an extensi-

on of the holiday, with citizens told to stay inside as much as possible.

Officially the holiday was extended by only three days, but many cities and provinces pushed the deadline until February 10. The measures have left businesses, shops, factories and tourist sites closed and turned many cities into ghost towns, sparking concerns about the impact of the outbreak on the ec-

Wuhan city has carried out tests on 10.59 million people, almost 99 per cent of its population. -AFP

> HANDWASHING AT **AIRPORTS MAY CHECK DISEASE**

> > Boston, Feb. 10: Impro-

ving the rates of handw-

ashing by travellers pas-

Wuhan, Feb. 10: Over the was previously detained briefly by authorities for his video of corpses in a hospital. When he filmed the dramatic moment people in hazmat suits broke down his apartment door to take him into quarantine, it sparked hundreds of comments urging the aut-

horities to release him. It's no accident that their posts grew viral on Ameri can platforms. China's internet watchdog has stepped up its policing efforts

announcing it would conduct "targeted supervision" on social media platforms Weibo, WeChat and Douy-

mmit has taken as its theme 'Silencing the Guns", yet AU officials are well aware of their failure to achieve the goal adopted in 2013 of ending "all wars in Africa by 2020"

In remarks to African foreign ministers ahead of the summit, AU Commission Chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat paint ed a bleak picture of the continent's security situation. cit ing extremist threats stretching from the Sahel to Somalia. The "missed deadline" to silence the guns, he said, "reveals the complexity of the security situation in Africa.³

Though some progress has been made in Central African Republic and Sudan, long-running conflicts in Libya and South Sudan have been joined by new crises from Cameroon to Mozambique. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who will take over from Egypt ian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi as AU chair, appears attuned to these challenges. In late January, he had warned that conflict "continues to hamper" development.

London, Feb 10: Britain has declared the new coronavirus that emerged from China a "serious and imminent threat to public health" and announced new measures Monday to combat its spread.

The UK Department of Health and Social Care said people with the virus can now be forcibly quarantined and will not be free to leave. It named two British hospitals as isolation facilities for those affected by the disease and designated the Chinese city of Wuhan and the surrounding Hubei province where the virus first emerged as a "infected area".

ed as an effective means of

delaying or preventing fu-

rther transmission of the

'The incidence or transmission of novel coronavirus constitutes a serious imminent threat to public health, and the measures outlined in these

HALFWAY THROUGH a two-week guarantine, 66 more people aboard the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Yokohama have tested positive for the novel coronavirus, bringing the tally to 136 with only a fraction of the passengers tested, Princess Cruise Lines said Monday.

Coronavirus a threat to

public health: Britain

THE EUROPEAN will host an extraordinary meeting of health ministers on Thursday, along with a WHO envoy, to discuss the novel coronavirus outbreak.

AMID GROWING pressure to bring back its nationals from coronavirus-hit Hubei province, the Pakistan government has said it is closely monitoring the situation in China and will soon decide on their evacuation.

virus," the agency said in a statement. were designed to ensure regulations are consider-

ge comes after a British man who caught the virus It added that the changes at a business conference in Singapore in January appears to be linked to at the health and safety of least seven other confirmmedical workers who came into contact with ined cases in Europe. fected patients. The chan-

sing through just 10 of the world's leading airports could significantly reduce the spread of many infectious diseases, including the novel coronavirus, according to a study. The greater the impro-

vement in people's hand-washing habits at airports, the more dramatic the effect on slowing the disease, said researchers, including those from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US. The findings, which deal with infectious diseases in general, including the flu, were published late December, just before the recent coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan. However, the study, published in the journal Risk Analysis, could apply to any such disease, and are relevant to the current outbreak. -PTI

-AP

New Delhi, Feb. 10: While a virus outbreak with origins in Wuhan marches out into the world in the new decade of 2020, a character in a 2017 Asterix comic series was actually called Coronavirus!

Asterix, the Gaul from the eponymous French comic faced Coronavirus. a masked Roman villain with a reputation of stop ping at nothing to win.

In the 37th edition of the "Asterix and the Chariot Race", Asterix battles his way across Italy in a chariot race against the Romans. Written by Thibaut Deleaz, an illustration from the edition — shared bv actor Jaaved Jaaferi on his Twitter handle — shows "the Masked Auriga, the Great coronavirus" being introduced.

"Here comes our favourite, straight from Rome! The Champion with MCDL XII victories! The one they call the "The



IN THE 37th edition of the Asterix and the Chariot Race, released in 2017, a character was called Coronavirus!

Masked Augira", the great coronavirus, and his faithful bacillus," it says.

The original book "Asterix et la Transitalique sek baaet" in ancient Italv was released over two years before Wuhan reported its first case of the new

strain of coronavirus in December 2019. Written by Jean-Yves Fe

rri and drawn by Didier Conrad, the comic features Asterix and his sidekick Obelix participate in a chariot race across Italy organised by senator Caesar across Italy. They have to contend with the villain named Coronavirus and his sidekick Bacillus. Bacillus is the Latin term for bacteria! It is interesting to note that Coronavirus failed to win. -Agencies

Record! NYC-London flight lands nearly 2 hours early

London, Feb. 10: For the first time in years, a commercial passenger plane has flown across the Atlantic in less than five hours.

A British Airways flight landed early Sunday morning at Heathrow Airport in London after leaving John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York just four hours and 56 minutes earlier. That set a new speed record for subsonic - or slower than the speed of sound — commercial airc-raft to fly between the two cities, according to Flightradar24, which tracks global flights. The previous record was held by a Norwegian Air flight, which flew between the two cities with a flight time of five hours and 13 minutes. The flight had been expect-

A British Airways flight landed early Sunday morning at Heathrow Airport in London after leaving John F. Kennedy International Airport in

and

New York just **four hours** and 56 minutes earlier.

The previous record was held by a Norwegian Air flight, which flew between the two cities in five hours and 13 minutes.

ed to take 102 minutes longer. The recent average flight time between New York and London is 6 hours and 13 minutes, according to Flightr-

adar24. The wind and air currents were ideal for a fast flight, said Ian Petchenik, Flightradar24's director of communications.

"In the winter, the jet stre-am dips down a bit," he said. "It's kind of in a perfect spot for flights across the North Atlantic to take advantage of it." British Airways just narrowly beat out a Virgin Atlantic flight, which arrived in London at around the same time but one minute slower. British Airways confirmed the flight time for the Boeing 747 plane, saying the company prioritises safety over speed. The supersonic Concorde flights used to fly across the Atlantic in just over three

hours, but stopped flying in -AF

GOOD NEWS **Rain ends drought in some towns but has not fallen evenly** Deluge in Australia puts out fires



Sea foam brought by waves outside beach front houses after heavy rain and storms at Collaroy in Sydney's Northern Beaches on Monday. – AP

Wellington, Feb. 10: Drought, wildfires and now flooding have given Australia's weather an almost Biblical feel this year. The good news is that a recent deluge in eastern parts of the country has drenched deadly fires and helped ease a crippling drought.

