



PM TRUDEAU CONCLUDES PRODUCTIVE G7 & NATO SUMMIT (JUSTIN TRUDEAU/ TWITTER).

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Y MEDIA COVID & VACCINE REPORT

ONTARIO FURTHER ACCELERATES SECOND DOSES IN DELTA HOT SPOTS

TORONTO — As Ontario prepares to move to Step One of its Roadmap to Reopen at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, June 11, 2021, the province is further expanding eligibility for accelerated second doses in Delta hot spots to ensure a strong level of protection against COVID-19 and variants. As of June 10, 2021, the province's public health units, mass vaccination clinics, hospital sites, pharmacies, and physicians have administered more than 10.6 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Ontarians. Over 73 per cent of adult Ontarians are benefitting from the protection of the first dose of vaccine, and more than 11 per cent are fully immunized. "Ontario's vaccine rollout continues to pick up speed with over one million doses being administered each week, ensuring Ontario can safely and gradually lift public health measures," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "With an increased supply of vaccines, we continue to make it easier than ever to receive a vaccine to help protect those most at risk against COVID-19 variants, stop the spread and protect our hospital capacity." Administration of accelerated second doses to individuals aged 80 and over began on May 31, and expanded ahead of schedule on June 4 to individuals aged 70 and over as well as to individuals who received their first dose of an mRNA vaccine on or before April 18, 2021. This acceleration includes more than 151,000 individuals aged 18 to 49 in hot spot communities who were eligible to receive the vaccine at mobile and pop-up clinics beginning in early to mid-April.

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- *Ontario Enters Step 1 Of Reopening, Allows Outdoor Gatherings Of Up To 10 People.*
- *Residents In Delta Hotspots In Toronto, Peel Region, York Region, Halton, Porcupine, Waterloo, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Who Received 1st Covid-19 Dose Of mRNA (Pfizer and Moderna) On Or Before May 9 Can Book Their Second Dose.*
- *Ontarians who received their first dose of AstraZeneca vaccine are now eligible to book their second dose appointment at an interval of eight weeks or more with informed consent.*
- *Canada To Receive 9.5Million Vaccine Doses This Week.*
- *Canada will donate 100 million vaccine doses to poorer countries.*
- *Starting July, Federal government to allow fully vaccinated Canadian travellers to avoid hotel stay and 14-day hotel quarantine.*



'ISLAMOPHOBIA AND HATE HAVE NO PLACE IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS. AS CHIEF OF PEEL POLICE, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO ELIMINATING HATE FROM OUR COMMUNITIES, AND WILL CONTINUE OUR WORK TO KEEP #PEELREGION A SAFE PLACE FOR EVERYONE.': CHIEF NISHAN DURAIAPPAH.

LONDON, ONTARIO 'TARGET' ATTACK: ACCUSED, NATHANIEL VELTMAN NOW FACING TERRORISM CHARGES

On June 6, 2021, a lone male (later identified as Nathaniel Veltman, 20) driving a black pickup truck, allegedly drove into the five victims at the intersection of Hyde Park Road and South Carriage Road in London, Ontario.

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BANGLADESH ACTRESS, PORI MONI, CLAIMS ATTEMPTED RAPE, MURDER; SEEKS JUSTICE

DHAKA, (IANS) Top Bangladeshi film star Pori Moni has claimed in a Facebook post addressed to the country's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that she has been physically abused, adding "someone tried to kill and rape me". Shamsunnahar Smrity, popularly known as Pori Moni, is one of the top Bangladeshi film stars, and was recently included in the Forbes list of 'Asia-Pacific's Most Influential Celebrities' on Social Media.



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Y MEDIA POLITICAL SENSEX

AAP TO CONTEST ALL SEATS IN 2022 GUJARAT ASSEMBLY POLLS: KEJRIWAL

NEW DELHI/GANDHINAGAR, (IANS) Delhi Chief Minister and national convener of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Arvind Kejriwal, said on Monday that AAP will contest on all the 182 seats in the Assembly elections in Gujarat scheduled next year.



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Y MEDIA SPECIAL REPORT ON TRINAMOOL CONGRESS MP AND ACTRESS NUSRAT JAHAN



NUSRAT JAHAN

NIKHIL JAIN

YASH DASGUPTA

FULL COVERAGE ON PAGE 5



Y MEDIA EXPRESSES ITS HEARTFELT AND DEEPEST CONDOLENCES FOR THE DEMISE OF MR. SURJIT KUMAR CHANDEL, FATHER OF SIA LAKHANPAL (Y MEDIA TEAM MEMBER). WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY, WE WISH FOR PEACE AND COMFORT DURING THIS TIME OF GREAT LOSS. "MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE!"

