

SHORT TAKES

DELHI VOTES AMID TIGHT SECURITY

New Delhi, Feb. 8: The polling for the 70-member Delhi Assembly got underway on Saturday morning, an election that saw the ruling AAP opposition BJP and the Congress engaged in a bitterly fought high-octane campaign.

Over 1.47 crore people are eligible to exercise their franchise in the polls that will decide the fate of 672 candidates. The polling began at 8 am, an official said.

Security forces kept a tight watch across the 70 constituencies, with police and paramilitary personnel keeping an "extra vigil" in sensitive areas like Shaheen Bagh, Jamia Nagar and Seelampur.

There were over 81 lakh male voters, 66.80 lakh female voters, and 869 third-gender voters, Delhi CEO Ranbir Singh has said. Around 2.33 lakh voters are in the age group of 18-19, 2.04 lakh voters are senior citizens aged 80, while there are 11,608 service voters, according to officials.

POLICE CONDUCT FLAG MARCH

New Delhi, Feb. 8: Delhi Police and paramilitary personnel conducted flag marches in sensitive areas in northeast and east Delhi during polling on Saturday, officials said. Elaborate arrangements were made to ensure smooth conduct of the Delhi assembly elections, they said.

"The personnel, including senior officers, conducted flag marches in sensitive areas. They also conducted patrolling on motorcycles. PCR and quick response teams have also been deployed at sensitive areas" Joint Commissioner of Police (Eastern Range) Alok Kumar said.

Flag marches were conducted in Brij Puri, Kalyanpuri, Trilokpuri, Seemapuri, Khajuri Khass, Jaffrabad, Mustafabad, Krishna Nagar and Mayur Vihar in northeast Delhi, Shahdara and other east Delhi areas.

CLASSICAL DANCER VOTES FOR HARMONY

New Delhi, Feb. 8: Bharatanatyam dancer Aranyani Bhargav patiently waited in a queue for her turn to vote, occasionally cradling her nine-month-old child in a baby carrier strapped to her body.

Three generations of the Bhargav family were at the polling booth at Nirman Bhavan in central Delhi on Saturday.

The Kohl-eyed, 34-year-old artistic director, accompanied by her parents Rajeev Bhargav and Tani Bhargav, said she has chosen development over the issue of nationalism.

"I voted for the development of Delhi, harmony and peace... I am against people pitching one community against another," she said.

"I believe in a peaceful, secular and inclusive India. If we stick only to our own community, it would be very difficult for someone like who is from north India to practise Bharatanatyam which is a south Indian dance form," she said. Asked why she carried her baby along, she said, "I wanted to initiate my baby early ... into being politically aware, responsible citizen."

Bhargav had performed in the sixth month of her pregnancy. Her mother, Tani Bhargav, said she voted "for the rights of the people of Shaheen Bagh."

On duty



Para-military jawans stand guard at a polling station during the Delhi Assembly elections in Jaffrabad area of Delhi on Saturday.

—PTI

Protesters vote in batches

Shaheen Bagh women wanted the anti-CAA agitation to remain unaffected

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA | DC
NEW DELHI, FEB. 8

On a sit-in for nearly two months against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), women protesters at Shaheen Bagh voted in batches on Saturday amid heavy security so that the agitation remains unaffected. While some of the women voted in the morning, others went in the afternoon and the remaining in the evening.

Some voters complained about deletion of their names from the voters list. "A few voters could not cast their votes in Shaheen Bagh under the Okhla constituency as their names were either



Protesters show their ink-marked fingers near Shaheen Bagh in New Delhi on Saturday

found deleted or incorrect in the voters list," said a poll official.

Shaheen Bagh, in south-east Delhi, has a sizeable Muslim population and has turned into a political battlefield between AAP

and BJP. "Nearly every political party was trying to polarize the election by using our name in some way or the other but we see everything. We were determined to cast our vote after seeing the polit-

ical scenario which has hit a new low," said Huzeefa a first-time voter.

"We started our day knowing that it will be of double importance for us. There were some elders who were in a dilemma whether to vote or not but we urged them to come out as it is crucial for our democracy hence, every one here is voting," she said. After casting her vote, Najma said, "I am voting for India and its Constitution. We are all citizens of India and people should come out and vote. This election almost every politician irrespective of their party shifted from the real issues like development, health and education to communalism which directly hits

the basic essence of Babashahab's Constitution."

Amzad Qureshi, who returned to the protest site after voting, said, "I stayed at home to let the women in the house go out and vote. Now I have joined them at Shaheen Bagh I voted to secure democracy. Our agitation was about a human issue but was turned into a poll issue to serve selfish interests." Waheeda Khan, another resident of Shaheen Bagh said, "The women here had decided a day before voting that some of them would go out for voting in the morning, while others will stay back for chores. The others will go in the afternoon," she said.

Oldest woman voter inked at 111

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 8

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Union minister Smriti Irani traded barbs on Twitter on Saturday after the AAP leader issued a special appeal to woman voters and asked them to discuss with men as to who could be the right choice.

Ms. Irani took a swipe at Mr. Kejriwal, asking if he does not consider women capable enough to decide for themselves who to vote for. "Must go to vote. A special appeal to all women. As you take care of your family, there is another responsibility on your shoulder which is of the country as well as Delhi. All women must vote and also take men of their family for it. You also must discuss with men who will be the right choice (for votes)," Mr.



Kalitara Mandal

"twice as a refugee" in India along with her family before finding a home in the national capital. There are a total of 132 centenarian voters in Delhi — 68 males and 64 females. Mandal, fondly recalled the time when ballot boxes were used to cast votes. "Yes, I remember, they (polling officials) would take my thumb impression and then the ballot paper would be folded and put into boxes," she said.

Women decision-makers: Kejriwal riposté to Smriti

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Arvind Kejriwal issued a special appeal to woman voters and asked them to discuss with men as to who could be the right choice

Kejriwal said in a tweet minutes before polling to the Delhi Assembly began.

To this, Ms. Irani retorted, "Don't you consider women so capable that they could decide themselves who to vote for?" She also used a hashtag, projecting him as anti-women.

Mr. Kejriwal soon hit back at her, saying the women of Delhi have decided who to vote for. "And this time in Delhi, women have decided their family's choice for votes. After all they have to run their household (sic)," he added.

ARVIND ENGAGES IN BITTER WAR OF WORDS WITH BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 8

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal engaged in a bitter war of words with BJP on Saturday. He alleged that the BJP had been mocking him ever since he recited the 'Hanuman Chalisa' on a TV channel. Taking to Twitter after casting his vote on Saturday, he said "Ever since I have recited the 'Hanuman Chalisa' on a TV channel, the BJP is constantly mocking me. Yesterday, I went to a Hanuman Temple. Today, BJP leaders are saying that the temple has turned impure by his visit."

LAMBA GETS INTO TUSSELE WITH AAP WORKER

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 08

A fight broke out between Congress's Chandni Chowk candidate Alka Lamba and an AAP worker outside a polling booth in north Delhi's Majnu Ka Tilla area on Saturday, a purported video of which has gone viral.

The video shows Lamba arguing with the AAP worker. She can be then seen trying to slap the man, but misses. Ms Lamba alleged that the man used "very foul" and objectional language against her. The Chandni Chowk MLA was outside one of the polling booths in her constituency.

A man who reportedly belongs to AAP is heard shouting at Ms Lamba, who suddenly lunges with her right hand raised high to slap him. The man moves back and Ms Lamba misses her target.

Within seconds, the man is escorted away by a ring of policemen. "As soon as I came out of the polling booth, I saw the son of an AAP candidate arguing with the police over entering the booth. At that moment, an AAP worker, Harmesh, used abusive language against me," said Lamba.

Taapsee slams troll for 'non-Delhite' jibe

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 8

Bollywood actor Taapsee Pannu on Saturday blasted a social media user who targeted her for casting vote in Delhi Assembly elections even after shifting to Mumbai for work.

Taapsee, who is looking forward to the release of her film Thappad, posted a picture with her family on Twitter after casting the vote and urging her fans to do the same.

A social media user criticised the actor for not getting her name transferred to the voting list in Mumbai, where she works as an actor. "Why are people who live in Mumbai deciding for us, it's been quite a long time since @taapsee shifted to Mumbai. She should get her vote shifted to (sic)," the comment read.

In a lengthy reply, Taapsee said no one had the right to question her citizenship as



Taapsee Pannu and her family members show their finger marked with indelible ink

she is "more of a Delhite than a lot of others who might just be living here but probably don't contribute."

"I am living in Delhi as much if not more than Mumbai. My income is taxed through Delhi... Kindly don't question my citizenship, worry about yours and your contribution to it," she said in her tweet.

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA				
On-line bids are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-				
Sr.No	Tender No. & Due Date	Description	Quantity	EMD(₹)
1.	14191003B/06.03.2020	Supply and application of adhesion promoting primer	112162 Litre	1162040/-
2.	16191002A/28.02.2020	Safety Spectacles Type Goggles	7464 Nos.	Nil
3.	0520104/104.03.2020	Set of Console (Finish Machines) for LHB Coaches	559 Set	164500/-
4.	02201027/27.02.2020	Set of Cage Clamp Terminals (02 Types)	15102 Nos.	296710/-
5.	3116190048B/09.03.2020	Blast Grade Abrasives	600 MT	185510/-

1. For details and making On-line bids, visit Website <http://ireps.gov.in> Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website <http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in>. Class IIIb digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at <http://www.cce.gov.in>. 2. Tenders will close at 14:25 HRS. on due date and tender will be opened at 14.30 HRS. Tenders Sr.No. 1, 2 & 5 will be opened at RCF Kapurthala and Sr.No. 3 to 4 will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi. 3. For queries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF Helpdesk at 011-23378658.

Notice No. G-122-01/PCMM/116/2019-20 Dated 08.02.2020 PCMM

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTSGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MANIYARI WATER RESOURCES DIVISION, MUNGELI DISTT. MUNGELI (C.G.) CORRIGENDUM No. 1			
S. No.	Particulars	Previous Issue	Amendment
1.	Bid Start date & time (The date and time from which bidders start preparation/ submission of their bid response, before this bidder's action will not be allowed.)	05-02-2020 (Time 17.31)	10-02-2020 (Time 17.31)
2.	Bid Due date & time (The last date & time for submission of bid response, after which no bids can be submitted)	19-02-2020 (Time 17.30)	24-02-2020 (Time 17.30)
3.	Bid Open, Start date & time (The date of opening of Envelope- A & B online)	20-02-2020 (Time 11.30)	25-02-2020 (Time 11.30)

All other terms and conditions of NIT are remain unchanged.
Advert. No. 76525 dt. 01.02.2020
Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MANIYARI W.R. DIVISION MUNGELI (C.G.)
G-76650/2

MAIDEN | VOTE | Priyanka Gandhi's son Raihan, Arvind Kejriwal's son Pulkit debut as voters

First-time voters prioritise jobs over freebies



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi along with her son Raihan Vadra at a polling station in Lodhi Estate area of New Delhi on Saturday

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 08

"Ballot over bullets" and "jobs over freebies" were among the priorities for many of the first-time voters who queued up at polling booths, excited to exercise their franchise.

Also among the first-time voters were Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's son Raihan Vadra, who debuted on Saturday as a voter as well as media magnet in his outing during the Delhi election with

his mother and father Robert Vadra. He turned 18 last year but could not vote in the national election.

"It was a nice feeling to finally take part in the democratic process. I missed the last election due to exams. Everyone should exercise their right to vote," he said as Priyanka Gandhi redirected reporters' questions at her son and let him respond.

What did he vote for? "I've lived here all my life. I'd like to see my city developed and up there with all

the best cities in the world. I voted obviously, for the people," replied Raihan.

As reporters asked him to name one big problem that a new government should address, even his mother grinned and waited for his reply. "I think everyone should have access to public transport and it should be subsidized for students. For me it's essential," said the teen.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's son Pulkit also voted for the first time on Satur. He was

asked whether he believed his father would be Chief Minister again. "Whoever people choose will become the chief minister of Delhi," said young Pulkit, cautiously.

Mr. Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is virtually in a direct contest with the BJP in this election. The Congress, after a listless campaign by its top leadership, is not expected by many to be anything but a distant third, unless it pulls off a miracle.

IN BRIEF

Bengal CID grills BJP MP Sarkar

Kolkata: Ranaghat BJP MP Jagannath Sarkar was questioned by the criminal investigation department (CID) of the West Bengal Police on Saturday for around four hours in the murder of Trinamool Congress MLA of Krishnaganj Satyajit Biswas in Nadia last year. Mr Sarkar, who is one of the accused in the murder case, appeared at the CID headquarters Bhawani Bhavan here at around 12.15 pm after getting summons from the state detective agency. He was however allowed to go after his statement was recorded by a CID team.

Building collapses in Mohali

Chandigarh: Several people were feared trapped after a three-storey commercial building collapsed while digging work was on at the adjoining site in Punjab's Mohali district on Saturday, officials said. A magisterial probe has been ordered into the incident which occurred on Kharar-Landran road, they said. "The commercial building collapsed when a JCB machine was digging an adjoining plot for construction of basement," Kharar Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Himanshu Jain said, adding two trapped persons including the JCB machine operator are in touch with rescue workers through mobile phones.

Woman cop shot by batchmate in Delhi

New Delhi: A woman sub-inspector of the Delhi Police was shot dead near the Rohini East Metro station, officials said. Preeti Ahlawat, 26, was posted in the Patparganj Industrial Area Police Station, the police said. She was shot in the head at around 9.30 pm on Friday, they said. "We have identified the suspects and CCTV footage of the area has been collected," Additional Commissioner of Police (Rohini) S.D. Mishra said. Three empty cartridges were found from the spot, the officer said, adding a case has been registered.

Mumbai cab driver honoured

Mumbai: Mumbai BJP chief Mangal Prabhat Lodha on Saturday felicitated a cab driver who took a passenger to police station after overhearing a phone chat about the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests. The BJP MLA conferred "Alert Citizen Award" on cab driver Rohit Gaur at the Santacruz police station. Lodha also accused the passenger, poet-activist Bappaditya Sarkar, of hatching an "anti-national conspiracy" against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) shakes hands with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa after a joint statement at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi on Saturday. — PTI

Hope SL will fulfil wish of Tamil people: Modi

2 PMs resolve to deepen anti-terror cooperation

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, FEB. 8

After discussions with visiting Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa at the Hyderabad House in the Capital on Saturday "openly on issues related to reconciliation", Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed confidence that the Sri Lankan Government would "realise the expectations of the Tamil people for equality, justice, peace, and respect within a united Sri Lanka".

He added that "for this, it will be necessary to carry forward the

process of reconciliation with the implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka" that stands for devolution of power to provinces. But interestingly, the Sri Lankan Prime Minister did not refer to either the reconciliation issue or the 13th amendment in his statement before the media. However, Indian Government sources said the Sri Lankan Government has already been maintaining that it stands for all its country's citizens irrespective of ethnicity and that therefore too much should not be read into this omission.

On the issue of Indian fishermen caught fishing while straying into Sri Lankan waters, PM Modi meanwhile said both he and the Sri Lankan PM had agreed to continue a constructive and humanitarian approach on this issue which directly affected livelihood.

While India has built thousands of houses in the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka with a huge Tamil population, Mr Rajapaksa interestingly also pitched for enhancement of these housing facilities to other parts of Sri Lanka. Both nations also discussed economic cooperation as well ways to

strengthen anti-terrorist cooperation.

But it was the reference to the reconciliation issue by PM Modi that was significant. Mr Rajapaksa, during his tenure as Sri Lankan President from 2005-15 was seen as a hardliner by the island nation's Tamils.

Mr Rajapaksa, as President earlier, was in power in 2009 when the Sri Lankan Army crushed the LTTE but the final months of that military campaign earned both widespread praise and bitter criticism for Mr. Rajapaksa who became Prime Minister late last year.

2 illegal VoIP exchanges busted in Noida, Kerala

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, FEB. 8

The Mumbai police and Military Intelligence of Jammu and Kashmir in a joint operation busted two illegal VoIP (voice over internet protocol) exchanges and SIM boxes in Noida and Kerala which are suspected to have been used by Pakistan's secret service agency ISI to seek information from defence personnel.