But experts say it will take some time yet to know to what extent the rainfall has replenished dried-up rivers and quenched parched soil in some inland areas most affected by the three-year drought. Quentin Grafton, an economics professor and water expert at Australian National University in Canberra, said the rain had broken the drought in some towns but had not fallen evenly across all the affected areas

"At this stage, it's very good news, and certainly much more than people could have wished for or expected," he said of the rainfall. "There are some

very happy people." Fire authorities had a reason to celebrate, with many wildfires being extinguished or significantly dampened down by the rain. On Saturday, authorities declared the Currowan Fire south of Sydney was finally out after destroying more than 300 homes and razing 500,000 hectares over two-and-a half months. -AF





quick

INDICATOR	lS	%
Sensex	40,979.62	-0.39
Nifty 50	12,031.50	-0.55
S&P 500*	3,339.01	0.34
Dollar (₹)	71.46	0.09
Pound Sterling (₹)	92.38	-0.19
Euro (₹)	78.32	-0.18
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	41,508 ▲ 52	0.01
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	53.91	-0.56
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.440	0.001
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.558	-0.019
* As of 9:30 pm IST		

Bank of Baroda cuts MCLR by up to 10 bps

Bank of Baroda announced a cut in its marginal cost of funds-based lending rates (MCLR) by up to 10 basis points, effective Feb. 12. The reduction will make home, auto and other loans cheaper for new borrowers. With this reduction, the one-year MCLR has come down to 8.15 per cent per annum from 8.25. the bank said. One-month MCLR has been reduced by 5 basis points to 7.55 per cent.

PSB bad loans down to ₹7.27L cr in Sept '19: FM



Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said public sector banks' (PSBs) bad loans came down to Rs 7.27 lakh crore at the end of Sept. 2019, from Rs 8.96 lakh crore in March 2018, over a host of measures taken by the government. "The government has instituted comprehensive reforms in PSBs to

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, FEB. 10

Tourism, one of the five Ts that were promised in the 2014 BJP election manifesto, is yet to begin baby steps to the dream trip. A National Policy for Tourism is pending for five long years. The government had formulated a draft National Tourism Policy in 2015-16, but is still, hold your breath, seeking cabinet approval. The last time the tourism sector had a national level policy was in 2002, nearly

two decades ago. Then, in 2015-16, the government—taking into account the wide-spread, into inter-related global developments and advancements, which have had a strong bearing on the tourism sector—formulat-

ed a new draft National Tourism Policy. In a 2017 communiqué,

the government had mentioned that the policy was approval. awaiting However, even now the pol-



■ Tourism was part of five Ts in BJP's 2014 poll manifesto

icy is being reviewed in the Ministry of Tourism prior to seeking cabinet approval on the same, as per a government statement on Monday.

"In the first budget of the previous NDA govern-ment, tourism was included as one of the 'five Ts' for the development of the country. There was a lot of emphasis on developing the tourism potential of the country and the government wanted a new pol-

to be in place. Unfortunately, we have not heard much about it later. We don't know whether the policy failed to take off due to technical or administra-tive issues," said Iqbal Mulla, chief council, Global Tourism Council.

The BJP manifesto had talked of reviving Brand India through five Ts-India uno Technology, Tourism, Trade and Talent.

There has not been any

is still on way to cabinet major change in the salient features of the draft National Tourism Policy in these five years. The fea-tures include, focus on employment generation, community participation in tourism development and linkages with various ministries and stakeholders.

The policy enshrines the vision of developing and positioning India as a "must experience" and "transformational" destination for global travellers, whilst encouraging Indians to explore their

own country. "We have been asking the government to permit pub-lic-private partnership in implementing tourism projects and maintenance of tourist spots. The tourism sector is a forex earner and the entire money remains within the country unlike the foreign investments in other sec-

tors. Policy is necessary to give a clear direction for the development of the sector," said Mulla. per cent.

Defence, aerospace get **5 years & tourism policy** ₹1,800 cr FDI in 5 years

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, FEB.10

Defence and aerospace sectors, the corner stones of the government's ambitious Make in India programme, garnered relatively miniscule foreign direct investment (FDI) in the last five years.

While the country attracted FDI valued around \$286 billion in the past five years across sectors, defence and aerospace, which were projected as high potential sectors under 'Make in India', could grab only a measly Rs 1,834 crore, according to government data released on Monday. "As per the data fur-

nished by 79 companies operating in Defence and Aerospace sector, so far, FDI inflows of over Rs 1,834 crore have been reported after 2014 under both government and automatic route," it said. In May 2001, the defence

sector, until then reserved for the public sector, was opened up for 100 per cent Indian private sector participation and foreign direct investment up to 26



tion.

Further, the government later allowed FDI up to 49 per cent under the automatic route and above 49 per cent through the government route wherever it is likely to result in access to modern technology or for other reasons to be recorded.

The government had envisaged that by allow-ing higher FDI in the defence sector, the global companies having highend technologies can be encouraged to set up their manufacturing base in India in collaboration with Indian companies, thereby, resulting in creof employment ation opportunities, saving foreign exchange increasing indig and indigenisa-

The government had also announced two defence corridors- in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. While launching the Tamil Nadu Aerospace and Defence Industrial Policy at the Global Investors Meet in Chennai in January 2019, the then defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said: "...by announcing the corridor, we have invited quite a lot of manufacturers from abroad to come choose the location where they want to establish their unit and start producing defence equipment'

But the investments are still nothing worth writing home about.

MF assets rise to ₹28L cr Palm oil imports from Malaysia drop 85% in Jan.

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, FEB. 10

Assets under management (AUM) of the mutual fund industry hit a record Rs 27.85 lakh crore in January, with all major categories registering inflows. Asset managers and industry body Amfi expects 15-20 per cent growth for the industry this fiscal on Union Budget announcements, benign interest rates and steps taken by the RBI.

The average net AUM for

January soared even high-

er to Rs 28.18 lakh crore,

data released by the Asso-

ciation of Mutual Funds in

The inflows in equity ori-

ented schemes improved

India (Amfi) showed.