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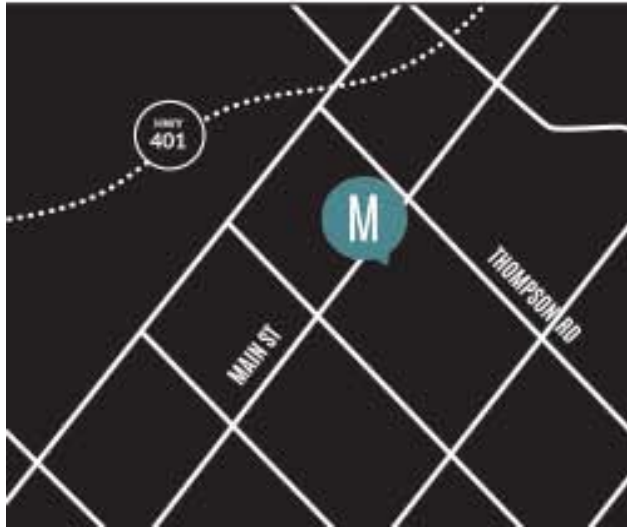


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CONGRESS PANEL ON PUNJAB SUBMITS REPORT TO SONIA, CM AMARINDER TO STAY



NEW DELHI, (IANS) The Congress panel constituted to resolve factionalism in the party in Punjab, submitted its report to party interim President Sonia Gandhi on Thursday. Sources said the panel has not recommended the removal of the Punjab Chief Minister and Captain Amarinder Singh is likely to lead the party in the next elections. Instead, a slew of reforms has been suggested in the party-state unit. While the fate of Navjot Singh Sidhu is still not clear but sources said the panel wants his rehabilitation in the Punjab cabinet. Amarinder Singh is averse to Sidhu being elevated to the post of Deputy CM but is ready to accommodate him in the cabinet, sources said. Last week, the panel headed by senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress' Punjab in-charge Harish Rawat and former MP J.P. Aggarwal met all the stakeholders in the party. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh also met

the three-member Congress panel. After the meeting, Amarinder Singh had said, "The meeting was to discuss the preparations for the Assembly elections scheduled early next year. These are our inner-party discussions and I don't propose to share them with you." The rift in the Punjab Congress had surfaced after former state Cabinet minister Navjot Singh Sidhu along with Pargat Singh opened a front against the Chief Minister. The All India Congress Committee (AICC) was forced to constitute a committee to listen to the grievances of its Punjab leaders after a group led by Sidhu suggested a change in the state leadership. However, sources said that there has been no discussion on replacing Amarinder Singh. The Congress wants to pacify Sidhu and retain him in the party by making some minor adjustments, without going for a major shake-up, sources said.

NAFTALI BENNETT SWORN IN AS ISRAEL'S NEW PM, ENDS NETANYAHU'S 12 YR RULE

JERUSALEM, (IANS) Naftali Bennett, leader of the right-wing Yamina (United Right) party, was sworn in as new Israeli prime minister on Sunday night, sending Benjamin Netanyahu to the opposition after a record 12-year rule. This came after the new coalition government, headed by Bennett and Yair Lapid, leader of the centrist Yesh Atid (Future) party, was approved by the parliament, or Knesset, in a vote of confidence, Xinhua news agency reported. In the vote of confidence held in the parliament earlier, 60 lawmakers of the 120-member chamber voted in favour of the new government while 59 voted against it. TV footage of the parliament session showed Bennett and Lapid taking their new seats at the coalition seats in the parliament, while Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving leader, moved to the back seats of the opposition. At the same time, the 27 new ministers of the new governing coalition were also sworn in. Bennett and Lapid will rotate as the prime minister on a two-year base, with Bennett going first. Lapid will serve as Israel's alternate prime minister and foreign minister. Israel's parliament on Sunday night also elected Mickey Levy, a law-



maker with Yesh Atid, as its new speaker. The new coalition includes eight parties, including the Islamist Ra'am party, the first Arab faction to be included in a governing coalition in Israel. Thousands of Israelis gathered on Rabin Square in central Tel Aviv on Sunday night to celebrate the end of Netanyahu's rule. The forming of the new coalition government has ended a political crisis in Israel, that has seen four elections in two years.