In September, some defence personnel received calls from suspicious numbers seeking information related to important installations. The callers used a fictitious identity and the involvement of the ISI was suspected.

The use of VoIP meant that while the defence personnel were getting calls from Pakistan, it used to show that the call was coming from an Indian number. The joint investigation revealed the illegal exchanges which used to route calls coming from Pakistan to local numbers, which were then used to extract information from defence personnel. These raids were conducted on Thursday and at least one accused was arrested from Changanassalam, Kerala.

"During the raid two functional SIM boxes were recovered with 100 slots each and 200 SIM cards, along with two routers, three modems, antennae, batteries and connectors from Noida, Uttar Pradesh and Changanassalam, Kerala," said sources. These exchanges converted international voice calls originating from Pakistan into local GSM calls using the Chinese SIM boxes (boxes fitted with GSM SIM cards of local cellular service providers), said sources. These SIM boxes also used dynamic IMEI system, which made it difficult to track.

KERALA SCHOOL CHAIN HEAD HELD FOR RAPE

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB. 8

The director of a well known chain of schools in Thiruvananthapuram was booked by police under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act for allegedly sexually abusing a 10-year-old girl. The incident took place inside the school on Friday. The accused identified as Dr Yeshodharan sexually assaulted the fourth standard student in a deserted class room. The child told her mother that the accused had touched her inappropriately.

8,500 trees to face axe in Bengaluru to ease traffic

AKSHEEV THAKUR | DC BENGALURU, FEB. 8

The Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDC) will axe more than 8,500 trees in Bengaluru to decongest traffic in the tech corridor in the city much to the chagrin of environmentalists.

Campaigning organisation Jhatkaa.org has collected more than 2,500 signatures demanding an immediate stay on felling of trees, some of which are as old as 80 years.

Jhatkaa.org has also called for proper and accessible public consultation to be held for all projects.

The existing two-lane and four-lane roads will be converted into four-lane and six-lane roads respectively along the stretch between Bannerghatta, Sarjapura, Mandur, Anekal and



Protest against the move to cut trees in Bengaluru on Saturday. The agitators are demanding immediate stay on the decision. — DC

Whitefield. Environmentalists point out that one of the reasons for the rise in air pollution in Bengaluru is the indiscriminate felling of trees across the city to make way for infrastructural projects.

"In just the past couple of years, air pollution has risen drastically in Bengaluru, with construc-

tion dust, garbage burning and the rise in private vehicles leading to more emissions. In the midst of this, the city's old trees are a natural buffer and their loss for development projects will lead to worsening impact of climate change, not to mention the health effects of air pollution," the petition reads.

INDIRA'S STATUE VANDALISED IN WEST BENGAL

PRANMOY BRAH-MACHARI | DC BERHAMPURE, FEB. 8

Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's statue was vandalised by a gang of miscreants in Murshidabad. The incident, which took place at Dayanagar area in Berhampore, came to light on Saturday morning. The district Congress workers sat in a dharna to protest the vandalism.

Berhampore Town Congress president Kartik Saha alleged, "In the morning we came to know that the statue of late PM Indira Gandhi was defaced by miscreants at midnight. We informed our Berhampore MP and Congress parliamentary party leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Choudhury. He directed us to protest the incident and we started a dharna."

The district Congress leaders blamed the Trinamool Congress for the vandalism alleging that the miscreants were backed by the ruling party to create disturbances ahead of the Berhampore Municipality Election. However the Trinamool denied the allegation.

Virus: Wedding in Mangaluru delayed

GURURAJ A PANIYADI | DC MANGALURU/KARWAR, FEB. 8

Coronavirus has not only claimed scores of lives and triggered a scare across the world but also held back Gaurav of Kumapala village from tying the knot on Monday.

For Gaurav, an employee of Star Cruise, could not arrive in Mangaluru on Friday for his wedding on February 10 as the cruise- liner remained anchored near Hong Kong with the authorities undertaking repeated screening of all employees and others onboard.

"He (Gaurav) had come to Mangaluru about eight months ago and we had fixed the wedding on February 10. Though he was supposed to arrive on January 26, the authorities have held up the ship at Hong Kong as a precautionary measure," Sabitha Raj, his relative, told the media in Mangaluru on Saturday, adding his family has remained in constant touch with the groom.

"The authorities had assured to send everyone back once they test negative. He has tested negative about 3-4 times, but it looks like they are taking precautions and are not sending any of the personnel or

15 STUDENTS FROM KERALA UNDER WATCH

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB. 8

The state government on Saturday said that 3144 persons are under observation for novel coronavirus across the state.

Of these 3099 are under surveillance at and 45 in hospitals. Of the 330 samples sent to National Institute of Virology Pune, 288 have been found to be negative.

Health minister K.K. Shailaja said there is nothing to worry about the condition of persons who are under observation in hospitals.

passengers out in a hurry," she added.

In Mangaluru, Gaurav's relatives arrived from distant places as they could not cancel the ticket at the last moment. "We have sent a message to all our relatives and friends that the wedding has been postponed, but some who could not cancel the tickets have arrived."

Two women marry each other in Odisha

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, FEB. 8

Two women of tribal-dominated Malkangiri district in Odisha have got married after falling in love with each other for quite some time. What is more surprising is that one of the two women went to the extent of undergoing a sex reassignment surgery to marry her female partner. Though "unusual" for a district like Malkangiri, which is considered as one of the backward regions of the state, the wedding was solemnized as per Hindu rituals in the presence of families from both sides as well as local residents.

It was love-at-first-sight for

both the women when they met in Bhubaneswar a few years ago. After being in love for quite some time, the two decided to take their relationship to the next level and join in wedlock. However, the path was not easy for the two had to struggle through several disappointing eyes.

Taking their love to another height and attempting to put all the dissents to rest, one of them opted for a sex change operation in July last year to be reassigned as a man. After the successful surgery conducted in Delhi, the couple tied the nuptial knot with blessings of both of their family members sending a message that 'love always finds its way'.

7 firemen injured in Mumbai high-rise fire

Thane, Feb. 8: Seven firemen were injured during a firefighting operation after a major blaze broke out in a 21-storey residential building in Navi Mumbai on Saturday morning, officials said. The fire, which was triggered by a blast of a gas cylinder, broke out in a duplex flat located on the top two floors of Sea Home

Apartment in Seawoods near Palm Beach Road, the officials said. All the seven injured were admitted to the National Burns Centre in Airoli, where three of them are in the ICU, they added. A cylinder blast in the duplex flat, spread over the top two floors, triggered the fire around 6.30 am, reports said. — PTI

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB)
2nd Floor, Upstairs of TSRTC Building Commuters' Amenity Centre, Koti, Hyderabad-500095.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
(Under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" on 16.03.2020, for recovery of Rs.5,07,17,458.14/- (Rupees Five Crore Seven Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Eight and Paise Fourteen Only) as on 23.01.2020 together with interest at contractual rate from 01.07.2017, plus further interest from 24.01.2020 and other incidental expenses due to the secured creditor from M/s. Prudhvi Solar Power Projects Pvt. Ltd., Rep by Its Managing Director Sri Byrāju Srinivas Raju, Director: Smt. Byrāju Suseela, Office: Plot# 1-10-1-258/4, Detroit Motors Building, Kushaiguda Road, ECIL 'X' Roads, Opp. Venkateshwara Temple, Hyderabad-500062, and Guarantors: (a) Sri Byrāju Srinivas Raju, S/o. Sri. Byrāju Surparaju, i) Plot No.72, Saketh Mithila, Near Kapra Cheruvu, Kapra, Hyderabad-500062. ii) 11-LH-612, Lanco Hills Residency, Manikonda, Hyderabad-500 089. (b) Smt. B. Suseela, Wo. Sri. B. Srinivasa Raju, i) Plot No.5, Mythri Enclave, Yapral, Secunderabad-500087. ii) 11-LH-612, Lanco Hills Residency, Manikonda, Hyderabad-500 089. The reserve price, earnest money deposit particulars and short description of the properties with known encumbrances are mentioned below. EMD to be deposited with the Bank on or before 06.03.2020 upto 4.00 PM

DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTIES

(1) All that the part and parcel of Total Land admeasuring area Ac.17.26 Guntas consisting of Ac.3.27 Guntas in sy.No.113, Ac.3.00 guntas in Sy.No.113/E, Ac.3.26 guntas in Sy.No.113/aa/2, Ac.3.26 guntas in Sy.No.113/AA/1, Ac.3.27 guntas in Sy.No.113/AA Situated at Vemula Village and Grampanchayat, Midgil Mandal, Mahabubnagar District belonging to Sri M/s Prudhvi Solar Power Projects Pvt. Ltd., Rep by Its Managing Director Sri Byrāju Srinivas Raju, S/o. Sri. Byrāju Surparaju, vide Registered Sale Deed Document No.2870/2014 dt.27.03.2014, Registered at Joint Sub Registrar, Office at Kalwakurthy and bounded by Boundaries: East: Land in Sy.No.112, West: Land in Sy.No.118, North: Passage and land in Sy.No.114, South: Land in Sy.No's 119 & 120.

Reserve Price: Rs.2,40,00,000/- EMD: Rs. 24,00,000/- Auction Time: 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon

(2) All that the part and parcel of Total Land admeasuring area Ac.8.34 Guntas in Sy.No.120/2A Situated at Vemula Village and Grampanchayat, Midgil Mandal, Mahabubnagar District belonging to Sri M/s Prudhvi Solar Power Projects Pvt. Ltd., Rep by Its Managing Director Sri Byrāju Srinivas Raju, S/o Sri. Byrāju Surparaju, vide Registered Sale Deed Document No.2869/2014, dt. 27.03.2014, Registered at Joint Sub Registrar, Office at Kalwakurthy and bounded by Boundaries: East: Land in Sy.No.120 part, West: Land in Sy.No.119, North: Land in Sy.No.113, South: Land in Sy.No.136/1.

Reserve Price: Rs.1,20,00,000/- EMD: Rs. 12,00,000/- Auction Time: 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon

Date of E-Auction: 16.03.2020 For any clarification please contact: Mr. S. Satish Kumar, Chief Manager, Mobile No: 9440143056

Last Date for submission of application for bid with EMD along with KYC documents: 06.03.2020 upto 4.00 p.m

Bid Multiplier: Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Only) With auto time extension of five minutes each till sale is completed.

Inspection of properties is on or before 10.02.2020 to 05.03.2020, Time: 10.00 am - 04.00 pm Any working day with prior appointment

The intending purchaser(s) / bidder(s) is/are required to deposit EMD amount either through NEFT/RTGS in the Account No: 37197394722, Name of the A/c: SARB NO-LIEN, Name of the Beneficiary: State Bank of India (SARB), IFSC Code: SBIN0030233 or by way of Demand Draft drawn in favor of State Bank of India, SARB, Hyderabad drawn on any Nationalized or Scheduled Bank.

Bidders shall hold a valid Digital Signature Certificate issued by competent authority and valid email ID to participate in e-Auction. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor's website www.sbi.co.in. The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider M/s C1 India Pvt Ltd. at the web portal (www.c1india.com). For further clarification bidders can Contact Bank's approved service provider M/s C1 India Pvt. Ltd., Building 301, Udyog Vihar, Phase-2, Gurgaon, Haryana-122015, https://www.bankauctions.com, Help Line +91-124-4302020/21/22/23/24, +91-9700333933, email ID:support@bankauctions.com and bikkina.gandhi@c1india.com, prior to the date of e-auction.

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DECCAN Chronicle

9 FEBRUARY 2020



Merenla Imsong

Off the beaten track

Being fortune's favoured child

I am fortune's favoured child. Many have vied to be in my place. Many have sought to be at my level. Many desire to have the freedom that I am already blessed with. Many have come, lived and gone. But only a few have been as fortunate as I, for fortune favours only the blessed ones.

I am so fortunate to live in a land where there is no patriarchy or misogyny. I know this is true for that is what is constantly told to me. And if something is constantly being told to you, then it has to be true.

I am so fortunate because I live in a land where men and women are considered as equals. But of course, the men are more equal than the women.

I am so fortunate because I live in a land where the men know what is best for me. For I am entitled to their opinion and I have been shown my place. I must know my place. I am thankful for my designated place.

I am fortunate to be aware of the order of nature which must never be disrupted. I must not violate the norms. The morally and socially superior deserve to be respected. I must uphold the sanctity of the red pill and what it stands for. Woe to the trouble-makers who try to disrupt this honourable balance.



I am fortunate because everytime I step out of line and try to talk about alien subjects such as "rights", there is always a thoughtful authority to kindly advise me and make me understand that my life is so much better than that of the women in that far off land who are being stoned to death, so I thank the thoughtful authority for not stoning me to death and together we pity the women who are being stoned to death.

I am fortunate because I am accepted even though I bleed. Blood is dirty, blood is disgusting, I am impure when I bleed. I contaminate those around me. Yet when I become pure again I am given the honour to sit amongst the others. I must always be thankful.

For if I were not thankful I would not be able to carry out my duties for the greater good. I must bleed, even if it is a small hindrance for through this impurity comes life. It is my duty to pave way for life. A duty of the utmost honour. If I am unable to uphold this honour, may shame be upon me. Woe to the witches and the barren, for rejecting the words of the wise and choosing the unruly road of destruction. May shame always be upon them.

I am so fortunate because the men are always looking out for me in whatever capacity they can, even when they are unknown to me. When they stare at my chest in public, it is their way of gently reminding me that I have forgotten to wear a scarf. And scarves are important because they keep you warm so you don't catch a cold. I must never catch a cold as it causes a hindrance to those around me and hence is a disservice to those around me.

I am fortunate to get talked over whenever I try to share any opinion. To have my sentences cut off midway through an attempted conversation because I have very fragile vocal cords and need to be silenced every now and then. Silence is good for me. Silence is good for me.

I am thankful for being taught that no does not mean no. I must never use the word "no", but even if I ever should, it is because I actually mean "yes". I must only say no and mean it when I have been instructed to do so by the superiors.

I am thankful for the way I get disciplined, even by those who are complete strangers to me. When they give me a rape threat, it is not a real threat. It is just a way to discipline me when I have crossed the line. And I should have known better. I must never cross the line. I have been trained to never cross the line.

And should I ever face the consequences for crossing the line, I must never complain for it was all done to teach me a lesson. And lessons are good. Lessons are fair. I am the fairer sex. I am the weaker sex. I am the degenerate sex. I am obsolete.

Merenla Imsong is an actor and comedian who recently had to migrate from Facebook to Twitter because her family wasn't very appreciative of her inappropriate jokes. She lives in Bombay with her flatmate and 42 plants.

Subhani



How apps undermine the security of women



Pooja Satyogi

No More Mansplaining

Not very long after the "law did its duty", as Cyberabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar maintained post his officers' "retaliatory" fire resulting in the deaths of four persons accused of raping and murdering a woman, the question of assuring the safety of Indian women and others remains an open one. In early December, the Hyderabad police gave 14 tips to women that they should follow while travelling to ensure their own security. Among them are technologically safety mechanisms like the Hawk Eye, Telangana Police's mobile application, that could help police locate a person in distress.

The question of safety, however, goes beyond securing public spaces or the use of technology to achieve this mandate. This is not just because the police rarely addresses challenges to the security of women and children that inhere within the confines of the family. It is also because contemporary forms of living, say in gated communities, complicate our understanding of the public (outside) and private (home) spaces.

In a doubling of meaning, gated communities are public (i) because their operations and rules of governance must comply with the laws of the land, and (ii) the common spaces within the "community" are publicly accessible for all residents. Apartment complexes are private in the sense that they (i) may frame rules for their general functioning through associations and control who can access them and on what conditions and (ii) individuals own housing units in the community.

In recent times, these enclaves of smart and secure living, have doubled up their efforts in

guaranteeing their own security by combining services of security companies and technologised solutions, in addition to closed-circuit television (CCTV) monitoring, like mandating the use of apps that enable residents to auto-approve access of vendors, delivery persons, household helps, other workers and visitors to their respective houses. The apps work by building facial repositories of workers available to perform different types of labour, and makes it possible for residents to rate their work, make smaller groups to discuss issues related to their helps, mark their attendance, and record payments made to them. The apps also enable creating a directory of phone numbers of residents themselves, post notifications about festival and cultural events to be organised in the "community" and such other happy things that are important markers of a communistic self. Left residents worry about the theft of their data, app makers usually sign a non-disclosure agreement with apartment managements assuring that their data would not be shared by third parties.