Gathering pace Inflows into India stock fuds nb to biggest since August Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan '20 Figures in ₹ billion Source: Amfi/Bloomberg

further to Rs 7,877.40 crore highest inflows of Rs 1.09 from Rs 4,499.39 crore in December and Rs 1,311.65 lakh crore.

G Pradeepkumar, CEO, Union AMC, said, "We crore in November 2019. Even gold exchange tradexpect the flows into mutued funds (ETFs) saw higher al funds to gather further inflows at Rs 202.14 crore momentum in the coming compared to Rs 26.85 crore months. On the fixedin December while other income side, one of the ETF category saw inflows noticeable trends is a shift of Rs 1,872.73. Income/ away from liquid funds toward overnight funds.' debt oriented schemes saw

Delhi/Kuala Lumpur, Feb. 10: Malaysia is facing the double whammy of a steep fall in its palm exports to both India and China, its largest markets. While the fall in exports to

per cent in January from a year earlier to 46,876 tonnes, the lowest in nine years, as traders cut buying the tropical oil from Malaysia following informal instructions from the reports said.

Exports to China nearly



halved from a year earlier to 176,771 tonnes, the lowest since July, owing to the coronavirus epidemic that locked down parts of China and the extended Lunar New Year holidays, which have disrupted demand from China.

Pakistan, which has said it will help Malavsia counter lost sales to India, made a record purchase of

Hassan, said in Kuala 170,802 tonnes compared to Lumpur. Demand will "cor-rect itself" and prop up 80,690 tonnes a year earlier. Lack of overseas demand prices, he said. has been pressuring palm

A blistering price rally was shattered last month oil prices over the last few sessions. On Monday, palm oil was down more than 2.1 by the outbreak of the per cent at close to 2,754 coronavirus. People in ringgit (\$664.17) a tonne. China are staying at home However, Malayisa's FGV Holdings Bhd., one of the and avoiding restaurants and world's largest palm oil

demand. producers, said the weak Malaysia's palm oil invendemand would be tempotories fell a fifth straight month amidst tighter prorary, supplies are low this quarter, and food and fuel demand would be robust duction and slower demand, with January over the long-term. end-stocks below 2 million "January to March will official data tonnes, see low production, and it showed on January stocks MYPOMScoincides with a period TPO slumped 12.7 per cent when the demand is stressed due to Wuhan and to 1.76 million tonnes from

the previous month, lowest since June 2017.—Agencies Solar homes

have better

quality of

life: Report

As high as 94 per cent

RITWIK MUKHERJEE

KOLKATA, FEB. 10

hotels, curbing

Monday.



India is a fallout of its diplomatic spat with New Delhi, the coronavirus infection in China came at the most inopportune time for the Southeast Asian

mprove, governance, under writing, monitoring and recovery," Sitharaman said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

Indiabulls Real Estate net dips 76% to ₹49 cr

Indiabulls Real Estate reported a 75.69 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 49.27 crore for the December quarter from Rs 202.4 crore a year ago, mainly due to higher expenses. Total income rose by 2.33 per cent to Rs 1,317.7 crore from Rs 1.287.59 crore. Expenses rose 20 per cent to Rs 1201.28 crore from Rs 1,001.32 crore. During the quarter, the firm sold its entire stake in Century, which indirectly owns Hanover Square.

Bharat Forge Q3 net declines 81% to 40 cr

Bharat Forge reported a 81.37 per cent dip in its consolidated net profit at Rs 40.44 crore for the third quarter against Rs 216.96 crore in the year-ago quarter. Total income stood at Rs 1,868.05 crore against Rs 2,516.7 crore in the year-ago quarter. "The quarter gone by was a repeat of the previous quarter in terms of weak market demand and financial performance," Bharat Forge CMD B. N. Kalyani said.

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IOB Q3 net loss widens to ₹6,075 cr

Delhi, Feb 10: Indian Overseas Bank has reported widening of its net loss to Rs 6.075.49 crore during the third quarter. owing to higher provisioning for bad loan. The bank had reported a net loss of Rs 346.02 crore during the October-December period of 2018-19.

Its total income also fell to Rs 5,197.94 crore from Rs 5,688.59 crore in the yearago quarter. Provisioning for bad loans jumped to Rs 6.663.94 crore compared with Rs 2,075.28 crore a year ago. The bank's gross non-performing assets, however, dropped to 17.12 per cent of the gross loans at the end of December 2019, from 23.76 per cent a year ago.

GAIL net dips 25% as mktg margins drop

New Delhi, Feb. 10: State-owned gas utility GAIL India on Monday reported 25 per cent drop in third-quarter net profit due to a slump in margins on natural gas marketing as well as LPG and liquid hydrocarbons. The net profit at Rs

1,250.65 crore, or Rs 2.77 a share, in October-December, was 25.6 per cent lower than Rs 1,681.23 crore, or Rs 3.73 per share, earned in the same period a year ago, the company said. Revenues from natural gas marketing fell 9.5 per cent to Rs 14,662.67 crore and segment profits dropped 31 per cent to Rs 466.52 crore. Revenues from gas transmission business, however, contin-

ued to grow in double dig-

-PTI

Passenger vehicle sales decline 6.2% in January

Greater Noida, Feb. 10: Domestic passenger vehi-cle sales declined 6.2 per cent in January as vehicle demand continued to be stressed by rising cost of ownership and slower GDP growth, automobile industry body Siam said on Monday.

Passenger vehicle sales last month stood at 2,62,714 units against 2,80,091 units in the yearago month, according to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (Siam). Car sales last month were also down 8.1 per cent at 1,64,793 units compared with 1,79,324 units in the January last year.

Vehicle sales across categories registered a decline of 13.83 per cent to 17,39,975 units from 20,19,253 units in January 2019, Siam said.

"Sales of vehicles continue to be stressed due to rising cost of vehicle ownership and slower growth in GDP," Siam President Rajan Wadhera said.

Vehicle prices have gone



up as manufacturers gear up for the transition to stricter emission norm BS-VI from BS-IV beginning April 1. Besides, companies had many raised prices in January, citing rising input costs.

Wadhera further said, "We are hopeful that the recent announcements by the government on infrastructure and rural economy would support growth of vehicle sales going for-ward, especially in com-mercial vehicles and twowheeler segment.

According to Siam, total two-wheeler sales in January fell 16.06 per cent to 13, 41, 005 units compared with 15,97,528 units in the same month last year.

Amazon moves HC against CCI

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, FEB. 10

Amazon has filed a writ petition in Bangalore High Court seeking stay against the competition watchdog's investigative order against e-commerce higgies.

The petition dated February 10 said that the order issued by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) "has been passed without application of mind" and will cause irreparable loss/injury to the goodwill/reputation of the company.