However, app makers do not mandate that the users of their data, apartment managements that frame general rules of everyday governance in the first instance, give similar assurances to persons on whom these technologies would be used. Therefore, what we have is a large inventory of unconsented database of persons, with no principles of oversight about how the data might be used. It should surprise no one that this dataset maps onto class to begin with, but can easily be used to create lists along religious or caste lines to engender enclaves of exclusion and/or align

them with purported concerns of national security. With this, let me move to discussing how technology impinges on relations of gender.

A leading gatekeeping app tells us that it can not only provide all the assistance one might need to find domestic helps, but its algorithmic calculations can also predict when a help might take a day off. With caricatured figures of women standing next to their tall mobiles on the web page of the app about domestic helps, the assumption is that the app is every middle-class woman's friend.

It would be helpful here to think how technology aids in recreating and deepening distrustful relationships between women (employers) and women (workers), thereby perpetuating existing class narratives of labour's disinclination to work. Might I also add, the app exposes, inadvertently so, how women are collaborators in the exploitation of other women.

Let me explain with an example. The app allows an employer to see that a domestic help has entered the apartment complex. In the eventuality of the help not turning up for work, while being present in the complex, an employer can mark down attendance, without having to have "monthly debate", the app tells us, over the number of absent days. This would have been helpful if the worker, too, could keep a record of the number of days she worked in a house and payments to her were mandated to be paid through the app's portal. Since this is not the case, there is nothing preventing an employer from getting work done

It is a fact that technology aids in both recreating and deepening distrustful relationships between women (employers) and women (workers), thereby perpetuating existing class narratives of labour's disinclination to work

and not paying her help. Thus the app principally works towards securing the employer against any charges of non-payment of dues to a domestic help.

Since it is women of the house who engage with domestic helps, given division of labour inside most familial units, there is some merit in thinking how middle-class women become complicit in exploiting other women and are not, therefore, pure victims of some universalised patriarchy. The one-way rating of helps, for helps cannot rate their employers or give any feedback, can easily work towards ensuring that a person's chances of finding alternative employment are compromised by a vindictive employer. Smaller WhatsApp groups among women of an apartment community that routinely focus on a help's performance reinforce and aggravate the dehumanising effects of gatekeeping apps.

The CCTVs assist in ensuring that workers engaged in the maintenance of the premises and domestic helps take service elevators and not those meant for residents enabling, therefore, a unique system of apartheid unlikely to stand up in any court of law. But, then, who will take the managements of gated communities to court? Surely, not the already-precariously-placed labour!

A generalised and rhetorical question like— are women safe in the city?—therefore—needs further interrogation about what assumptions exist about who is threatening which women. Technological innovations, then, even if they are about securing spaces, cement existing hierarchies and create newer avenues for violence and exploitation.

Pooja Satyogi teaches at the School of Law, Governance and Citizenship, Ambedkar University, Delhi. Her areas of research include policing, security studies, feminism, cultural anthropology and South Asian politics.

LETTERS

SHAHEEN BAGH

I am unable to understand the protests against CAA at Shaheen Bagh (SC to hear plea on Shaheen Bagh, DC, Feb. 8). There does not seem to be anything against the citizens in it. I am sure even the protesters are not sure about it, but are attending the same as some leaders are instigating them. This is not good for society. One can't snatch the democratic rights of others in the name of protests. Residents of Shaheen Bagh are complaining about roads being blocked. I hope the SC will take a decision after considering all the viewpoints.

K. Ganesh Hyderabad

CARELESS LIVING

Negligence has become part and parcel of our day-to-day life. When the world is focusing on how to control coronavirus, we have a stagnant dumpyard at Charminar and a fire to it could result in multiple emergencies (Fire threat near Charminar, DC, Feb. 8). We request the GHMC to instruct its staff to clear all such garbage and take care while burning it without causing ill health.

G. Murali Mohan Rao Secunderabad

VIPS AT MEDARAM

The inconvenience caused to thousands of devotees at Medaram due to VIP visits is not pardonable (Devotees suffer as VIPS queue up at Medaram, DC, Feb. 8). Such things tend to happen only in our country and in particular in our Telugu States. The VIPS need to keep in mind while they may be successful here, the eternal doors of the gods and goddesses will be shut for them and be open to innocent devotees.

A.S. Murthy Hyderabad

Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com. You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.

TRIBALS GET NEW DEAL

By a staff reporter

Hyderabad, Feb. 8

A NEW deal to the Hill people, including scaling down of debt incurred by the tribals and a moratorium in respect of the debts so scaled down was announced by Governor Khandubhai Desai in his address to a joint session of the State Legislature this evening. The Governor said that a regulation making the above provisions was now awaiting assent of the President while the Government had decided to make a special provision in the Fourth Plan for undertaking a comprehensive plan for tribal development.

Mr. Desai referred to the havoc caused by the successive cyclones during the past few months and said relief measures to the tune of ₹18 crores were underway.

He announced the Government's decision to liberalise the foodgrains control in the State and fair price shops would be opened to meet the needs of the low income groups in the wake of the abolition of rationing.

About the Naxalite menace, he said the measures initiated by the Government had served to thwart plans of the extremists.

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Conspiracy afoot

There is disquiet brewing in Raipur where a section of the ruling Congress party is plotting against Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel. The conspirators include a close Rahul Gandhi aide, an industrial house and a newspaper chain. Mr Baghel's detractors claim that at the time of his appointment, Mr Baghel was told to share his tenure as chief minister with senior minister T.S. Singhdeo. His supporters deny any such arrangement. Mr Baghel is visiting the US to attract investment but his heart is back in Raipur; on his hotline he gets an hourly update.

Vastu and an election

Superstition is an integral part of politics. Some BJP leaders, unsure of the party's victory in the Delhi Assembly election, have started holding poll-related deliberations in the

Baghel in America, but his hotline is buzzing

old 11, Ashoka Road, office instead of the posh and newly-constructed BJP headquarters at Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg. The change of venue was prompted by the delusion that new office suffers from *Vaastu dosh*.

A grudge nursed

Some old-timers and AAP sympathisers still nurse a grudge against Arvind Kejriwal. At a social do in the national capital, a former TV news anchor and a psephologist were present. The younger of the two is said to have remarked, "Anna bechara budhu to tha hi, Arvind ne use na ghar ka chhota na ghat ka." The sagacious expolster gently rebuked him, saying, "Let us worry about ourselves."

Kejriwal for PM?

Team Kejriwal is said to be making big plans once the Delhi Assembly election is over. The Delhi CM reportedly wants to dabble in national politics, in a big way.

A house for Venkaiah

A Japanese contractor recently visited Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu's residence and observed that the structure at 6, Maulana Azad Road, was in a precarious condition—so much so that the VP should not sleep in the house. He suggested that Mr Naidu should sleep under a canopy at night.



By WAQYANAWIS

Sangma model

The observation may have been exaggerated but it is certainly not music to the ears of the VP as Rajya Sabha chairman, who is facing major

friction from Opposition members. The Opposition accuses Mr Naidu of disallowing debates. Someone gave Mr Naidu a mantra for the smooth functioning of the House, referring to a "P.A. Sangma model". Apparently Sangma, during protests in the House, used to insert ear-plugs and read a book while in the Chair.

The doctor is in

When Nirmala Sitharaman collapsed at the end of her two-hour, 40-minute speech, three women MPs rushed to her seat: Smriti Irani (BJP), Harsimrat Kaur Badal (Akali Dal) and Trinamul Congress MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar. When someone from the BJP gestured to Ms Dastidar to return

to her seat, she irritably replied, "I am a doctor, that's why I came here," before stalking back to her seat.

Scindia walk

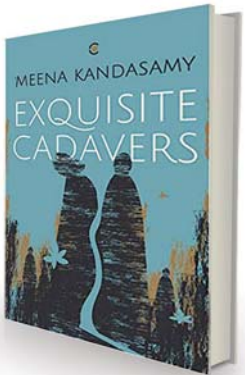
Madhya Pradesh is hosting the International Indian Film Academy Awards and chief minister Kamal Nath is excited about it. The Nath regime wanted a newly-constructed cricket stadium in Indore as the venue but those controlling the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association cited BCCI rules to discourage organisers. The MPCA is controlled by the Jyotiraditya Scindia group. IIFA organisers wonder how the D.Y. Patil stadium in Mumbai is able to host many such functions. This will be the 21st edition of the IIFA Awards.

The writer is a keen observer of the goings-on in backrooms of power

Exquisite dance of narratives, continents, identities



Ranjona Banerji review



EXQUISITE CADAVERS
By Meena Kandasamy
Westland, ₹399

To write one story and make it readable is hard enough. But to write two in the same book? To have the two run parallel to each other, disconnected by storyline but connected by themes and ideas and happenings, not just by having a common writer, is not just craft — it is art.

Other than Italo Calvino I cannot recall such a device delivered with such masterful ease as Meena Kandasamy's *Exquisite Cadavers*. The first thing that strikes you with Kandasamy, if you have not read her before, is that she has a feather-light touch and yet complete control of her words. This novella, or two-stories-in-one or reflections on our times or history of recent horrors, is not long but it is complete, and it is packed with the most, to borrow her word, exquisite writing.

The story of Maya and Karim, of Karim and Maya is a story of marriage, a dissection of the married state, the examination of the inner workings of a relationship, the dance of longing and hostility, of likeness and disparity when any two beings

Do not imagine for a second that the reins on the story are slack or that the two horses run apart from each other. You are so engrossed with both that sometimes you find your eyes fighting with each other as they switch from column to column, font size to font size.

try to become one.

Maya and Karim are a young couple in London. He is a film student from Tunisia struggling to find a subject for a film project which his university and today's British society find acceptable. She is British, dealing with demons of insecurity from her past and the judgment of others about her present.

But what draws you in, immediately, is the parallel narrative. Of the writer telling you how and why she is writing this particular story, what the characters represent to her and what impact her writing has on her own life. And so you are held in thrall. By the lives of

Kandasamy and Cedric and their baby, and the young love turmoil of Maya and Karim.

The skill is not just in the words or the device, it is also in the telling. You are drawn in lightly, maybe this is just another love story or two or the story of human foolishness and should you have succumbed to reading fiction instead of sticking to your non-fiction guns. But as you turn the pages, the big print and small both lead you into a larger world. The writer talks of her past, her violent abusive marriage, the plight of Sri Lankan Tamils, of Dalits as Karim struggles with his teachers who want to box and label him as Tunisian, Muslim, ethnic in a "nice" way but box him into their own convenient pigeonholes nonetheless.

Eventually, the small print story, the writer's story becomes the story of today's India as she lives in London. Of the attacks on Muslims and Dalits, on everyone who does not fit in with the fascist vision of the BJP. She talks of attacks on women, of Brahmanism, of her friends jailed and mur-

dered, of the India she left behind and the India piling on atrocities as she is far away. Maya and Karim struggle with their identities, with how others identify them. Of the prejudices and questions that a mixed marriage raises, even in this day and age.

Do not imagine for a second that the reins on the story are slack or that the two horses run apart from each other. You are so engrossed with both that sometimes you find your eyes fighting with each other as they switch from column to column, font size to font size. You might imagine that this is annoying. But instead, it is doubly engaging. Indeed, as one story ends a few pages before the other, you feel a bit bereft. Like you have been denied, an additional insight, some precious nugget that was owed to you.

If any book leaves you feeling like that at the end, what more could any reader ask for?

The writer is a senior journalist who writes on media affairs, politics and social trends. She tweets at @ranjona.

Superlawyer recounts brush with Bofors, success of his London dream



Mani Shankar Aiyar review

As soon as the book reached my hands, I dived into the index looking for Madhavsinh Solanki, the former CM of Gujarat, who, as Narasimha Rao's foreign minister, had been widely reported as receiving an envelope from the British-Indian lawyer, Sarosh Zaiwalla, to be passed on to the Swiss foreign minister.

I was disappointed to find that there were only two pages devoted to that extraordinary episode which had destroyed Solanki's political career. It was soon evident why for Zaiwalla categorically asserts that he was not the "eminent lawyer" who passed on the letter. Indeed, he denies he ever met Solanki. And then hurls his own bombshell. Sourcing his information to journalist Vir Sanghvi, he claims that the only "eminent lawyer" who could have got on to the aeroplane ferrying Solanki to Geneva without being a co-passenger was high commissioner L.M. Singhvi availing of his diplomatic privilege that Zaiwalla, a mere lawyer, could never have secured for himself.

Solanki, now in retirement and nearing his birth centenary, has chosen to keep the details to himself and Singhvi has passed away. So, what the two pages reveal are that Zaiwalla had nothing to do with the farce that turned into high political drama when the Swiss foreign minister revealed to the press the contents of the letter which sought the Swiss government's assistance to close their investigation into the payments allegedly made by Bofors into five different Swiss bank accounts.

If the 1992 incident earned Zaiwalla undesired and possibly undeserved notoriety, it was his association with the Bachchan brothers that earned him his Perry Mason-esque reputation as the top Indian lawyer practicing in the English courts. The story is recounted by the author with both verve and clarity. The Swedish newspaper, *Dagens Nyheter*, had claimed on information leaked by the Swedish investigating authorities that there was, in fact, a sixth account connected to the Bachchan brothers acting on behalf of (by then) former PM, Rajiv Gandhi.

The Bachchans, says Zaiwalla, approached him to get their defamation suit against the Swedish journal heard in an English court. Zaiwalla spotted that jurisdiction in an English court could be claimed only if it could be proved that the newspaper was sold in England. He set his scouts to scour the news-stands in England and was able to procure a single copy on sale. Triumphantly displaying it in court, he was able to establish that the Bachchan defamation suit could be pressed in an English court.

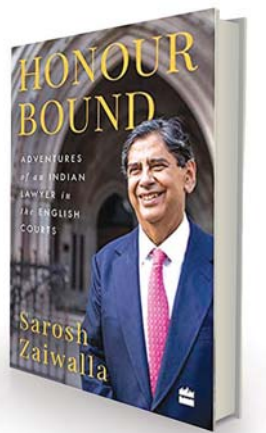
But, in fact, the case never really came before an English court for on the opening day of the hearing, the Swedish newspaper and the representative of the Swedish investigating agency, publicly stated that they had been misled as there was no sixth account; the Bachchans, had nothing to do with this non-existent account; and hence, by extension, the innuendo against Rajiv Gandhi was entirely misplaced. The matter was settled out of court for an undisclosed sum paid in damages. The case made Zaiwalla's reputation — although his active role was confined to establishing his locus to argue a case that never came up for hearing by finding literally one copy of the Swedish newspaper available for sale in the UK!

What happens thereafter, in Zaiwalla's telling, stains the Bachchans' and, incidentally, Zaiwalla's own name too. For Zaiwalla, purely on the basis of hearsay and without any evidence to sustain his tall tale, says Ajitabh suddenly offered him fifteen million dollars to invest in any enterprise chosen by Zaiwalla by way of expressing the Bachchans' gratitude to him. Complex manoeuvrings follow in consequence of which Zaiwalla says he never saw a penny of the Bachchans' rich offerings while Ajitabh successfully plotted to take control of the whole venture. Initially, claims Zaiwalla, Ajitabh had said that this humongous sum of money was from Amitabh's cinematic earnings, but later hinted that the money came from "New Delhi" which Zaiwalla took to mean the Congress Party. The only proof of this wild allegation that Zaiwalla offers is that when he told Sonia Gandhi of these Bachchan shenanigans she looked somber and two weeks later it was reported in the gossip columns that she had broken off all relations with the Bachchans. To set the record straight, relations had been fraught for nearly a decade.