"An interim stay on the proceedings must be granted as the balance of convenience for stay lies in favour of the petitioner as bonafide company,' Amazon said

Competition The Commission had ordered a probe against Amazon and Walmart-owned Flipkart in a complaint filed by the Delhi Vyapar Mahasangh (DVM), representing small businesses, in January. The petitioner had alleged that the e-commerce companies were violating the competition laws. "It needs to be investigat-

in law" ed whether the alleged When asked about the

Japan's Rakuten raided by anti-monopoly officials

Tokyo, Feb. 10: Japanese antitrust offi-10: cials raided the offices of e-commerce company Rakuten Inc on Monday after complaints from online merchants about the company's free shipping policies.

Rakuten spokes-Α woman confirmed the raid and said the company was cooperating with the investigation.

anies selling products on Companies their Rakuten have com-

exclusive arrangements.

deep-discounting and pref-erential listing by the OPs

(opposite parties) are

being used as an exclusionary tactic to foreclose com-

petition and are resulting

in an appreciable adverse

effect on competition," the

Amazon termed the find-

CCI had said in its order.

ping costs. Rakuten plans to make shipping free for orders above 3,980 yen (\$36.26) starting March 18, in an effort to compete with rivals such Amazon.com.

were down 1.4 per cent at 862 yen. -Reuters

writ petition, Amazon said that the matter was subjudice and hence it could not offer any comments.

"Amazon claims that it follows the FDI policy, then why they are opposing investigation. Let CCI conduct the investigation and it will make position clear,' said Praveen Khandelwal, ings of the order "per-verse, arbitrary, untenable secretary general of the Confederation of All-India Traders (Cait), an ally of DVM.

mission, supporting credit to fields that have multi-

plained that the e-commerce giant was abusing its dominant position and putting pressure on them to shoulder ship-

India," FGV's chief execu-

tive officer Haris Fadzilah

Indian households with a solar home system (SHS) reported an improvement in their quality of life as people felt safer and children The company's shares

found more time to study. One in 10 owners who use SHS to light and power businesses and unlock more work hours reported significant a rise in their income, says a recent study report by Gogla, the global association for the off-grid solar energy industry.

The research surveyed 949 households in South Asia, primarily rural customers. In India, the study covered Assam and Uttar Pradesh.

India has long been one of the key markets for the small-scale solar sector. Nearly 950,000 products, including solar lanterns, solar kits and solar home systems, were sold in the first six months of 2019 alone.

'The 'Powering opportunities in South Asia Research' report shows that...small-scale solar continues to have an important role for Indian households. Although a majority of customers are using their solar home systems as a back up to the central grid, the additional energy security and power the systems provide are boosting the quality of life and unlocking economic opportunities for those in rural and remote areas," said Viraj Gada, Gogla's India regional representative.

RBI steps to boost credit growth risky: Fitch

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, FEB. 10

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) move last week to use unconventional tools to nudge banks to lend more to automotive, housing purchases, and MSME sector are unlikely to support sustainable credit growth until capitalisation improves meaning-fully across banks, in particular among state-owned banks, rating agency Fitch said on Monday. The agency also warned that Indian banks have a poor

track record with restructuring and that the extensions announced for real estate and MSME sectors are likely to defer assetquality pressures unless there is a sustained improvement in macroeconomic conditions.

The RBI, in its sixth bimonthly monetary policy last week, announced allowed exemption from maintenance of cash reserve ratio (CRR) on incremental disbursement on auto, housing and MSME loans. The CRR is the percent of its cash

disto these priority fields between end-January end-July

reserve ratio. The central bank also permitted extension of date of commence-

says most of the favoured sectors have had above-average lending growth in the last few years

ations of commercial real estate project loans. delayed for reasons Fitch beyond the control of promoters, by another one year without downgrading asset classification, and last

but not the least announced extension of one-time restructuring benefit for MSMEs without an asset classification downgrade.

"The move is intended to improve monetary trans-

-





and 2020 from their net demand and time liabilities for the purpose of calculating their cash

ment of commercial oper-

deposits a commercial bank must maintain with the RBI. Banks can now knock off the equivalent

additional loans bursed



AT MT. MAUNGANUI

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 11 FEBRUARY 2020

TAKES SHORT

Rahane scores

unbeaten century

Lincoln: India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane warmed up for the Test series in New Zealand with an unbeaten 101 for the touring 'A' side in the drawn four-day game against New Zealand 'A' here on Monday. In response to New Zealand A's 386 for nine, India 'A' reached 467 for five in 109.3 overs when the game ended in a draw on the final day. - PTI Brief scores: New Zealand 'A' 386 for 9 in 131.5 overs (Daryl Mitchell 103, Glenn Phillips 65; Sandeep Warrier 2/50) drew with India 'A' 467/5 in 109.3 overs (Shubman Gill 136, Cheteshwar Pujara 53, Ajinkya Rahane 101 not out; Blair Tickner 1/71, Ed Nuttall 2/98)



Ellyse Perry and David Warner.

Warner pips Smith for Oz top honour

Melbourne: An emotional David Warner on Monday won the Australian cricketer of the year award beating teammate Steve Smith by one vote in their first season following the ball-tampering ban that brought their rollicking careers to a one-year halt. Dashing opener Warner won his third Allan Border Medal with 194 votes, with former Test captain Smith getting 193 votes and fast bowler Pat Cummins coming third with 185. Ellyse Perry claimed her second Belinda Clark Award at the Australian Cricket Awards here. Then vice-captain and captain - Warner and Smith were each suspended for a year by Cricket Australia and Cameron Bancroft was banned for nine months for their involvement in the ball tampering scandal during a Test match in Cape Town in March 2018. – PTI

Pakistan crush **Bangla by innings**

Rawalpindi: Pakistan completed a crushing inningsand-44-run victory over Bangladesh on the fourth morning on Monday, taking a 1-0 lead in the two-Test series. Bangladesh were bowled out for 168 in their second innings after resum ing the day on 126-6 as Pakistan's pace and spin attack was too hot to handle despite a flat pitch. Fast bowler Naseem Shah, who at 16 years and 359 days became the youngest bowler to take a Test hat-trick on Sunday, finished with 4-26 and was declared man of the match. Despite Naseem being unavailable to bowl on Monday with rib pain, Pakistan mopped up the last four wickets in 90 minutes. - AFF

A mountain to climb India look to avoid 0-3 whitewash

as Kane returns to bolster Kiwis

Mt. Maunganui (New Zealand), Feb. 10: India would expect its top order to fire to avoid a series whitewash when it clashes with a high-flying New Zealand in the third and final One-day International, here on

Tuesday. Despite missing inspirational skipper **K**ane Williamson in the line-up due to a shoulder injury, the hosts shrugged off the T20 series debacle to claim the ODI series. New Zealand, though, will have the experience and leadership of Williamson for the

final game as he has passed the fitness test. The major difference between the two sides has been the top-order's impact. With Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan missing due to injuries, Virat Kohli missing out on scoring big and KL Rahul batting later in the order, India's tradi-tional ODI strength was neutralised without New Zealand having to do any hard work. Openers Prithvi Shaw and Mayank Agarwal have shown only momentary flashes of brilliance and have not replicated the kind of

from its top-order.