When this matter came up at the formal launch of the book at the India International Centre, New Delhi, Zaiwalla said that, as a lawyer of long experience, he could determine by looking into the eyes of his interlocutor whether the interlocutor was or was not telling the truth, and when he had talked to Rajiv about Bofors, he came away convinced that Rajiv was telling the truth when he emphatically denied having anything to do with the alleged Bofors' payoffs. In fact, despite the persistent efforts of nine years of non-Congress governments from V.P. Singh to Vajpayee III, no court has accepted that there was any wrongdoing on Rajiv's part. Zaiwalla should have included this crucial conclusion in his book instead of leaving it as a casual comment at the book release.

For the rest, the book is an easy read and a stirring account of an Indian-origin lawyer correctly diagnosing that the only way for an immigrant of talent in the United Kingdom is to work his way to the top by remaining himself and asserting his identity as an India-born instead of becoming a "WOG" (for Westernised Oriental Gentleman). Other immigrant aspirants should heed this sound advice.

Mani Shankar Aiyar is a former Indian diplomat and a member of the Indian National Congress



HONOUR BOUND: ADVENTURES OF AN INDIAN LAWYER IN THE ENGLISH COURTS
by Sarosh Zaiwalla
HarperCollins, ₹699

'You want to, but you cannot live in the past'

FORREST GANDER, poet, translator, essayist and novelist, won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 2019 for *Be With*, a collection of poetry written in remembrance of his wife, C.D. Wright, also a poet. Wright suddenly passed away in 2016.

During an interaction with SUCHETA DASGUPTA on the sidelines of the 13th Jaipur Literature Festival, Forrest shared that he has found a new patch of creativity following his friendship with Ashwini Bhat, sculptor, who has helped him move forward.

As a pioneer of ecopoetics, how would you describe your knowledge as a geologist informing your writings?
Geology taught me how to look. When you look at a landscape as a geologist you have to see the large-scale features, the uplifting and the subduction, all the major things that will account for a mountain or a valley, but you also have to be able to see the crystalline properties in the shear zone and what's going on there, and so the constant going back and forth between the large scale and the very particular has become an aspect of my own poetry. It's how I tend to look at things, moving back and forth across scales.

Your poems are said to be highly stylised with their syntax, shape and line breaks expressing their message. How did you come to shape this form of poetry? What were your influences?
I don't have a single shape. Every poem calls forth a different form. It's by listening to the poem that you begin to feel the form take place. I'm interested in the line of a poem being connected to perception. A line gives you a moment of vision, and you can isolate things or you can run things together, and I am interested in the emotional energy of the line. Depending upon the emotional energy of the poem, the line will change.

How many languages do you speak and read? Which has been your most intensely enjoyable translation project?
I translate mostly from Spanish. I have translated a lot of Latin American writers. I focussed on women because they tend to be underrepresented in every coun-

Forrest Gander Q&A

try and in translation and because there is such good women's writing in Latin America — Coral Bracho in Mexico, Veronica Volkow in Mexico, Alejandra Pizarnik in Argentina, Gabriela Mistral in Chile — she was Neruda's teacher — Myriam Moscona. But the most enjoyable translation project that I worked on is of a Japanese poet named Gozo Yoshimasu or Yoshimasu Gozo, as they would say in Japanese. He is an artist and a performance artiste and a poet. He is probably the most influential avant-garde poet in Japan.

The central character, Les, in your critically-acclaimed first novel, *As a Friend*, is a gifted man with a certain knack for vulnerability that provokes similar self-examination from the people with whom he interacts. Did you have any person or incident in mind when you wrote Les?

I did. There was an amazing American poet who died at the age of 30, who wrote one of the longest poems in English, called *The Battlefield Where the Moon Says I Love You*, and he has a huge cult following in the United States. His reputation has expanded long after his death. The skeleton of the idea that I had for this book is based on his life. His name is Frank Stanford.

Do you think vulnerability and originality are qualities that are becoming increasingly rare in today's pat, accessible, all-knowing, globalised world?

Don't you? It seems it is so easy to protect ourselves with the armaments of technology, and we are less exposed to different points of view now. The media we can choose to attend to can be very narrow online. It can be very hard to remember that only by being vulnerable that we can be surprised, that we can learn things when we drop our defences — things that are very important in terms of how to live with other



Forrest and Ashwini met a long time ago in Delhi at a literary event and stayed in touch. They collaborated while she was at artist residencies in California. This photo was taken in Jaipur during the litfest.

people and with other species.

You have lost someone very dear to you. Does grief, in its need to preserve memory, spell the end of new experiences and vulnerability? What is the connection between landscapes and grief?

You want to but can't live in the past, so you live with a pain that eats at you constantly. In some ways, the light in my life is less substantial than it was before. But in our deep relationships with others, our substantialness increases. In their absence, we can feel like a much smaller thing because it is relationships that make us what we are. So that grief has been and continues to be very powerful for me, and at the same time I have

continued to live, and I have met someone now whom you just met — Ashwini Bhat with whom I have a new relationship. She is full of life and I was full of death and sadness, and that's opened me up and made me vulnerable again to feeling things which I didn't really even want to feel. I didn't want to get over my grief.

This question is to do with your philosophy of international regionalism. As a geologist, how do you think geography affects the personality of a people, especially in relation to the works that you have translated?

A wonderful American writer who wrote a lot about Native American culture, Mary Hunter Austin, suggested that the places

where we live affect our speech and our thinking. She notes, for example, that if you read Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, you hear the rhythms of a man who spent a lot of time (in cold Illinois, where he lived) chopping wood. In the south in the United States, houses are built with porches. People sit on porches and talk to their neighbours walking by, and the porch is a place where people meet up. It's commonplace in the US South that people will acknowledge each other when they walk past — unlike in many places in the North, New York for example, where people pass within inches of you without ever making eye contact. I think there are subtle ways that where we live affects who we are. Jaime Saenz, a Bolivian poet whom I translated, lived in La Paz and so, all his life, was conscious of the imposing mountain, Illimani, that presides over the town like some enormous toad over a scattering of ants. That kind of presence surely affects us in ways we can't easily decipher.

You have been spending a lot of time in India lately. Who is your favourite Indian writer in any language?

I've been reading some ancient books, *The Life of Harishchandra* translated by Vanamala Viswanatha, the poetry of Andal translated by Ravi Shankar and Priya Sarukkai, and the Sangam poetry translated by A.K. Ramanujan. But among contemporary poets, I'm drawn to Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, Ranjit Hoskote and Biswamit Dwivedy. Incidentally, there has been a flourishing of terrific Indian-American poets — and I follow a number of them hungrily, book by book.

Can poetry reverse climate change?

(Laughs heartily) I think the things that poets want poetry to do are important. But poetry doesn't probably fulfil the intentions of many poets. But I think it does do something, sometimes on a small scale — making people aware of language that allows them to articulate emotions that are more subtle, offering a way of seeing the world that's perhaps in the case of ecology more integrated with human life. So in small ways it does change the world but it certainly won't save the world.

A nightmarish retelling of the legend of Ulenspiegel



TYLL
By Daniel Kehlmann,
translated by Ross Benjamin
Riverrun, £11.50

Norman Lebrecht review

Many of our favourite folk tales have lost much of their original Gothic horror in later versions. By contrast, Daniel Kehlmann's retelling of the legend of Ulenspiegel, moved to the 17th century, is full of nightmares. Worse than imaginary fears awaiting travellers in the forest are real ones: hunger, cold, war, plague, torture "more refined and dreadful than anything the great painters of the inferno had dreamed". These

descriptions invite comparisons with Charles de Coster's famous 1867 novel; but if in the latter the hero fights for freedom, here he juggles many things, sometimes literally. Tyll the folklore character becomes an itinerant entertainer and court jester able to provoke and amuse, using his fool's licence to the full.

Historical events — the Reformation and its consequences, the Gunpowder Plot, the Thirty Years' War — underpin the narrative, which includes the story of Elizabeth Stuart, Queen of Bohemia, with flashbacks to her girlhood in England. Meanwhile, life in Europe is taking its course: soldiers killing, rulers bargaining, marauders raping children, scholars looking for dragons.

From a young age, life doesn't treat Tyll kindly: a night he spends alone in the forest ends in a blood-curdling scene. Soon his father Claus, eager to "snatch knowledge wherever it can be found", is accused of witchcraft for his love of books, pentagrams, incantations; he keeps looking for answers to universal questions even as he eats the hangman's meal, feeling sated for the first time. Men in the novel rarely make good fighters, whereas women — Tyll's mother, his soulmate Nele, Elizabeth — are stronger, always hitting back.

German of that era is a language not yet suitable for poetry, still "awkward, a boiling brew". Proving what a powerful potion it has since become, the narrative moves from myth to historical

novel to ballad and back, and Ross Benjamin's translation follows it faithfully.

While in Shakespearean England theatre flourishes, in Germany it's merely some "pitiful players" roaming the land. Yet Tyll is able to capture the imagination of his audience: "And all of us, looking up, suddenly understood what lightness was... what life could be like for someone who really did whatever he wanted, who believed in nothing and obeyed no one." Who is Tyll: a devil personified, a slick prankster or a great artist? These personas emerge when you read the story, as taut as the rope on which Tyll walks, "wondrously high up, over peaks and clouds".

By arrangement with the Spectator



OUR CRITIC'S RATING Outstanding ★★★★★ | Great ★★★★ | Good ★★★ | Okay ★★ | Poor ★ | Truly Terrible TT

Kashmiri Pandits, with a saffron spin

Shikara
(U/A) 120 min
CAST: Sadia, Aadil Khan
DIRECTOR: Vidhu Vinod Chopra
RATING: ★★

SUPARNA SHARMA

Writer-director Vidhu Vinod Chopra's *Shikara*, that tells the deeply sad and tragic story of Kashmiri pandits' forced exodus from their homeland in January 1990, is dedicated to his mother who could never return home.

It's personal. And a labour of both, love and exhalation. The tragedy of four lakh Hindus being driven from their homes, jobs, schools, lives and rendered homeless, refugees in their own country by a handful of militants while the state and Centre watched is unfathomable, unpardonable. In more ways than one, it was like the second Partition.

Shikara declares, at the very onset, that it has mostly used real refugees and not actors for an authentic look and feel.

There's little artifice here, it seems to suggest.

Shikara should have also declared that it has simplified the story to let nothing interfere in the narrative of the tragedy of a people. No complexity, no politics, no crimp are allowed in, not even suggestion about where the blame may lie. According to *Shikara*, it doesn't really lie with Delhi, neither with Srinagar, nor with the Delhi-appointed governor, Jagmohan. It lies with Islam, Pakistan-trained militants, but above all with Kashmiri Muslims who either turned foe or rapacious.

There is, of course, no deadline on telling a story. But the timing of when one decides to tell a story often carries a story of its own.

It's almost as if *Shikara* was timed to appear after the abrogation of

Article 370. As if to justify yet another tragedy perpetuated by the state.

There is a tinge of obscenity in accusing a people of complicity in a crime when they are under lockdown, muzzled, turned prisoners in their own homes.

In *Shikara*, Vidhu Vinod Chopra is often at pains to say that he is against hate, any shade of hate. And even adds, for good measure, that "leader ka kaam jorna hota hai, todna nahin".

But his film fits a certain narrative that's in currency, one that tries to justify state-sponsored atrocities in the name of righting past wrongs.

In 1987, young Shiv Kumar Dhar (Aadil Khan) meets sweet Shanti Sapru (Sadia) at the shoot of a Bollywood film in the *hasen vaadiyan* of Kashmir.

She is training to be a nurse and he is a writer, poet and soon-to-be professor.

When they meet, she is clutching a book of his poems and he, on the insistence of a director's assistance, grabs her hand.

They have a cute, short courtship after which they marry, in the course of which it is established that Shiv's best friend, Latif miyan, is soft on the heroine's bestie.

Shiv and Shanti want to build a house for which his bestie's dad, Khurshid saab, sends stones after stopping the construction of his own house, thus establishing a utopia where all was well and Kashmir was

indeed a paradise.

But Khurshid saab, a Muslim leader, is killed, and Shiv, who now teaches at Srinagar's Amar Singh College, is whisked away to meet his friend who is being guarded by boys carrying automatic assault rifles.

"Go to India, sell your house and go to India," he is told.

"Pindi Pindi, Rawalpindi," the conductors of busses scream.

J&K Commander Force puts out hit-lists of Hindus who must leave or face consequences.

Some prominent pandits are killed, including Shiv's Naveen bhaiyya and, on the night of January 18-19, 1990, Shiv and Shanti leave for Jammu with other Kashmiri Pandits, abandoning on the way a calf.

In the refugee camps, there's government apathy, inefficiency and insults heaped by trucks carrying tomatoes while an old man can't stop wailing about returning home, to Kashmir.

And then, many years later, a man comes to Shiv, asking him to sell his house. That's the day Shiv writes his first letter to the President of America.

Shikara, in fact, opens when Shiv is writing his 1,664th letter to the US President on his typewriter in his 28th year in the Muthi Refugee Camp. Though this is a recurring theme in the film, it's not quite clear to me what he says

in those letters apart from telling George Bush and subsequent US Presidents that the guns they sent to Afghanistan are being used to kill Kashmiris.

In these letter-writing scenes, Shanti often suggests to Shiv to share stuff from their personal lives, some happy news as well with the US President, as if he was their friend, reading Shiv's letters, interested in their lives, waiting for the next one even if he's unable to respond or help.

There is a particularly troubling melancholy to the dogged discipline of letter writing, posting and repeating the exercise without a response or riposte from someone you think has the power to change things, better your life.

It carries a hint of being driven to quiet madness by a tragedy, apathy and yet an attempt to clutch onto some dignity in the relentless, scholarly appeal.

Shikara has a few such tiny but brilliant vignettes that are cinematically quite clever, powerful.

The film, written by Abhijat Joshi, Rahul Pandita and Vidhu Vinod Chopra, uses these to layer the story, and make the unbearable, bearable.

But the film's real power comes from the love story of Shiv and Shanti who hug and clutch at each other every time something bad happens. They are not just shielding and protecting each other, but there's almost a belief in that action that the sheer power and tenacity of their grip around each other will dissuade the storm coming their way.

As Shiv and Shanti move from the tent to an 8x8 *pucca* apartment,

we see how she quietly deals with her own trauma, or shares his. And when they move around the presidential suite of a hotel in awe and finally sit in the bathroom, next to a bathtub decorated with rose petals, it's their bond, their love which makes their yearning for their home very touching.

Shikara's casting, by Indu Sharma, is inspired. Apart from people from the Jagti refugee camp, many of whom have a blank, forlorn wait in their eyes, it's Kashmir-born Aadil Khan and Sadia as the leads who really bring a breeze of the Valley to *Shikara*.

Both are good and the rough, amateur edges they have, obvious in between scenes where they don't have dialogue, is actually very fresh, very charming.

Sadia has a bit of Leela Naidu and Swaroop Sampat in her, and Aadil has an old world charm born out of not just good looks, but decency. Together, they add a moral sting to this tragic tale.

Often, writers and directors who want to tell big, sweeping, epic tales of historic proportions, turn that into a backdrop, placing front and centre a love story. It's the easiest way to humanise a story, to give a face to a tragedy. But in those choices, in who those characters are, what they say and do, they also sell a worldview and make a statement.

The problem with *Shikara* is not that it wants to tell the story of a people forced out of their homes. But that it paints the common Kashmiri Muslim as a colluder, an active one at that.

The film shows two types of Kashmiri Muslims — one who turned to militancy and killed Hindus, and the other who, at least on the surface, tried to save their homes, but did so only so he could take them over.

There is no third type of Kashmiri Muslim in *Shikara*. But there is a cow calf, actually lost, sad and abandoned. The film weeps for the calf, but not for the thousands of Kashmiri families who have, since 1990, lost a son, a husband, a father, a relative, friend or neighbour to bullets that sometimes come from militants and sometimes from the Indian Army.



Samantha and Sharwanand recreate magic

SURESH KAVIRAYANI | DC

Jaanu is the remake of the Tamil hit *96* and is helmed by C. Premkumar, who directed the original film. The presence of Samantha and the backing of top producer Dil Raju has created a buzz for the film. The film stars Sharwanand in the lead role. Vijay Sethupathi and Trisha played the lead in the Tamil film.

K. Ramachandra aka Ram (Sharwanand) and Janaki Devi aka Jaanu (Samantha), lovers in high school in 2004, meet after 17 years at a school reunion. Jaanu is married and living in Singapore with her family. Ram has become a travel photographer and remained single. At the reunion, Ram and Jaanu relive their memories. They are still in love but respect their new boundaries.

Premkumar does not spoil the remake of his own creation. The story is rich in emotion — a boy and a girl in love in school, going their separate ways and meeting after years in different circumstances — and the director catches every nuance. The screenplay plays an important role as the story moves between the past and the present. Till the interval, the film deals with the high school romance but the second half is touching as the lead pair go down the memory lane. The narration may be a bit slow but the director needs the time to show their emotions.

In the original, the lovers are separated in 1996 — hence the title of the Tamil film — when there were no mobile phones. *Jaanu* is set in 2004, by which time mobile phones had become popular. So, it looks odd when the girl sends a small piece of paper to the girl or when the girl cannot find the boy.

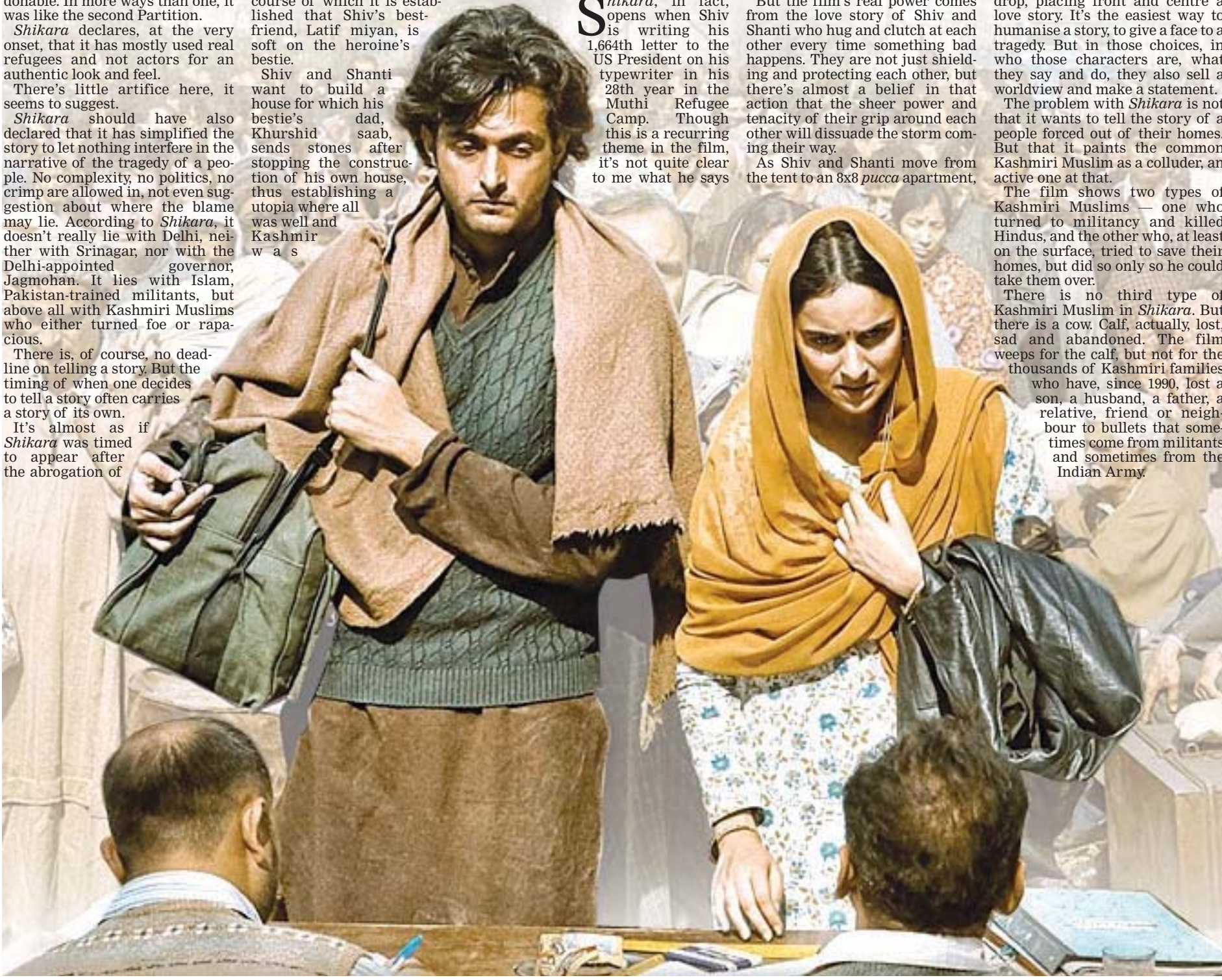
When it comes to performances, Samantha once again steals the show with a stunner. She has proved her worth with her earlier films and *Jaanu* will definitely rank among her best. From the moment she appears on screen, she takes control with her mature and controlled acting. In the second half, she is on top.

Sharwanand gives his best performance and competes with Samantha. *Jaanu* is one of Sharwanand's best in recent times, acting wise. Vennela Kishore and Sarnaya Pradeep support well. Sai Kiran and Gouri G. Kishan who play the younger Sharwanand and Samantha do a marvellous job.

The music and background score by Govind Vasantha are a big asset. Govind provides wonderful music throughout, which elevates the happenings on the screen. The cinematography is pleasant. Mirchi Kiran helps with the dialogues which are very effective.

Jaanu, then, is a faithful remake of C. Premkumar that retains the magic of the Tamil *96*. If you have not seen the original, Samantha and Sharwanand give their best performance. The narration is a bit slow, but sit back and feel the nostalgia wash over you.

Jaanu
CAST: Sharwanand, Samantha Akkineni, Vennela Kishore, Sarnaya Pradeep, Varsha
DIRECTOR: C. Premkumar
RATING: ★★



Madness of the boring kind

Malang: Unleash the Madness
(A) 135 min
CAST: Aditya Roy Kapur, Disha Patani, Anil Kapoor, Kunal Khemu, Elli AvrRam
DIRECTOR: Mohit Suri
RATING: ★

SUPARNA SHARMA

Girls like Aditya Roy Kapur. Boys like Disha Patani. In *Malang*, the sum total of the clothes they wear and then quickly take off will barely cover your double bed. If yours is a single bed, then it's a different matter. You'll have some spare things to hold up and wonder what exactly to use it for.

But there, in a nutshell, is the whole point of *Malang* which is set in Goa which, as per Bollywood, is a land of drugs, rave parties, hippies who are wannabe Sufis, and corrupt cops.

So if you are either into Disha or Aditya or both, you are good to go.

You will return admiring their bodies, wondering how could anyone look so shapely and hot, consider actually visiting the gym you paid the annual subscription for, and maybe getting back on the diet you always are on, but never quite.

But if hot bods on the beach and on beds liptoing around each other don't rock your boat, then you are better off at home, liptoing a razer or a book or just pondering the state of Bollywood cinema.

Malang opens on point. We see muscles, bulging biceps to be exact. There's also a tattoo at the base of the neck. And that muscled, tattooed body is doing pull ups, in a jail. Then, a siren goes off.

We immediately figure who is the hero and who the bad guys are.

We walk behind the tattoo-biceps man as he tackles, one by one, 20 guys — yes, 20, I counted — who come at him before he gets to the main bad guy, who actually seems like a rather cute *iklu* who had taken the hero's friendship band and put it around his own wrist.

Hero, not into sharing, beats him up and takes back his friendship band, screams —



that's when we see him, the face of Advait (Aditya Roy Kapur). It's 24th December, 5 pm.

And we are transported to a bathroom where a man is sitting on a potty and snorting stuff. Oho, snorting white, powdery stuff, not yellow-yellow stuff.

That's SHO Anjaney Agashe (Anil Kapoor) who, we realise soon after he has a strange conversation with a man, that he

doesn't just like to snort, but to shoot as well.

Then SHO gets a call from a "killer" informing him about a killing he is about to carry out.

Cut to Michael (Kunal Khemu) who is at a family dinner where his wife is texting her boyfriend.

— *kya chahiya?*" I'd say, interval.

But Advait and Sara get laid and then they get talking, about this and that, life, and the many knots on her wristband. Each knot is a *darr*, she says, that I have to overcome. And then she lists out many in what is, perhaps, the film's only real, honest moment.

"One day I want to drink cheap beer, eat as much as I can," she says.

Given the size of her waist and its ratio to some seriously enhanced stuff, it's clear that she has not eaten for days, and doesn't plan to either.

But cheap beer? I mean, you are in Goa. Just have it *na*.

Over the course of many needless songs and scenes that seem to have been constructed for Instagram, we learn that both Advait and Sara have mummy-daddy issues and that is why they are drifting.

We soon also realise that not just the two of them, but the entire cast of characters of *Malang* have serious psychological and neurological issues and they are all desperately in need of therapy. So much so that they are either loitering around getting laid at random, or just going around killing people.

A cat and mouse game begins where cops chase killer to save cops, but the killer is always a step ahead.

As he keeps offing cops, the cinematographer (Vikas Sivaraman) keeps taking aerial shots of Goa beaches and the director and writer (Aseem Arrora) keep up the pretence that they are keeping us engaged with some deep secret and suspense.

That's really silly because, a) we were not born yesterday and have seen enough movies, from *Ghajini* to whatever, to know that when angry young men, who once had girlfriends who are no longer by their side, go around killing cops, it's because the cops did some bad things.

b) The building of suspense in at least the first part of *Malang* is of the stupid kind. It's created not by the writing or the plot so much as by cutting scenes at the crucial moment — like those silly ads that come just before the last ball in a match. It's not called building suspense. It's called irritating the audience.

After the interval the movie picks up a bit, and there is actually a mild twist.

It's not bad, but then it is stretched in such bizarre, kinky directions that I lost interest.

Aditya Roy Kapur is quite cute and in the film he is not allowed to keep his shirts on for very long. Which makes sense because he is insanely dull when he has to do anything other than express this one emotion — "I need you so bad I am going to burst".

Ms Patani is shapely and it's quite obvious that she lives quite far away from any acting school. Someone should gift her a friendship band with a knot that must be untied after attending at least a hundred acting classes.

Anil Kapoor's character has been given a gun and a loud guffaw, the sort that throws little spit beads on unsuspecting faces. Despite that, he begins the film with a drug-induced conversation where his stare is dead and unflinching. For a second, I thought he had actually snorted something.

Kunal Khemu makes good of a very badly written character and adds some zing to this dreary, pointless film.

Mohit Suri's film is set in Goa for a reason. It allows him to show smoking, drinking, drugs, rave parties, lots of skin and random sex without having to bother about a story. So, he didn't bother.



IN BRIEF

Overnight brawl leaves 8 dead

Nursultan/Almaty: A brawl and a series of clashes in several villages in Kazakhstan's southern Zhambyl province have left eight people dead and scores wounded, Interior Minister Yerlan Turgumbayev said Saturday. About 70 people were involved in the initial brawl on the outskirts of the Masanchi village, close to the Kazakhstan-Kyrgyz border, he told a briefing, after which 300 more people arrived from nearby villages. The crowd clashed with police, wounding two officers with gunshots, and torched dozens of buildings and cars. Police have detained 47 people and confiscated two hunting shotguns, Turgumbayev said. Police and the National Guard now have the situation under control, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said in a statement, ordering the government to take steps to maintain calm in the villages.

Russian FM slams Venezuela curbs

Caracas: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Friday slammed US sanctions against Venezuela as "illegal" during an official visit to Caracas. "These sanctions are illegal and are the main cause of the crisis in the Venezuelan economy," said Lavrov after meeting his Venezuelan counterpart Jorge Arreaza. Russia is one of the main backers of Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, along with China and Cuba. US President Donald Trump has launched a new wave of sanctions against Venezuela's economy, which has been in crisis for years, as well as against Maduro and his ministers. Among those measures, Washington imposed sanctions on Venezuela's oil industry last year, targeting the country's main source of hard currency, and on Friday it hit its flag airline, Conviasa. The US administration has said the sanctions are aimed at forcing Maduro to step down.

THAI SOLDIER FATALLY SHOTS 17

Bangkok, Feb. 8: Police in northeastern Thailand said a soldier shot multiple people on Saturday, killing more than 17, and was holed up at a popular shopping mall. Royal Thai Police spokesman Krissana Pattanacharoen said more than 10 people had been killed. The total number of wounded was not immediately known. Police contacted by phone in the city of Nakhon Ratchasima said the soldier, stationed outside the city, initially shot dead another soldier and a woman and wounded a third person. The city and neighbourhood police officers, who asked not to be identified because they were not authorised to release information, said the man took a gun from his base and drove to the Terminal 21 mall, shooting along the way. The city is also known as Korat. Video taken outside the mall and shared on social media showed people taking cover in a parking lot as gunshots were fired.

The mall was shut down and the street outside was closed while the authorities tried to arrest the gunman and rescue shoppers inside. Defense Ministry spokesman Lt Gen Kongcheep Tantrawanich identified the suspect as Jakrapanth Thomma. He said police and military units had locked down the mall and the surrounding area.

—AP

Trump fires 2 impeachment witnesses

Sondland and Vindman testified before the Congressional committee during the President's trial

Washington, Feb. 8: US President Donald Trump has fired two officials who had testified before the Congressional committee during the impeachment process by the House of Representatives, three days after he was acquitted by the Senate of all charges.

The two officers are Gordon Sondland, the US ambassador to the European Union, and Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman, a Ukraine expert on the National Security Council of the White House.

Both Vindman and Sondland were key witnesses during the impeachment hearings by the Democrats-controlled House of Representatives.

"I was advised today that the president intends to recall me effective immediately as (the) United States Ambassador to the European Union," Sondland said in a statement on Friday.

Hours before Vindman was escorted out of the White House security officials, his attorney said: "LTC Vindman was asked to leave for telling the truth."

"There is no question in the mind of any American why this man's job is over, why this country now has one less soldier serving it at the White House," Vindman's attorney, David Pressman, said in a statement. "His honour, his commitment to right, frightened the powerful," Pressman added.

The White House did not comment on the dismissal of two impeachment-related officials.

The White House also fired Lt Col Yevgeny Vindman, twin brother of Alexander Vindman. The two worked at on the National Security Council of the White House.

—PTI



US President Donald Trump walks to the Oval Office of White House after stepping off Marine One as he returns from a trip to Charlotte. — AP

For decades, Washington politicians put special interests ahead of American interests. They enacted disastrous trade policies. Like, it's unimaginable, frankly, I looked at some of these deals; I said, 'Who the hell would have done this? Who would have agreed to this stuff. Unbelievable.'

— DONALD TRUMP
US President

Buttigieg, Sanders beat back debate attacks

Manchester (New Hampshire): Democratic presidential front-runners Bernie Sanders and Pete Buttigieg beat back a barrage of attacks during a debate as rivals raised persistent questions about their ideology and experience, hoping to sow doubts about their ability to defeat Donald Trump.

Reeling from a weak finish in this week's Iowa caucuses, former Vice President Joe Biden was a chief aggressor throughout Friday night. He questioned Sanders' status as a democratic socialist and said Buttigieg, the 38-year-old former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, doesn't have the background to lead

in a complicated world. Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, who is struggling to break into the top tier, voiced similar criticisms. But Sanders and Buttigieg largely brushed off the broadsides. "Donald Trump lies all the time," Sanders said in response to suggestions that Trump would use his

self-described identity as a democratic socialist to brand him — and all Democrats — as radical. Buttigieg sought to turn skepticism of his resume into a positive, portraying himself as a fresh face from outside Washington with experience in dealing with real-life problems. "I'm interested in the style

of politics we need to put forward to actually finally turn the page," Buttigieg said. He added a jab at Biden: "I admit that if you're looking for the person with most years of Washington establishment experience under their belt, you've got your candidate, and of course it's not me."

—AP

Hockey diplomacy



Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko take part in a match of Night Hockey League teams in Rosa Khutor in Black Sea resort of Sochi, Russia. Putin is hosting the leader of Belarus for another round of talks amid mounting Russian economic pressure on its ex-Soviet ally. — AP

Syrian Army takes Saraqeb

Damascus, Feb. 8: The Syrian army took control of the strategic north-western crossroads town of Saraqeb on Saturday in the latest gain of a weeks-long offensive against the country's last major rebel bastion of Idlib.