LIVE on TV India vs New Zealand on STAR Sports 1. HD

FROM 7.30 AM

Rohit's absence has been a major factor in India's defeat in this series. The opener averaged 57.30 in ODI cricket in the past 12 months, having a major impact on Indian fortunes in this format. In that light, the burden of scoring runs has been placed squarely on Kohli in this series.

With 66 runs in two innings, he did not come through for once and the rest didn't rise to the occasion either. All of it resulted in reversal of fortunes on the limited-overs leg of this tour, as India had arrived here at Mt. Maunganui a week ago leading the T20I series by

a 4-0 margin. They went on to drub the Black Caps 5-0, but now find themselves in the same position at the same ground. It is also a reversal of results from the Men in Blue's last visit here in 2019 when they won the ODI series 4-1 but starts the Indian batting lost the T20I series 2-1. has grown accustomed to India's previous ODI series loss in New Zealand

was 4-1 on the 2014 tour

here. Shreyas Iyer, with a hundred and a half-century, has mirrored Ross Ross Taylor's rich form in Hamilton and Auckland. But Iyer lacked the finishing touch as compared to Taylor's experience. He couldn't see India's chase through in Auckland like the senior Kiwi batsman did in Hamilton.

India may also look to experiment a bit before the Test series. Rahul, Shaw, Iyer, Kedar Jadhav and Yuzvendra Chahal did not take part in the optional practice session on Monday. Kohli was first into the nets against both pace and spin. Manish Pandey was in the nets beside him, while Rishabh Pant had a long session once again. Pant has not played lim-

ited-overs' cricket since he suffered a concussion against Australia. If India goes as per routine plan, he is in danger of missing out entirely from playing white-ball cricket on this tour. New Zealand have added leg spinner Ish Sodhi and pacer Blair Tickner to the squad for this match. Sodhi played in the first ODI at Hamilton, bowling Kohli with a googly.



Top: Jasprit Bumrah is all ears to India coach Ravi Shastri during a training session. – BCCI

INDIA vs NZ AT MT. MAUNGANUI				
Team	Ρ	W	L	
India	2	2	-	
New Zealand	8	3	5	
India (vs NZ)	2	2	-	

INNINGS TOTALS: India 324-4 in 50 overs vs NZ in 2019 NZ 371-7 in 50 overs vs SL in 2019

HIGHEST

LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS India 245-3 in 43 overs vs NZ in 2019 NZ 210 in 46.3 overs vs SA in 2014

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES India 87 Rohit Sharma vs NZ in 2019

NZ 138 Martin Guptill vs SL in 2019

BEST BOWLING PERFORMANCES India 4-54

Kuldeep Yadav vs NZ in 2019 NZ 5-40 Matt Henry vs SL in

2016 STATS:

S. PERVEZ QAISER

ICC set to review fracas footage of U-19 Cup final

India skipper Priyam says the way Bangla celebrated was 'dirty'

Potchefstroom, Feb. 10: India's under-19 cricket team manager Anil Patel the last few minutes and they are going to let us know," he said. Even when the match was on, says the ICC has taken a serious view of the aggressive celebrations by Bangladesh players after their World Cup trithe Bangladesh players umph and will be reviewing the footage of the final game's "last few minutes" here. Some Bangladeshi play-

were overly aggressive while fielding and their lead pacer Shoriful Islam sledged the Indian batsmen after every delivery. As soon as the match ended, it became tense with Bangladeshi players ers got carried away while celebrating their historic rushing to the ground and displaying aggressive body language. The two

three-wicket win over teams nearly came to blows before the situation India in the final here on Sunday. While their capwas defused by the coachtain Akbar Ali apologised for the "unfortunate inci-dent", his Indian countering staff and on-field officials. Patel claimed part Priyam Garg said their reaction was that match ref-'dirty. eree Graeme "We don't know Labrooy met what actually hap-pened," Patel told ESPNCricinfo on him and expressed regret at what tran-S u n d a y . "Everybody was in spired on the field. -PTIa shock, absolutely, but we don't know what happened exactly. The offi-ICC India cials are captain going to Priyam watch the footage of Garg.



Jubilant Bangladesh players celebrate wildly after beating India in the final of the U-19 World Cup in South Africa on Sunday. – ICC

Bangladesh captain Akbar battled pain of sister's death on way to glory

"Akbar was closest to his

sister. She loved Akbar a

lot," Akbar's father was

quoted as saying by the newspaper. "We did not want to inform him at

first. He then called after

the Pakistan match and

questioned his brother

DES

his brothers.

Dhaka, Feb. 10: Bangladesh captain Akbar Ali battled the pain of losing his elder sister while steering his team to the U-19 World Cup tri-umph, the tragedy far out-weighing the challenges thrown at him by his adversaries on the adversaries ground.

why he was not kept in the Sunday's title triumph in Potchefstroom, South loop. I did not have the courage to talk to him. I Africa was Bangladesh's don't know what to say, first in an ICC tournahis father added. In a low-scoring final, ment. At the forefront of the country's win in the Bangladesh first bowled title clash against favourites and defending out India for 177 champions India was its in 47.2 18-year-old skipper Akbar, overs a n d whose elder sis-Khadija ter then Khatun died giving while birth to twins on January 22, according to a report in leading Bangladesh daily 'Prothom Alo'. Akbar was not informed about the tragedy back but he home found out through one of

BIG RECEPTION IN STORE

The Bangladesh govern-ment will organise a "public reception" to cel-"public reception" to cel-ebrate the country's Under-19 World Cup tri-umph. "The reception will be held at Suhrawardy Udyan," the country's Road, Transport and Bridges Miniator. Obsidue Minister Obaidul Quader said.

did well enough to chase down a revised target of 70 in 42.1 overs under the DL method. They had three wickets in hand when the winning runs were scored. Having witnessed Bangladesh's victory against Zimbabwe in a Group C game on January 18, Khadija could not see her brother lead the country to its biggest cricketing triumph with a gritty, unbeaten 43. -PTI

TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT (IN BATTING ORDER)

• Yashasvi Jaiswal (India)	Akbar Ali (Bangladesh, wk,	
Ibrahim Zadran	captain)	
(Afghanistan)	Shafiqullah Ghafari	
 Ravindu Rasantha (Sri Lanka) Mahmudul Hasan Joy (Bangladesh) 	(Afghanistan)	
	Ravi Bishnoi (India)	
	Kartik Tyagi (India)	
	Jayden Seales (West Indies)	
Shahadat Hossain		
(Bangladesh)	12th man: Akil Kuma	
Nyeem Young (WI)	(Canada)	

Bangladesh skipper Akbar Ali. -ICC



Players of different categories pose at the prize distribution ceremony of the AIFF Golden Baby League at the Sreenidhi Football Academy in Hyderabad.