"Army units now exercise full control over the town of Saraqeb," state television reported, over footage of the town's streets deserted after

weeks of bombardment. It said Syrian troops were combing the area for landmines and explosives left behind by the jihadists and allied rebels.

Saraqeb is the second key highway town to be recaptured by government forces in the past two weeks, after the rebels were pushed out of Maarek al Numan last month.

Weeks of intensive air

strikes and a bruising ground offensive have emptied entire towns in the Idlib region and sent hundreds of thousands fleeing.

The violence has displaced 586,000 people since December, according to the United Nations, and killed more than 300 civilians, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

—AFP

Pak court defers Saeed verdict till Tuesday

Lahore, Feb. 8: A Pakistani anti-terrorism court on Saturday deferred its verdict against Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed in two terror financing cases on his "request" and adjourned the hearing till Tuesday.

Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta had last week reserved the verdict against the Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JUD) chief in the two terror financing cases for Saturday.

"The ATC judge on Saturday took up the application of Hafiz Saeed requesting the court to club all terror financing cases against him and announce the verdict after the trial is completed," a court official said after the hearing on Saturday.

The official said the deputy prosecutor opposed to Saeed's plea, arguing that the trial in the two cases against him has already been completed and the court may announce the verdict under the law.

The ATC, however, adjourned the hearing till February 11, issuing notices to both prosecution and defence lawyers for arguments on Saeed's plea.

Saeed was produced before the ATC in high security. The prosecution had produced some 20 witnesses in the ATC to testify against Saeed and his close aides for their alleged involvement in terror financing.

COPS AT LAL MASJID AS CLERIC RETURNS

SHAFQAT ALI | DC ISLAMABAD, FEB. 8

Pakistan's Islamabad police have surrounded the Lal Masjid in Sector G-6 after Maulana Abdul Aziz, who headed the mosque at the time of the 2007 Lal Masjid siege, reentered the mosque.

Maulana Aziz has been in the mosque for two weeks, despite being deposed at the time of the 2007 siege. Talks between him and the government have been under way for the past two weeks.

Aziz was removed from the post on the orders of the court in 2004 following

ing 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 and Maulana Abdullah, father of Maulana Aziz, was its first cleric. After his assassination in the 1990s, Aziz was appointed the cleric.

MARYAM CASE: NEW BENCH FORMED

DC CORRESPONDENT ISLAMABAD, FEB. 8

Pakistan's Lahore High Court (LHC) on Saturday dissolved its two-member bench hearing pleas filed by Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) leader Maryam Nawaz seeking

the court to return her passport and to order the government to take her name off the Exit Control List (ECL) to travel abroad.

The court has formed a new bench to initiate hearings of the plea from February 10.

The ATC indicted Saeed and others on December 11 in terror financing cases in day to day hearing.

He has already recorded his statement before the court in two terror financing cases against him in which he pleaded "not

guilty".

The cases of terror financing against him in Lahore and Gujranwala cities on the application of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police.

—PTI

PAK COURT FINE WITH TEEN'S MARRIAGE

Karachi, Feb. 8: The parents of a 14-year-old Pakistani Christian girl, who was abducted, forcibly converted to Islam and married off to her abductor, will approach the Supreme Court after a lower court ruled that marriage with an underage girl is valid as per the Sharia law if she has had her first menstrual cycle.

Huma was 14 when she was abducted in October last year and forced to marry her abductor Abdul Jabbar after being converted to Islam, according to her parents Younis and Nagheena Masih.

Their counsel Tabassum Yousuf on Friday said they would seek justice from the Supreme Court after the Sindh High Court, as per the Sharia law, said earlier this week that even if the girl, Huma, was found to be underage, the marriage between her and her alleged abductor, Jabbar, would be valid as she has already had her first menstrual cycle.

After they approached the Sindh HC to see their daughter, the court, in a hearing on February 3, ordered the police to oversee the tests to confirm her age.

However, Judges Muhammad Iqbal Kalhoro and Irshad Ali observed that under the Sharia law, the marriage would be valid even if Huma was underage.

—PTI

POWER | BATTLE Poll suggests PM Varadkar's party trailing

Three-horse race in Ireland

Dublin, Feb. 8: Ireland began voting in a general election on Saturday, with Prime Minister Leo Varadkar hoping to secure a new term on the back of Brexit but voters likely to judge him more on his domestic record.

Polls opened across the country at 07.00 GMT, although a small number of islands off the west coast voted on Friday to allow for rough seas that could disrupt the transport of ballots by boat. Some 3.3 million people are eligible to vote to elect 159 members of the Dail, the lower chamber of

parliament in Dublin.

Varadkar's Fine Gael party has been in power since 2016 but polling suggests they are trailing centre-right rivals Fianna Fail and republicans Sinn Fein. On Monday, Sinn Fein — the former political wing of the IRA paramilitary group — were out in front on 25 percent, with Fianna Fail on 23 percent and Fine Gael on 20 percent. "This election is wide open," Varadkar said at his final campaign stop in the western town of Ennis on Friday. "It's a three horse race, three parties, all within shouting distance of each

other." Varadkar launched his campaign after successfully helping to broker a deal cushioning Britain's EU exit on January 31 by avoiding a hard border with the public mood with surveys indicating Brexit was a low concern among the electorate. Other parties have hammered Fine Gael over failings in health care, housing and homelessness.

"You want us over the next three years to focus on issues like health and housing with the same passion and intensity that we've focused on Brexit in the past three years," he said.

Failure to do so could present an "existential threat" to the Irish economy, he said. But experts suggest he may have miscalculated the public mood with surveys indicating Brexit was a low concern among the electorate. Other parties have hammered Fine Gael over failings in health care, housing and homelessness.

"You want us over the next three years to focus on issues like health and housing with the same passion and intensity that we've focused on Brexit in the past three years," he said.

—AFP

Government of Telangana Revenue (LA) Department

FORM - C NOTIFICATION (Under Section-11 of the Act where 10 A Exemption is given) (See rule 6/12)

Dated:- 08-02-2020
Dated:- 06-02-2020

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Special Collector (L.A.), MA&UD Deptt. and Commissioner GHMC, Hyderabad that a total of 62.47 Sq. Yards of land is required in Sher-E-Hyderbad Village, Bahadurpura Mandat of Hyderabad District for public purpose, namely Proposed 40' & 60' wide road from Gular Houz to Royal Junction Hall, Via Panjeshah, Lodhi Khan Road under Charminar Pedestrianisation Project. Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project in Sher-E-Hyderbad Village, Bahadurpura Mandat of Hyderabad District, land measuring more or less of 62.47 Sq. Yards of Standard measurement, whose detail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition:

Sl. No.	TS. No.	Block	Ward	Type of Land	Type of Land	Area under acquisition as per 50 record in Sq. Yards	Name & property No. as per requisition	Boundaries				Trees		Structures		
								North	South	East	West	Variety	Number	Type	Plinth area	
1	34/3	D	216	Wakf Land	G. Darga Land	10.97	Md. Rahmathullah 22-5-419	Road	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2	34/2	D	216	Wakf Land	G. Darga Land	17.50	Mirza Akbar Baig 22-5-418	Road	Asoor Khana	22-5-420 to 422	22-5-419	Road	--	--	Ground Floor	--
3	34/4	D	216	Wakf Land	G. Darga Land	34.00	Md. Azam Pasha 22-5-420 to 422	Road	Asoor Khana	22-5-423 to 428	22-5-419	--	--	Ground Floor	--	
Total							62.47									

This Notification is made under the provisions of Section-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act 30 of 2013), as amended by the Right to Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act. 21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern. A plan of the land may be inspected in the Office of the Special Collector (L.A.), MA&UD Deptt. and Commissioner GHMC, Hyderabad on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana / Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize Officer i.e., Spl. Dy. Collector, Land Acquisition, GHMC, Hyderabad and his Survey staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Section-12 of the said Act. Under Section 11 (4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale / purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of notification without prior approval of the Special Collector. Objections to the acquisition if any, and claims from all the persons interested / affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under Section 15 of the Act before Special Collector / Authorized officer.

R.O.NO.117/LA/CPRO/GHMC/2019-20
LA, GHMC, HYDERABAD MA&UD Deptt. & COMMISSIONER, GHMC, HYDERABAD

IN BRIEF

Cruise ship a contaminated jail

Yokohama: Americans trapped aboard a quarantined cruise ship in Japan are pleading for help from President Donald Trump as they face up to a month under coronavirus lockdown in deteriorating conditions. The Diamond Princess, operated by Princess Cruises, was quarantined on Monday upon arrival at Yokohama, after a single man disembarked in Hong Kong before showing any symptoms, but was later diagnosed with the virus. "We are kind of worried because we've still got two weeks on here assuming that works out in our favour and we still have to get onto American soil," passenger Gaetano Cerullo explained. "And, if Donald Trump could help us in any way..." "We need help. We are in a desperate, desperate state," his wife Milena Basso pleaded. "We're American citizens and we just want to get home." "It's not going to be a luxury cruise; it's going to be like a floating prison," wrote passenger David Abel on Facebook.

Royal Caribbean bans Chinese

Beijing/Shanghai: A major cruise line on Friday took the extraordinary step of banning citizens of China regardless of when they were last there. Meanwhile, President Xi Jinping reassured the United States and the World Health Organisation (WHO) of transparency and maximum effort to combat the virus. Beijing's communist leadership has sealed off cities, cancelled flights and closed factories to limit an epidemic roiling the world's second-biggest economy, with ripple effects felt by global markets and businesses dependent on Chinese supply lines. The epicentre province of Hubei and its capital Wuhan are in lockdown, and Beijing resembles a ghost town. Apple Inc, however, said it was working to reopen its China corporate offices and call centres next week. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, speaking in Geneva, had cautioned earlier that "the numbers could go up again".

SPACESHIP DESTROYED BY GLITCHES

Washington, Feb. 8: Multiple software issues and a poor radio link doomed a test flight of Boeing's crew capsule late last year, NASA said Friday, revealing for the first time a glitch that could have destroyed the spaceship on its re-entry. The Starliner's December 20 mission, an uncrewed test flight, ended early when it failed to engage its thrusters on time, due to a previously reported faulty timer. NASA said Friday that the problem arose because it incorrectly pulled time from its Atlas V launch rocket, creating an 11-hour mismatch. The second problem was intermittent space-to-ground communications, impeding the flight control team's ability to command and control the vehicle. A third issue was confirmed by NASA and Boeing for the first time: A coding error in the programme that governs Starliner's preparation for reentry into Earth's atmosphere. This could have resulted in impact, destabilising the ship or damaging its heat shield, said Jim Chilton, senior V-P of Boeing's Space and Launch division.

At 724, deaths may overtake SARS tally

Infections top 34,800 as US woman and Japanese man are the first foreigners to die from the deadly virus

Beijing, Feb. 8: An American became the first confirmed non-Chinese victim of the new coronavirus, US officials said on Saturday, and a Japanese man also died with symptoms consistent with the disease, as the epidemic looked set to pass the toll from SARS. The 60-year old US citizen died on February 6 in Wuhan, the epicentre of the virus outbreak in the central Chinese province of Hubei, a US embassy spokesman said in Beijing. "We offer our sincerest condolences to the family on their loss," the spokesman said. "Out of the respect for the family's privacy, we have no further comment." A Japanese man in his sixties and hospitalised with pneumonia in Wuhan, also died after suffering symptoms consistent with the new coronavirus, Japan's foreign ministry said. But owing to difficulties in diagnosing the disease, the cause of death was given as viral pneumonia, the ministry said, citing Chinese medical authorities. As of noon on Thursday, 17 foreigners were being treated for the disease in quarantine in China, according to the latest government figures. The toll in mainland China rose to 724 on Saturday, and is poised to pass the 774 deaths recorded globally during the 2002-2003 pandemic of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), another coronavirus that jumped from animals to humans in China. During the SARS outbreak between November 2002 and July 2003, the number of reported cases was 8,098, suggesting a far lower transmission rate than the latest coronavirus, but a higher mortality rate. Two deaths have also been reported in Hong Kong and the Philippines. "It is hard to say how lethal this novel coronavirus infection is," Professor Allen Cheng, an infectious diseases expert at Monash University in Melbourne, said. — Agencies



Medical workers transfer a 2019-nCoV patient to the isolation ward at a hospital in Wuhan in central China's Hubei province. — AP/PTI

TRUMP SAYS CHINA DOING A GOOD JOB ON CORONAVIRUS

Washington, Feb. 8: China is doing a good job on its fight against the deadly coronavirus that has taken the lives of large number of people, President Donald Trump has said, adding that the US was helping them out. "China is working very hard. Late last night, I had a very good talk with President Xi and we talked mostly about the coronavirus," Trump told reporters at the White House. The Chinese, Trump said, were in touch with the World Health Organisation and also the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. "We're working together," he said. Asked if he is concerned about its potential impact on global economy, Trump said: "I think that China will do a very good job." According to US Health Secretary Alex Azar, there have been 12 confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus in the United States. — PTI

US offers \$100 million to fight coronavirus

Washington, Feb. 8: The United States on Friday offered up to \$100 million to China and other impacted countries to combat the fast-spreading coronavirus. "This commitment — along with the hundreds of millions generously donated by the American private sector — demonstrates strong US leadership in response to the outbreak," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement. "We encourage the rest of the world to match our commitment. Working together, we can have a profound

impact to contain this growing threat," he said. Pompeo said the United States would provide the assistance either directly or through multilateral organisations. He said the spending would come out of unspecified funds that have already been allocated within the US government. The aid pledge comes after Beijing criticised the US response to the health crisis, saying that Washington has been spreading "panic" by banning the entry of foreign nationals who travelled to China. Pompeo said that the United States has donated close to 17.8 tons of medical supplies to China including masks, gowns, gauze and respirators. — AFP

— MIKE POMPEO
US Secretary of State

5 BRITISH FALL ILL IN FRANCE

Paris, Feb. 8: Five British nationals, including a child, have tested positive for the new coronavirus in France, the health minister said Saturday, adding that they had all stayed at the same ski chalet. France has now detected a total of 11 cases of the novel coronavirus, and the new "cluster" is centred on a Briton who had returned from Singapore and stayed in Contamines-Montjoie, near Mont Blanc in the French Alps, Health Minister Agnes Buzyn said. "They show no serious signs" of a life-threatening infection added Buzyn, herself a doctor. — AFP

China uses AI to halt virus spread

Beijing, Feb. 8: A man who had travelled to Wuhan — the central city at the heart of China's coronavirus crisis — was surprised when police showed up at his door after he returned home, asking to check his temperature. The man, who had quarantined himself at home in Nanjing, eastern Jiangsu province, said he had not told anyone about his recent trip to the city. But by trawling through travel data from Wuhan, local authorities were able to identify him and dispatch officers to his home last

week, according to a newspaper article posted by the Nanjing government. Beijing is turning to a familiar set of tools to find and prevent potential infection: Data tracking and artificial intelligence. In Guangzhou, robots at a public plaza have been deployed to scold passersby not wearing masks. China's National Health Commission (NHC) told local governments in an online statement, "Strengthen the information link between... public security and transportation, and other departments." — AFP



People wear masks while buying meat at a supermarket in Hangzhou, China, on Saturday. — AP

Wuhan opens 1 more hospital

Beijing, Feb. 8: The Chinese city at the centre of the coronavirus outbreak that has killed more than 700 people across the country opened another makeshift hospital on Saturday, providing 1,500 beds, state media reported. The first medical team has arrived at the Leishenshan hospital in Wuhan and patients will be admitted on Saturday, state-run CCTV reported. It said the hospital has 32 wards and a surgical operating room. Wuhan, capital of

central China's Hubei province, has been converting buildings into hospitals to deal with the high number of patients that have contracted the virus. The city's first makeshift hospital, Huoshenshan — built from scratch in just eight days — started to receive patients on Monday. Hubei's health commission said on Saturday that 699 people in the province have died from the disease and it was dealing with 24,953 cases of the virus. — Agencies