Sreenidhi boys win baby football league Football Academy 5-2.

teams

As many as 36 teams registered for the League and were split into differ-

ent categories: Under 7 —

7 teams, Under 9 — 13

teams and Under 11 - 16

The finals and closing

ceremony was attended by Telangana Football

Association president Dr

Mohd Ali Rafath, TFA

secretary G. P. Palguna,

former captain of the Indian football team,

executive director of Sreenidhi Football Club

Abhijit Rao and Ryan

Tawandas, Sreenidhi

Sports Academy Director.

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

Hosts Sreenidhi Football Club defeated Reeds Football Academy 6-2 to win the Under 7 category of the AIFF Golden Baby League that was conducted to promote football at

the grassroot level. In the Under 9 section, Reeds Football Academy came up trumps as they defeated Genesis Football Academy with a 5-0 scoreline. However, Genesis Football Academy made amends by winning the Under 11 title. In the final, they got past Grass Root

Gusti, Shafath top shots at State shooting

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

Gusti Noria and Nawab Shafath Ali Khan shone bright at the 1st Telangana Open Super Big Bore Shooting held at Certified Aman Sanghi 300m Rifle Big Bore Shooting Ranges in Sanghi Nagar near Hyderabad.

Gusti won four golds, one silver and a bronze. He also won an award for the best maintained rifle of the country — a Westlex Richards double barrel (DBBL) calibre .470.

Gusti took the top place in the Single Barrel Open Sight Rifles .375 Calibre Magnum And Above (Sbbl) Running Target; Double Barrel Telescope/Optic Sight .375 Calibre Magnum And Above Duelling Target; Single Barrel Open Sight Rifles .375 Calibre And Below Duelling Target; and Double Barrel Open Sight Rifles .375 Calibre And Below Duelling Target categories while settling for silver in the Double Barrel Open Sight Rifles .375 Calibre Magnum And Above (Dbbl) Running Target. He finished third in the Single Barrel Open Sight Rifles .375 Calibre Magnum And Above Duelling Target event.

Shafath Ali Khan four golds and two bronzes. He emerged on top in the Double Barrel Telescope/Optic Sight Rifles .375 Calibre Magnum And Above (Dbbl) Running Target; Single Barrel Telescope/Optic Sight .375 Calibre Magnum And Above Duelling Target; Single



Barrel Open Sight Rifles .375 Calibre Magnum And Above Duelling Target and Single Barrel Open Sight Rifles .375 Calibre Magnum And Above Duelling Target events while ending third the Single Barrel in Telescope/Optic Sight Rifles .375 Calibre Magnum And Above (Sbbl) Running Target and Single Barrel Telescope/Optic Sight Rifles .375 Calibre And Below Duelling Target events.

Viqar Ahmed Shafeeq was the other shooter from the State who

did well. He won the Single Barrel Telescope/Optic Sight Rifles .375 Calibre And Below, Running Target event and finished third in the Single Barrel Telescope/Optic Sight .375 Calibre Magnum And Above Duelling Target section.

As many as 100 shooters from across the country trained their guns on the 23 events in the competition.

Amit Sanghi, President of Telangana Rifle Association, stated that the competition was planned as an audience oriented

spectacular program where the spectators will enjoy a bird's view of the breath-taking events unfolding right before them.

THE RESULTS

IHE RESULIS Double Barrel Telescope/Optic Sight Rifles .375 Calibre Magnum And Above (Dbbi) Running Target Men Individual: 1. Nawab Shafath Ali Khan (Telangana) 28/40, 2. Aminuddin Ahmeduddin Owaisi (Telangana) 20/40, 3. Wasif Hasan Lateef

Telangana) 12/40, 5. wash hasah Lateer (Telangana) 13/40.
 Double Barrel Open Sight Rifles .375 Calibre Magnum And Above (Dbbl) Running Target Men Individual: 1. Vikram Bhatnagar (Delhi) 32/40, 2. Gusti Noria (Telangana) 17/40, 3. Mujahid Alam Khan (Telangana) 12/40.

Single Barrel Telescope/Optic Sight Rifles .375 Calibre Magnum And Above (Sbbl) Running

Target Men Individual: 1. Rahul Rao (Telangana) 33/40, 2. Wasif Hasan Lateef (Telangana) 28/40, 3. Nawab Shafath Ali Khan (Telangana) 28/40. Bingle Barrel Open Sight Riffes. 337 Scalibre Magnum And Above (Sbbl) Running Target Men

Magnum And Above (Sbbi) Running Target Men Individual: 1. Gusti Noria (Telangana) 30/40, 2. Vikram Bhatnagar (Delhi) 24/40, 3. S. Haider Khan (Telangana) 04/40. **Double Barrel Open Sight Rifles .375 Calibre And Below, Running Target Men Individual:** 1. Faisal Sheikh (Uttar Pradesh) 27/40, 2. Vikram Bhatnagar (Delhi) 27/40, 3. Amit Sanghi (Telangana) 24/40.

 El Single Barrel Telescope/Optic Sight Rifles .375
 Calibre And Below, Running Target Men
 Individual: 1. Vigar Ahmed Shafeeq (Telangana) 30/40, 2. Faisal Yousufuddin (Telangana) 30/40, 3. Rahul Rao (Telangana) 28/40.

3. Rahul Rao (Telangana) 28/40.
Single Barrel Open Sight Rifles .375 Callbre And Below, Running Target Men Individual: 1. Gowtham R. (Karnataka) 9/40.
Single Barrel Telescope/Optic Sight .375 Callbre Magnum And Above Dueiling Target Men Individual: 1. Nawab Shafath Ali Khan (Telangana) 37/40, 2. Wasif Hasan Lateef (Telangana) 33/40.
Double Barrel Telescope/Optic Sight .375 Callbre Magnum And Above Dueiling Target Men Individual: 1. Gusti Noria (Telangana) 37/40, 2. Anil Lad (Karnataka) 36/40, 3. Wasif Hasan Lateef (Telangana) 36/40. Lateef (Telangana) 36/40.