Now, coronavirus to be known as NCP

Beijing, Feb. 8: China's National Health Commission has given the virus a temporary official name — novel coronavirus pneumonia, or NCP. The commission announced the new name at a press conference on Saturday and said it should be adopted by government departments and organisations in China until a permanent name for the infection has been determined, reports the South China Morning Post newspaper. The naming of a new virus is decided by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses. A name has been submitted to scientific journals and the committee hopes to announce it within days. It was also confirmed that an American citizen died in Wuhan, the epicentre of the outbreak, due to the virus, making him the first foreign casualty in China. The virus has spread overseas, with more than 20 nations reporting confirmed cases. — Agencies

CASES IN WORLD

- JAPAN: 86
- SINGAPORE: 30
- HONG KONG: 26
- THAILAND: 25
- SOUTH KOREA: 24
- TAIWAN: 16
- AUSTRALIA: 15
- MALAYSIA: 14
- GERMANY: 13
- THE US AND VIETNAM: 12
- MACAO: 10
- CANADA AND THE UAE: 7
- PHILIPPINES, THE UK, ITALY, INDIA: 3
- RUSSIA: 2
- CAMBODIA, NEPAL, FINLAND, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SWEDEN: 1



The cruise ship SuperStar Aquarius at Keelung port in New Taipei City on Saturday. The ship was denied permission to dock by Japanese harbour authorities. — AP

W.H.O. TIPTOES AROUND WHAT TO CALL VIRUS

Geneva, Feb. 8: Keen to avoid stigmatising the city of Wuhan, where the outbreak began, or Chinese people, the World Health Organisation is treading carefully on naming the new virus. The UN health agency's official temporary name

belongs to. "We thought it was very important that we provide an interim name so that no location was associated with the name," Maria Van Kerkhove, head of the WHO's Emerging Diseases unit, told the agency's executive board. — AFP

for the disease, which it has designated as a global health emergency is "2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease". The date refers to when it was first identified on December 31, 2019 and "nCoV" stands for "novel coronavirus" — the family of viruses it

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Duke and Duchess of Sussex attend a JPMorgan Chase event in Miami

Harry & Meghan's first show since royal snub



File pic of Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

London, Feb. 8: Prince Harry and his wife Meghan have taken part in their first joint public engagement since quitting as working members of Britain's royal family, Buckingham Palace said Friday. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex attended a JPMorgan Chase event in Miami, where Harry gave a speech. The couple left Britain in a shock move last month, stepping back from royal duties to pursue financial independence instead. JPMorgan Chase is the biggest US bank by assets. It is not known if Harry was paid for the speech at the 1 Hotel in Miami's South Beach. "I can confirm reports the Sussexes attended a JPMorgan gathering in

Miami yesterday, where the Duke spoke," a Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said Friday. Harry and Meghan have been living in a luxury mansion outside Victoria on Canada's Pacific west coast with their baby son Archie. A clear majority of Canadians feel their country should not have to pay for their security, according to a poll by Nanos Research for CTV out Monday. Canada is a parliamentary monarchy and Harry's grandmother Queen Elizabeth II is the reigning head of state. The prince is sixth in line to the throne. However, 77 percent believes Canadian taxpayers should not have to stump up because the Sussexes are not

WILL THE SUSSEXS EVER COME BACK?

London, Feb. 8: Meghan Markel and Prince Harry could return to Britain later this year due to a very joyful occasion. In the couple's statement, Meghan and Harry said they were planning to split their time between North America and the UK, meaning they will come back. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex could even come back as early as this spring for a very special occasion. Prince Harry's cousin

in Princess Beatrice, whom he is very close with, will get married on May 29 and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex are expected to attend. Meghan and Harry attended the wedding of Beatrice's sister Princess Eugenie in 2018, just a few days before they announced they were expecting their first child. Beatrice's nuptials will take place on May 29, a couple of weeks after Archie turns one. question of security, or who will cover the bill, now that they have officially left behind royal duties. — AFP

Amazon's record Jan deforestation

Rio de Janeiro, Feb. 8: Deforestation in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil more than doubled in January compared with the previous year, according to official data. More than 280 square kilometres were cleared, an increase of 108 per cent. It was the largest area cleared in the month of January since 2015, when such data started being collected, according to Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE). The data, published on Friday, was collected by the INPE's satellite-based DETER system, which monitors deforestation in real time. In comparison, 136 square kilometres were cleared in January

■ MORE THAN 280 square kilometres were cleared, a rise of 108 per cent. ■ IT WAS the largest area cleared in the month of January since 2015. 2019, 183 square kilometres in 2018 and 58 square kilometres in 2017. INPE data published in mid-January found that deforestation in the Amazon in northern Brazil had soared 85 per cent in 2019, clearing 9,166 square kilometres — the highest number in at least five years. — AFP

SHORT TAKES

Hyderabad ride on Prateek power

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

Prateek Reddy scored a massive century to put Hyderabad in command on the third day of their Col C. K. Nayudu Trophy Under 23 match against Andhra at Ongole on Saturday. Batting at No.6, Prateek got the lower order to rally around him as Hyderabad fought back from a precarious 126 for 6 to finish the third day at 402 for 9 in their second innings, having taken a slender lead in the first. Prateek hit 24 boundaries in his 235-ball knock as he raised crucial partnerships, of 158 for the seventh wicket with No.8 M. Samhith Reddy (53), 27 for the eighth with Rakshann Reddi (5) and 68 for the ninth with No.10 batsman G. Aniketh Reddy (56) before being out. For Andhra, K. Nithish Kumar Reddy scalped five wickets while conceding 90 runs. In a women's Under 23 match, Hyderabad defeated Punjab by three wickets. G. Trisha came up with an all-round show (2 for 40 and 65 not out) as Hyderabad replied to Punjab's 187/9 with 191/7 in 48.5 overs.

BRIEF SCORES

■ **Col C. K. Nayudu Trophy (Day-3):** Hyderabad 218 in 68.2 overs & 402/9 in 103 overs (Prateek Reddy 181 — 235b, 24x4, M. Samhith Reddy 53, Pranay Kumar 2/59, K. Nithish Kumar Reddy 5/90, Y. Sandeep 2/63) vs Andhra 214 in 74.1 overs.

■ **BCCI U-23 Women's tournament:** Punjab 187/9 in 50 overs (Priya Kumar 39, Anjali 38, Kanika Ahuja 58, Yahasri 2/19, G. Trisha 2/40) lost to Hyderabad 191/7 in 48.5 overs (G. Trisha 65 n.o., Anuradha Nayak 35, A. Kanika 2/40, M. Kashyap 2/34). **Points:** Hyderabad 4, Punjab 0.

17 months in jail for Pakistan fixer

New Delhi: Former Pakistan batsman Nasir Jamshed has been sentenced to 17 months in jail for his role in the spot-fixing scandal in which he conspired to bribe fellow cricketers in the Pakistan Super League (PSL). The 33-year-old, who was arrested along with British nationals Yousef Anwar and Mohammed Ijaz, had originally denied being involved in a plan to encourage players to underperform deliberately in the PSL 2018 game between Islamabad United and Peshawar Zalmi in Dubai. After the Manchester Crown Court handed the sentence, Jamshed's wife Samara Afzal issued a statement, narrating the "pain and humiliation" that her husband's actions had caused to their family. "Nasir could have had a bright future had he worked hard and been committed to the sport than gave him so much, but he took a short cut and lost everything, his career, status, respect and freedom," she was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. "He would have got UK nationality and played county cricket, and he threw his chance away. He would do anything to turn the clock back and not lose everything, especially his daughter who he is very close to, but it's too late for him. I hope all cricketers look at his example as a deterrent against corruption." — PTI

Women beat Oz, stay in tri-series

Melbourne: Smriti Mandhana struck a sublime half-century as India finally produced a good batting display to record a seven-wicket win over Australia here on Saturday, keeping their hopes alive for a place in the final of the women's T20 tri-series. Australia posted 173 for 5 courtesy a 57-ball 93 from Ashleigh Gardner and Meg Lanning's 22-ball 37 after India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur elected to field at the Junction Oval. India then overhauled the target in 19.4 overs, largely due to opener Shafali Verma's 49 off 28 balls and Mandhana's 55 off 48 balls. With the win, India moved to the second position in the points table, behind England. The winner of the final league match between Australia and England on Sunday will decide the finalists for the title clash on February 12. Sixteen-year-old Shafali gave India a flying start with her innings containing eight fours and a six. Her senior opening partner Mandhana on the other hand anchored the case with a solid knock. — PTI

Brief scores: Australia 173/5 in 20 overs (Ashleigh Gardner 93; Deepti Sharma 2/27) lost to India 177/3 in 19.4 overs (Smriti Mandhana 55, Shafali Verma 49; Megan Schutt 1/26).

Eden & dusted

Kiwis seal series by beating India in second one-dayer

Auckland, Feb. 8: New Zealand exorcised the ghost of a nightmarish T20 whitewash with a series-clinching 22-run victory against India in the second ODI on Saturday as the visitors paid the price for poor shot selection. Revenge as they say is a dish best served cold and on a chilly Auckland night, New Zealand defended a total of 273 by restricting India to 251 in 48.3 overs taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. The victory also completed a hat-trick of ODI wins for the Black Caps starting from their World Cup semi-final win in Manchester last year. The win was more creditable as regular skipper Kane Williamson along with top bowlers Trent Boult, Lockie Ferguson were unavailable.



New Zealand celebrate an Indian wicket during the second ODI at Eden Park, Auckland, on Saturday. — AP

New Zealand's 6 foot 8 inch debutant Kyle Jamieson (2/42 and 25 off 24 balls) got the 'Player of the Match' award for his all-round show. "I'm impressed with how we finished. We let things slip away from 197-8 to 270 plus in the first half but came back strongly with the second half of our batting. We were in trouble with the bat, but Saini and Jadeja played really well, as did Shreyas," skipper Virat Kohli said. In fact the skipper felt that ODIs are less relevant in a T20 World Championship year. "ODIs aren't too relevant this year compared to Tests and T20s, but to find people who can play that way under pressure is a big revelation for us and a big plus."

Ravindra Jadeja (55 off 73 balls) along with Navdeep Saini (45 off 49 balls) raised visions of pulling off an improbable win with a 76-run partnership, which ended in vain. Tim Southee despite running temperature (2/41 in 10 overs) was brilliant with the new ball as his in-cutter got rid of Virat Kohli but it was poor shot selection from a set Shreyas Iyer (52) and Kedar Jadhav (9) in the middle overs did cost India dearly after the inexperienced pair of Mayank Agarwal and Prithvi Shaw had a second successive poor day. Earlier, in-form Ross Taylor produced a rearguard act with an unbeaten half century to rescue New Zealand to a competitive 273 for eight in 50 overs. Taylor scored 73 not out (74 balls, 6 fours, 2 sixes) — his 51st half-century — and put on 76 off 51 balls for the ninth wicket with Jamieson to lift the hosts from 197-8 to a competitive score. Opener Martin Guptill smashed a run-a-ball 79 to give the Black Caps a good start but they lost seven wickets for 55 runs to look down the barrel at one stage. Put in to bat, New Zealand got off to a positive start as Guptill (79) and Henry Nicholls (41) put on 93 runs for the first wicket. Guptill's innings contained eight fours and three sixes, as their cautious start meant India were searching for wickets early on. The breakthrough came only in the 17th over as Yuzvendra Chahal trapped Nicholls LBW. Chahal had earlier dropped Nicholls in the 15th over as India started nervously in the field again. But things came together after the first wicket with the visitors piling on the pressure. Shardul Thakur (2-60) got rid of Tom Blundell (22) and then came the turning moment. Guptill set off for a suicidal run and was duly caught short of his crease by Thakur's throw. The Kiwis were suddenly down to 157 for 3 and India made good use of the opening. Jadeja (1-35) got into the action, first dismissing Tom Latham (7) and then running out Jimmy Neesham (3). Colin de Grandhomme (5) holed out off Thakur. — PTI



Kyle Jamieson celebrates taking an Indian wicket during the second one-dayer on Saturday. — AP

SCORECARD

New Zealand: Martin Guptill run out 79, Henry Nicholls lbw b Chahal 41, Tom Blundell c Navdeep Saini b Thakur 22, Ross Taylor (not out) 73, Tom Latham lbw b Ravindra Jadeja 7, James Neesham run out (Jadeja) 3, Colin de Grandhomme c Shreyas Iyer b Thakur 5, Mark Chapman c & b Chahal 1, Tim Southee c Navdeep Saini b Chahal 3, Kyle Jamieson (not out) 25. **Extras (B-4, LB-4, W-6) 14. Total (for eight wickets in 50 overs) 273.** **FoW:** 1-93, 2-142, 3-157, 4-171, 5-175, 6-185, 7-187, 8-197. **Bowling:** Thakur 10-1-60-2, Bumrah 10-0-64-0, Saini 10-0-48-0, Chahal 10-0-58-3, Jadeja 10-0-35-1. **India:** Prithvi Shaw b Jamieson 24, Mayank Agarwal c Ross Taylor b Bennett 3, Virat Kohli b Southee 15, Shreyas Iyer c Latham b Bennett 52, KL Rahul b de Grandhomme 4, Kedar Jadhav c Henry Nicholls b Southee 9, R. Jadeja c de Grandhomme b Neesham 55, Shardul Thakur b de Grandhomme 18, Navdeep Saini b Jamieson 45, Yuzvendra Chahal run out 10, Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 0. **Extras (B 0, LB 4, W 12) 16. Total (in 48.3 overs) 251.** **FoW:** 1-21, 2-34, 3-57, 4-71, 5-96, 6-129, 7-153, 8-229, 9-251. **Bowling:** Bennett 9-0-58-2, Southee 10-1-41-2, Jamieson 10-1-42-2, Grandhomme 10-1-54-2, Neesham 9.3-0-52-1.

Kohli says ODIs not so relevant in T20 Cup year

Auckland, Feb. 8: The high-flying Indians have been brought down by the Kiwis in the ODIs but an unperturbed Virat Kohli says this format is not much relevant this year, referring to the fast-approaching T20 World Cup and the engrossing fight for World Test championship. "These were two pretty good games, great for the fans. I am particularly impressed with how we finished the game. First half we let things slip away. I think Saini and Jadeja showed great character but as I said one-day cricket in this calendar year is not as relevant like T20s and Tests," the Indian skipper said. — PTI



Bangladesh captain Mohammad Akbar Ali (left) and his India counterpart Priyam Garg pose with the ICC U19 World Cup in Potchefstroom, South Africa. — ICC

India eye record fifth U-19 trophy

Potchefstroom (South Africa), Feb. 8: Defending champions India are overwhelming favourites to win a record fifth U-19 World Cup title here on Sunday but a tough fight is expected from Bangladesh in an all-Asian final. If the India squad for the 2018 edition had the likes of Prithvi Shaw and Shubman Gill, who have expectedly gone on to play for the senior team, the exploits of opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, spinner Ravi Bishnoi and pacer Kartik Tyagi in the current edition have made them overnight stars. Irrespective of what happens in Sunday's final, India have reinforced the fact that they are undisputed leaders at the under-19 level and the cricketing structure the BCCI has developed is working better than any other board in the world. India, who walloped arch-rivals Pakistan by 10 wickets in the semifinal on Tuesday, will be playing their seventh final since 2000 when they lifted the trophy for the first time. Having said that, success at the U-19 level doesn't guarantee success at the highest level as not all players have the ability to go on and play for India. Some also lose their way like Unmukt Chand did after leading India to the title in 2012. His career promised so much back then but now it has come to a stage where he is struggling to make the eleven in Uttarakhand's Ranji Trophy team, having shifted base from Delhi last year. Only the exceptionally talented like Shaw and Gill get to realise their dream as the competition is only getting tougher in the ever-improving Indian cricket. India probably is the only side which fields a fresh squad in every U-19 World Cup edition and since

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India vs Bangladesh on STAR Sports 3, HD FROM 1.30 PM

Head-to-head

HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS
Bangladesh: 261 in 50 overs at Hove in 2019
India: 280-6 in 50 overs at Pretoria in 2008

LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS
Bangladesh: 34 in 14.5 overs at Lahore in 2003
India: 77 in 32.4 overs at Auckland in 2002

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES
Bangladesh: 109 Mahmudul Hasan Joy at Hove in 2019
India: Shikhar Dhawan at Dhaka in 2004

BEST BOWLING PERFORMANCE
Bangladesh: 4-49 Nasir Hossain at Colombo in 2007
India: 9-16 Irfan Pathan at Lahore in 2003

Stats: S.PERVEZ QAISER

there is no dearth of talent and a proper structure is in place, the talent keeps coming up. "The fact that we allow a cricketer to play the U-19 World Cup only once is a big reason behind the team's success. While most teams have cricketers who have played in the previous edition," India U-19 fielding coach Abhay Sharma said. "It just goes to show that the system under the visionary leadership of Rahul Dravid (NCA head) is flourishing. Credit to BCCI as well that other teams want to follow our structure." — PTI

Udayan is the Man(e) Raptors ace Pune, in final

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

Pune's Udayan Mane reigned supreme at the Hyderabad Golf Club on Saturday as he posted a clinical four-under-67 to make it back-to-back titles on the PGTI with victory at the Golconda Masters golf championship. Mane, who closed the week with a total of 17-under-267, bagged his ninth professional title with a two-shot margin at the season-opening ₹40 lakh event. It was the 28-year-old's second win at the Golconda Masters following his 2018 triumph. Udayan had also won PGTI's last event, the 2019 season-ending Tour Championship in Jamshepur in December. Bengaluru's Viraj Madappa delivered a scintillating nine-under-62, the week's best score, to clinch the joint runner's up spot at a total of 15-under-269 along with Patna's Aman Raj who fired a last round of five-under-66. Round three leader Veer Ahlawat dropped to fourth at 13-under-271 after his final round of 72. Delhi's Rashid Khan, the 2019 PGTI Order of Merit champion, took a share of seventh place at nine-under-275. Bengaluru's Khalin Joshi was a further shot back in tied 10th place.