Bingle Barrel Open Sight Rifles .375 Calibre
Magnum And Above Duelling Target Men
Individual: 1. Nawab Shafath Ali Khan (Telangana)

Saf4do, 2. Vikram Bhatnagar (Delhi) 30/40, 3.
 Gusti Noria (Telangana) 26/40.
 Single Barrel Telescope/Optic Sight Rifles .375
 Calibre And Below Duelling Target Men Individual: 1. Mohd Nizamuddin (Telangana) 96/100, 2. Mahesh H.R. (Telangana) 92/100, 3.

96/100, 2. Mahesh H.R. (Telangana) 92/100, 3. Nawab Shafath Ali Khan (Telangana) 91/100, Single Barrel Open Sight Rifles .375 Calibre And Below Duelling Target Men Individual: 1. Gusti Noria (Telangana) 78/100, 2. Abhijitsingh V. Jadhav (Maharashtra) 66/100, 3. Sudhanshu Roy (Telangana) 65/100. Double Barrel Open Sight Rifles .375 Calibre And Below Duelling Target Men Individua: 1. Gusti Noria (Telangana) 34/40, 2. Anii Lad (Karnataka) 29/40, 3. Vikram Bhatnagar (Delhi) 22/40. Best Maintained Rifles of the Country: Double

Best Maintained Rifles of the Country: Double Barrel Rifle (DBBL) Calibre .470 by Westlex Richards by Gusti Noria; Single Barrel Rifle (SBBL) Calibre .375 by Mauser owned by Sabir





and 11th February, 2020 is

the last date for nomina-

tion, your unilateral deci-

sion to cease the RFI elec-

tion process with immedi-

ate effect is not acceptable to me and I am overruling the decision," Batra said in his letter to Mehta.

"Rowing Federation of India is free to conduct their elections as per their declared schedule.

IOA should not be seen to be interfering in the autonomy of the NSF

Federation)," he added.

The RFI elections last

December got embroiled

in controversy for allow-

ing proxy votes, forcing

the Sports Ministry to

derecognise the federa-tion for violating the Sports Code of 2011.

In the RFI elections held

on December 6 in

Hyderabad, Rajlaxmi and

M. V. Sriram were elected as president and secre-

tary general, respectively. But the ministry, in a

letter to the RFI presi-

dent, said that the said elections were not in accordance with the Sports Code and hence

the recognition of the

national rowing body

stands cancelled.

Sports

(National

SHORT TAKES

Hyd women lose to Delhi by 7 wkts

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

Delhi defeated Hyderabad by seven wickets in their BCC Under-23 women's one-day limited overs match at the Deveneni Venkata Ramana Pranitha Ground in Mulapadu near Vijayawada on Monday. Batting first, Hyderabad made a lowly 124 for the loss of 8 wickets in their 50 overs with Anuradha (39) and Pranavi (30) making decent contributions. Delhi replied with 126 for 3 as Swetha (45) and Simran (49 not out) took charge. BRIEF SCORES

At Deveneni Venkata Ramana Pranitha Ground, Mulapadu: Hyderabad 124/8 in 50 overs (G Trisha 26, Anuradha 39, Pranavi 30 Simran 3/18, Ria 2/11) lost to Delhi 126/3 (Swetha 45, Simran 49 n.o). At Chukkapalli Pitchaiah Ground Mulapadu: Jharkhand 142 in 49.4 overs (Sonia 35, Rashmi 20, Ruma 28, Niki Prasad 2/20, Simran 2/24, Sahana 2/22, Sinnan 2/24, Sahana 2/22) lost to Karnataka 144/6 in 46.2 overs (K. Prathyusha 24, Niki Prasad 22, Simran 24, C. Prathyusha 27 n.o, Shanti 2/9, Anjali 3/29)

At ACA Stadium, Mangalagiri: Punjab 181/7 in 44 overs (Priya 39, Anjali 42, Kanika 20, Pragati Singh 27 n.o, Nirupama 3/28, Arti 2/33) bt Railways 177/8 in 44 overs (Laxmi 24, Dipa 31, Arushi 48, Komal Preet 2/36, Palwider Jeth 2/33, Priya 2/27). (Punjab won by 9 runs by VJD Method after match was reduced to 44 overs due to rain)

RR dist kabaddi selections today

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

The Ranga Reddy District Kabaddi Association is conducting selection trials to pick the district senior men and women teams from 3 pm on Tuesday at Saroornagar Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad. The selected teams will partic-ipate in the 67th Senior Inter-District Kabaddi Championship to be held at Yellandu Bhadradri Kothagudem District from February 17 to 20. The weight categories for men and women are 85 kg and 75 kg or below respectively. For further details contact M. Ravi Kumar on 9849532287 or J. Chandra Mohan on 7661992581



Inter too hot for AC IOA steps in for

Conte's men win thrilling Milan derby to take top spot in Italy

Milan, Feb. 10: Inter Milan moved top of Serie 'A' on Sunday after storming back from two goals down to snatch a 4-2 win over AC Milan in a pulsating derby at the San Siro. Inter pull level on 54 points with Juventus, who lost 2-1 at Hellas Verona on Saturday, but are ahead of the champions on goal difference thanks to a exhil-erating second half turnaround after Ante Rebic and Zlatan Ibrahimovic had put Milan 2-0 up at the break

Lazio are just a point behind in third after Felipe Caicedo scored the only goal in a hard-fought win at Parma earlier on Sunday.

Milan had dominated the first half with Inter strugto deal with gling Ibrahimovic, who soared above Diego Godin before knocking down for Rebic to tap the opener past Daniele Padelli.

Stefan De Vrij blocked another cross to deny Rebic a second tap in but Franck Kessie flicked on for a waiting Ibrahimovic to turn in the second.

The comeback began five minutes after the break when Brozovic lashed home a stunning volley and two minutes later Mattias Vecino finshed off an Alexis Sanchez pass to level the scores.

De Vrij put Inter deservedly ahead with a superb diving header with 20 minutes to go, and after Ibrahimovic hit the post for Milan Romelu Lukaku then headed home substitute Victor Moses' cross three minutes into injury time to maintain Inter's charge for a first Serie A title in a decade.

Milan's collapse means they missed the chance to move into the Europa

Inter Milan players celebrate their win over AC Milan in their Italian league football match at the San Siro Stadium in Milan on Sunday. Inter won the match 4-2. – AFP

SPAL (Bonifazi 24) Sassuolo (Caputo 65-pen, Boga 90)1THE RESULTSNapoli (Milik 48, Callejon 90) Lecce (Lapadula 29, 61, Mancosu 82)2Brescia (Bisoli 81) Udinese (De Paul 90+2)Genoa (Pandev 43) Cagliari3Genoa (Pandev 43) Cagliari	Parma 0 Lazio 1 1 (Caicedo 41) 1 Inter Milan 4 (Brozovic 51, Vecino 54, De Vrij 70, Romelu Lukaku 1 90+3) AC Milan 2 0 (Rebic 40, Ibrahimovic 45+1)	well. Sunday will be a great game against a great team," said Inzaghi. Caicedo broke through just before the interval as the Ecuadorian volleyed home after Parma failed to clear a ball into the box. Napoli's struggles con- tinued as they collapsed to a 3-2 defeat at home to
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League places and sit 10th. LAZIO IN THE MIX Caicedo kept Lazio's own dream of a first 'Scudetto' in 20 years alive as a 1-0

league games. win over Parma moved the Romans second in Serie A.

Olimpico

battleships. With this spirit, we can advance very





Last season's runners-up

had rekindled hopes of European football next

season after league wins

Juventus

Sampdoria, and by elimi-

nating Lazio from the Italian Cup. — AFP

and

RFI elections

New Delhi, Feb. 10: The Olympic OA) on Indian Association (IOÅ) Monday appointed Basketball Federation of India (BFI) president K. Govindraj as its observer for the Rowing Federation of India's (RFI) elections, to be held in Hyderabad

on February 22. This was confirmed by IOA president Narinder Batra in a letter to the BFI chief. "To our telephonic discussion and your confirmation we are pleased to appoint you as IOA observer for elections of the Rowing Federation of India on 22nd February, 2020 and will request you to submit your report to IOA after the elections," Batra said in the letter. Batra's move to appoint

the observer came after he took a dig at IOA secretary general Rajeev Mehta for "unilaterally deciding to cease RFI

election process". "You (Mehta) had confirmed to me on phone that you will meet me to discuss on the RFI issue, Ehtics Committee term issue and Kerala issue since I had raised my objections. But since you have not come to meet me

23 nominations rejected in chess

Chennai, Feb. 10: It was advantage Bharat Singh Chauhan faction after the returning officer for the All India Chess Federation elections rejected nominations of 23 candi-dates, including that of incumbent president P. R. Venketrama Raja.

Kalifulla had on Sunday rejected the nominations on the grounds that they did not file their nomina-tions in person.

Sources in the Chauhan camp said chances of elections seemed remote as the five candidates whose nominations have been found valid will be elected unopposed. The elections are scheduled to be held in Hyderabad on

February 23. Retired Supreme Court Justice Fakkir Mohamed Ibrahim Kalifulla, the returning officer, acceptas valid nominations of five people, all belonging to the camp led by AICF secretary Chauhan. Chauhan's camp also includes Gujarat State Chess Association chief Ajay H. Patel, who is running for president. The former Supreme

Court judge had ruled that the candidature of 23 people was rejected for having failed to comply with the mandatory requirement of para 6.4 of

the National Sports Development Code. According to FIDE Zone 3.7 president R. M. Dongre, who had filed his prominent on the port of nomination for the post of secretary from the Raja camp, an appeal would be filed in the court in connection with the rejection

of nominations. The Madras High Court had on January 28 ordered elections of office-bearers of the AICF in Chennai on February 10. The returning officer

had later announced that the elections would be held in Hyderabad on February 23.

Although the candidaof eight members o the Chauhan section were also cancelled, they have valid nominations for key posts. The list includes Ajay Patel, Chauhan and Naresh Sharma, who are fighting for president, secretary and treasurer posts, respectively. — *PTI*

Simone Inzaghi's side are right in the title dis-cussion after extending their unbeaten run to 18

Their last Serie A defeat was in September to Inter

Milan, who they host next weekend at the Stadio We are trying to stay in over there, fighting against the



New Delhi, Feb. 10: In a major revamp, the Badminton Association of Monday India on announced the introduction of a multi-level tournament domestic structure. which will have a combined prize money of approximately ₹2 crore.

The revamped structure will have three levels of tournaments — Level 1, 2

and 3 respectively. The highest level, Level 1, will come with a ₹25 lakh purse. The BAI Premier Super Series Tournament which will have restricted entry with

also get direct entry. The senior national championships will also have more incentive for players as the total prize has been raised to ₹50 lakh for the winner. Earlier, the full purse for the event stood at ₹1 crore. In Level 2, four BAI main draws only Super Series Badminton In a league-cum-knock-Tournaments will be held out format, top eight sin-gles players in BWF rankwhich will have ₹15 lakh as prize money for indiings and top four pairs in vidual events. The top 48 singles play-BWF rankings below 100 will be eligible for direct ers and 24 doubles pairs entry. Besides, top 24 sinas per BAI rankings, will gles players and 12 teams as per BAI rankings will get direct entry into the main draw

Jagan Mohan Rao, vice-president, Handball Federation of India and chairman, Premier Handball League, interacts with players during the inauguration of the third Samuel Vasanth Kumar memorial invitation basketball tournament at Secunderabad YMCA.

SEC'BAD YMCA GET OFF TO A GOOD START

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

Host Secunderabad YMCA cruised to a 59-27 win over King Basketball Club (KBC) in the opening match of the third Samuel Vasanth Kumar memorial invitation basketball tourna ment here on Monday. At halftime, the winner led 39-9. The home side moved like a well-oiled machine, zipping off to a 21-0 start in the opening quarter. Point guards Ashu Tyagi and Dennis Sehgal took turns to score with ease, mostly through layup shots. Backing them was seasoned hand Sachin, who on one occasion netted the ball with a splendid underarm layup shot. His coordination with the frontline was visible in a behind-theback pass to Sehgal, who made no mistake, right under the opponent's backboard. In contrast the younger and inexperienced rival squad seemed to struggle to get their act together. Brief scores: Secunderabad YMCA 59 (Ashu Tyagi 12, Dennis Sehgal 10, Sachin 10) bt KBC 27 (Pavan 9)

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Association of India has decided to revamp the domestic tournament setup in order to have a performance-oriented approach and to find the best talents from across the country," the national federation said.

Hyderabad shuttler N. Sikki Reddy (left) collects the Player of the League prize at the conclusion of the Premier Badminton League on Sunday. Sikki won four Player of the Match awards out of the five ties she played for Hyderabad Hunters at the annual event.