Udayan Mane celebrates winning the Golconda Masters at the Hyderabad Golf Club on Saturday.

Gurugram's Abhishek Kumar made a hole-in-one on the 11th during his round of 72. He finished tied 40th at five-over-289. Hyderabad-based professional Venkatt Gautham, who carded a last round of 75, also finished tied 40th. Mane (68-67-65-67), lying one off the lead in second place after round three,

was off to a steady start in the final round making pars on the first five holes. Round three leader Veer Ahlawat of Gurugram dropped bogeys on the fourth and fifth to concede the lead to Mane. Udayan began to pull away from the rest with a birdie and an eagle on the par-5s sixth and eighth respectively sinking a 30-footer on the latter. The strapping Mane then produced a couple of accurate tee shots on the par-3s ninth and 11th to pick up birdies from a range of four feet and build a commanding four-shot lead with seven holes to play. Mane's only bogey of the day came on the 13th as a result of a three-putt. However, he held on to his lead with pars on the last five holes despite late surges from Viraj Madappa and Aman Raj. Udayan said, "Back-to-back wins are always special and it feels awesome to have achieved it. I would love to take this form forward into the next events. It's also good to win at the HGC for the second time. It's turning out to be my happy hunting ground. I couldn't have asked for a better start to the season." Viraj Madappa (69-68-70-62), lying tied 10th and eight off the lead ahead of the final round, had a rather quiet first eight holes.

GANDHARV KAMALA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

Chan Peng Soon and Eom Hye Won led defending champions Bengaluru Raptors to a 4-3 win over Pune Aces in the second semifinal of the Premier Badminton League being played at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad on Saturday. The pair of Chan Peng and Eom Hye overcame the British duo of Chris Adcock and Gabrielle Adcock in a pulsating 15-13, 15-12 in a trump match. Rituparna shocked everyone with her composure while tackling the current World No.2 in her women's singles match. She went toe-to-toe with the Taiwanese, matching her shot for shot. But in the end, it proved too much for the Indian as the former World No.1 prevailed. Earlier, in a major upset for the Raptors, B. Sai



Praneeth lost to Kazumasa Sakai, going down in straight games 11-15, 13-15. Kazumasa, who had lost just a match in the fifth edition of PBL, took an early lead of 5-1. The local-lad tried to make a comeback but it proved a little too late as the Japanese took the game 15-11. In the second game too, the World No.73 made a great start as he came out with an aggressive mindset. Praneeth, who was bought for ₹32L, tried to prove his worth but failed to make an impact, losing 13-15 in a match that lasted 35 minutes. In the first men's singles of the evening, Frenchman Brice Leverdez rallied from 6-8 down at the break in his opening game to beat Pune's Mithun Manjunath 15-14. But Mithun, who was brought for just ₹1 lakh, punched above his weight to take the second game 15-9 and go level. The ₹21-lakh worth Brice was up for the challenge as he thumped Mithun 15-6 in the third, winning the 55-minute long match 2-1. Earlier in the men's doubles, Chirag Shetty and Hendra Setiawan of Pune got the better of Arun George and Rian Agung Saputro, representing Bengaluru 15-12, 15-10 to give Pune an early lead. The Indo-Indonesian pair of Chirag and Hendra, who have remained undefeated throughout the league, proved their mettle once again as they won their trump match in straight games, giving Pune the upper hand in the match.



SHORT TAKES

Humpy begins tourney with win

St Louis, USA: India's Koneru Humpy opened her campaign in the Cairns Cup chess tournament with a win over American teenager Carissa Yip while world champion Ju Wenjun shared honours in her first round game here on Saturday. Dronavalli Harika, the other Indian in the fray, was held to a draw by Kateryna Lango of Russia in 47 moves. Humpy and Dzagnidze are the early leaders after posting wins in the first round. Humpy, the current world rapid chess champion, was in for a surprise when the young American came up with her choice of the King's Indian Defence. She, however, showed the value of experience by exploiting a positional error to win in 50 moves. — PTI

Osaka's poor run at Fed Cup is on

Paris: A tearful Naomi Osaka followed up her Australian Open disappointment with another surprise defeat on Friday when she was beaten 6-0, 6-3 by World No.78 Sara Sorribes Tormo in the Fed Cup. Spain took an unexpected lead over Japan in the tie in Cartagena after Sorribes Tormo capitalised on a careless performance from Osaka, who made an astonishing 50 unforced errors in the 15 games. Carla Suarez Navarro then made it 2-0 to the hosts after she eased past Misaki Doi 6-3, 6-4. Sorribes Tormo enjoyed the backing of a sizeable home crowd at La Manga Club and her consistency proved too much for Osaka, who has never played her. — AFP

Boxers bag five medals in Hungary

New Delhi: President's Cup silver medalist Gaurav Chauhan (91kg) and former youth world champion Jyoti Gulia (51kg) claimed a silver each as India finished their campaign with five medals at the 64th Bocskai Memorial tournament at Debrecen in Hungary. Chauhan, a South Asian Games gold medalist, went down fighting against Kazakhstan's Aibek Oralbay in the final after getting a walkover in the semifinals. Chauhan lost his bout 0-4 in a unanimous verdict. Gulia (51kg) also settled for a silver after she lost a hard-fought final 2-3 to Russia's Soluianova Svetlana. Gulia earlier made it to final after defeating Canada's Mandy Bujold in the semi-finals with a unanimous verdict. — PTI

Hockey high for India

Hosts stun world champions Belgium in FIH Pro League

Bhubaneswar, Feb. 8: Indian men hockey team's sensational run of form continued as they stunned world champions Belgium 2-1 to seal their third win on the trot in the FIH Pro League here on Saturday. After defeating world number three the Netherlands in their opening two matches of the FIH Pro League, India beat world number one Belgium in a thrilling match at the Kalinga Stadium here to continue their unbeaten run. Mandeep Singh scored a field goal in the second minute of the match before Gauthier Boccard equalised for European champions Belgium in the 33rd minute with a powerful drag flick from a penalty corner.



Action from the FIH Pro League match between India and Belgium in Bhubaneswar on Saturday.

Ramandeep Singh scored the decisive goal in the 47th minute via a penalty corner to give world number four India a victory in front of a frenzied crowd at the same venue where the home side beat the Dutch twice. With this sensational victory, India consolidated their ranking from No.5 to No.4 for the first time since the world ranking system was introduced in 2003. The two sides meet again on Sunday at the same venue. After getting off to a rollicking start in their maiden FIH Hockey Pro League with a 5-2 and 3-1 shoot-out (3-3 in regulation time) win against the Netherlands,

India did well to halt Belgium's winning streak in the ongoing FIH Pro League. Belgium struggled to convert their chances. Despite dominating with ball possession, making as many as 38 circle entries, taking 24 shots on goal and 12 penalty corners, the Belgian unit could not muster much success inside the circle. The Belgians were denied thanks to stand-out performance

by Indian goalkeepers PR Sreejesh and Krishan Pathak who lived up to the billing. The Indians were quick to get off the blocks with debutant Raj Kumar Pal setting up a fantastic goal within 90 seconds of play as he passed from the left flank to Dilpreet Singh on top of the circle. Young forward Dilpreet, making his comeback in the Indian squad after over a year, took a

powerful shot on goal which found a perfect deflection from Mandeep Singh who was positioned in front of Belgian goalkeeper Vincent Vanasch. It was Pathak who ensured Belgium did not bounce back. He was kept busy all of 15 minutes in the first quarter with Belgium creating plenty of opportunities which included as many as five penalty corners. Belgium's wait to convert a goal ended only in the third quarter when they made a good variation of a penalty corner, opening up the angle to trick India's rushers and made enough space for Gauthier Boccard to put the ball past Pathak to level scores in the 33rd minute. With scores reading 1-1, it was a tense final quarter but India pushed back Belgium by scoring another goal. It was Ramandeep, who after injecting the ball during a penalty corner battery, picked up a rebound off Belgium's first rusher to score the goal. Though Belgium created penalty corners in the dying minutes of the match, India held their nerves and experienced goalkeeper Sreejesh ensured India sealed the game to stay at second position in the points table. Belgium are still on top with 11 points from five games. The victory was also India's 50th win against Belgium. — PTI

Olympic coaches honour for Gopi

New Delhi, Feb. 8: Chief national badminton coach Pulella Gopichand has received an honourable mention in the male category of the prestigious 2019 International Olympic Committee's Coaches Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of role he played in the development of the game in the country. "I am pleased to inform you that an Honourable Mention is being awarded to Mr Pulella Gopichand for the 2019 IOC Coaches Lifetime Achievement Awards," the IOC Athletes' and Entourage Commissions said in a statement. "The Panel wish to recognise his efforts in the development of badminton in India, his efforts in support-

ing athletes across sports and his contribution to the Olympic Movement. The IOC Coaches Lifetime Achievement Awards is an initiative of the IOC Athletes' Entourage Commission to recognise outstanding achievements and contributions a coach has made to develop and encourage athletes in line with the Olympic values. Olympic athletes as well as IOC Members, IOC Athletes' Entourage Commission members, Summer and Winter International Federations, National Olympic Committees and continental associations can nominate candidates. The nominees can be active or retired, and a coach in either an Olympic summer or winter sport. — PTI

Walk for women



Cyberabad Commissioner of Police V. C. Sajjanar (centre, left), Inspector General for Women Safety Swathi Lakra (centre, right), badminton world champion P. V. Sindhu (left, in black) and national badminton coach Pulella Gopichand (right) stand with women before the flag off of 'She Safe Night Walk' at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad ahead of the Premier Badminton League semifinal on Saturday night. The walk was organised by Society for Cyberabad Security Council in association with Cyberabad Police and Cyberabad She Teams to emphasise the importance of lighting in the streets for better illumination and ensuring the safety of women. — DECCAN CHRONICLE



Roger Federer wears a South African rugby jersey presented by SA captain Siya Kolisi (centre) while Rafael Nadal looks on ahead of their exhibition match at the Cape Town Stadium in Cape Town on Friday. — AP



Roger Federer and his doubles partner Bill Gates, software developer and philanthropist, in action against Rafael Nadal and Trevor Noah. — AP

Federer plays for Africa

Cape Town (South Africa), Feb. 8: Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal attracted what organisers said was a world record crowd for a tennis match when they played an exhibition event in the Cape Town Stadium on Friday. The organisers said an audited attendance of 51,954 beat the 42,517 who watched Federer play Alexander Zverev of Germany in Mexico City last November. They also announced that the 'Match in Africa' raised \$3.5-million for the Roger Federer Foundation, which supports educational and athletic programmes for children in Africa. "To have 51,954 people in attendance at a tennis match, I never thought I'd be apart of something like that. It's not something you dream about," said Federer. Federer, who was accompanied by his South African mother, Lynette, said his first appearance in South Africa was a special occasion. "The first time here in Cape Town, in South Africa, means so much more than just tennis," he said. Federer won 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in a match in which the players had to contend with cool, windy conditions in the stadium that

● **The exhibition match in Cape Town that also involved Rafael Nadal and Bill Gates, raised \$3.5 million for the Roger Federer Foundation which supports educational and athletic programmes for children in Africa.**

was built for the 2010 football World Cup. The arena was packed with eager fans who sang, clapped and did the wave throughout the match. "It's an amazing crowd, an amazing stadium," said Nadal, who was making his first appearance in South Africa since playing in the country as a junior. "I can't thank enough the people here in Cape Town. They came here and created an unforgettable atmosphere, he added. Earlier in the day, Federer and his doubles partner billionaire Bill Gates beat Nadal and South-African born comedian Trevor Noah in a match with more flexible rules. The ceremonial coin toss was performed by World Cup-winning Springbok rugby captain

Siya Kolisi, who presented Federer with a Springbok jersey. The coin used was a commemorative 20 Swiss Francs piece minted with Federer's face. He gave it to Kolisi. Other high-profile South African sports stars in attendance included former Springbok captains John Smit and Jean de Villiers as well as Olympic swimmer Ryk Neethling. The match is the sixth edition of the event organised by the Roger Federer Foundation and is the first to take place in Africa. Federer said he spent childhood holidays in South Africa. Thousands of fans showed up early and were ecstatic when Nadal and Federer hit practice balls into the stands. Earlier, Federer and Nadal played tennis with children from townships in Hout Bay. — AFP



Roger Federer hugs his mother Lynette ahead of the celebrity match organised to raise funds for the Federer Foundation which supports educational and athletic programmes for children in Africa, at the Cape Town Stadium in Cape Town, South Africa, on Friday. — AP

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Ananda Lakshman Gujawaris a 64 years retired official. His knees were aching from the last 4-5 years. On the suggestion of his neighbour, he massaged Dr. Ortho Ayurvedic oil gently and took 2-2 capsules in morning and evening for 3 months. Now, he is happy.	Mumtaz Begam , 67 years old is a Housewife. From last 3 years, I was unable to walk because of pain in my knees and legs and underwent all the treatments but nothing worked. Then one day, I bought Dr. Ortho Oil and Capsules after watching its advertisement on TV and used as per directions. Now, her pain is completely relieved.	Pandit Lakshmi Narayan Satyarthi , 64 years old, teacher and doctor. He writes, "From last 3-4 years there was severe pain in my knees, elbow and hands. I gently massaged Ayurvedic Dr. Ortho Oil and took two-two Dr. Ortho capsules in the morning and evening. I got rid of severe joints pain in only five months".
Kalyan Prasad Joshi , 52 years, a Priest by profession. From the last 3 years he was troubled from back pain and knee pain. Then one day he watched TV advertisement for Ayurvedic Dr. Ortho Oil and Capsules. He used this for three months and he writes that his 3-year-old joint pain got relieved in 3 months only.	Chandramani Beuria , 71 years retired person. From last few years, he was troubled from joints pain. But his life has become better after he gently massaged Dr. Ortho Oil and took two-two capsules in the morning and evening. He is sincerely grateful to Dr. Ortho.	Dattatreya Vinayak Dikshit , 68 years old social worker. From last few time there was severe pain in my knees and joints and even expensive medicines proved to be ineffective. Age was growing but the pain was not reducing, then one day my friend gave me Dr. Ortho Oil and Capsules and told me about it. With the usage of 40 days, my pain is relieved.

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