Y Media Exclusive: ‘We can’t stop the next generation of this province to improve learning,’ says Ontario’s Education Minister as he modernizes Math course

Ontario’s Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, announced the release of a new Grade 9 math course, as part of the province’s four-year mathematics strategy to ensure all students can build the skills and confidence they need to succeed and excel. Intended to equip students with valuable learning opportunities that will support their success in the workforce, the course includes mandatory new learning on coding, data literacy, mathematical modelling and an emphasis on financial literacy. Minister Stephen Lecce during an exclusive interview with Y Media said, “We need to get on with the new modern curriculum, even during the pandemic. We’ve got to keep moving and pushing and modernizing the system.” he further added. “we can’t stop time. We have a duty to children, the next generation of this province to improve learning. They’re going to learn that right now.” Minister Lecce told Y Media that the course was outdated as the Math curriculum was 16 years old and it has “no mandatory learning on financial literacy, coding or computational skills.” “I believe if children are going to learn, then it is better to learn from a curriculum that is relevant and related to the skills that they need now. So we are very passionate, very committed to implementing this curriculum,” he said. “We’re gonna have to deal with the pandemic while continuing to improve the curriculum, improve the schools, the facilities, and the places where children learn,” Minister Lecce told Y Media. The new course also ends the practice of streaming Grade 9 students into applied and academic courses, a practice that has in the past disadvantaged some students. Ending streaming will keep options open for all students to pursue post-secondary education and training in any pathway they choose. The Ministry of Education will also work with its education partners to ensure teachers and students are supported with the new math course. The course represents a major update that reflects emerging job-market needs, emphasizes real-world applications and responds to key recommendations provided by employers and education experts. It is a significant shift in how Ontario teaches students about mathematics and represents the first update since 2005 – the same year YouTube was launched. To better equip students with the skills they need to succeed, lift student math performance, and strong numeracy skills, the course: Ensures relevance to today’s job market with an emphasis on practical life skills – from the concept of interest, debt, savings, personal budgeting and price comparisons. Builds on learning from the modernized and landmark Grade 1-8 math curriculum to better prepare students for more advanced math to allow students to pursue any postsecondary, skilled trade and pathway in

science, technology, engineering and mathematics that they choose. Helps students prepare for the jobs of tomorrow by introducing new learning of how to apply coding skills to understand complex mathematics and to make predictions. In addition, the course builds on students’ understanding of data to represent and analyze real-life situations. “We are better preparing students with the life and job skills they require – with a focus on financial literacy, coding, and data literacy – to ensure Ontario students succeed,” said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. “With an emphasis on real-world applications for mathematics, this course will teach students valuable fundamentals that will give them a competitive advantage when they graduate. With new math-focused learning supports and a new curriculum, our government is taking the first step toward ending early streaming in Ontario, while promoting equal opportunities for all students.” Youth unemployment in Canada remains well above the rate of the G7 average in 2020. Too many young people are out of work, in work unrelated to their skills or underemployed. As part of its efforts to ensure that our curriculum reflects the life and job skills young people need today, the Ontario government is releasing a new Grade 9 course that will show how math can be applied in real-life situations, for example, in making major purchases by examining how interest rates and other factors affect pricing. “Canada’s ability to compete in the global marketplace over the course of the next century will, in part, depend on our ability to provide young Canadians with the skills and training they need to succeed, including in mathematics,” said Mathew Wilson, Senior Vice-President, Policy, Government Relations, and Ontario Division at Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters. “By updating its Grade 9 math course to include coding, data literacy and mathematical modelling, Ontario is taking key steps to ensure future prosperity through a growing and innovative manufacturing sector.” This new curriculum is the next step of the government’s four-year, \$200-million math strategy to reverse a decade-long decline in the performance of Ontario’s students. The new math course, which replaces the Grade 9 academic, applied and transfer courses, will be taught in Ontario’s publicly funded schools beginning in September 2021 and will provide students with key concepts and skills that build from the new elementary math curriculum released in spring of 2020. “The jobs of tomorrow demand a solid understanding of mathematics. As we see more jobs being created in coding, data management and engineering, proficiency in math will become even more important,” said FIRST Robotics Canada President David Ellis. “By giving Ontario’s math curriculum a much-needed update, the government is taking decisive action to help students succeed in the job market and allowing them to unlock their full potential. We are excited about this change!”

PEEL POLICE ARRESTS 3 SUSPECTS IN FATAL SHOOTING AT LOCAL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT IN MISSISSAUGA

REGION OF PEEL – Investigators from the Homicide and Missing Persons Bureau have arrested the third suspect in a Mississauga homicide that left one man dead and four others with injuries. On Saturday, May 29, 2021, at 7:19 p.m., police received a call for a shooting inside a food establishment at The Collegeway and Glen Erin Drive. The suspect entered the premises and began shooting at the staff, striking the 56-year-old owner, his 44-year-old wife, his two sons aged 22-years-old and 25-years-old, and a 58-year-old male employee. The owner’s 13-year-old daughter was also inside the premises, however, she was not physically injured. Naim Akl, a 25-year-old man from Oakville, was pronounced deceased at the scene. The four injured adults were transported to trauma centers. As a result of the investigation, members from the Homicide and Missing Persons Bureau identified three suspects believed to be responsible for the shooting. On Tuesday, June 8, 2021, Naqash Abbasi, a 31-year-old man from Brampton, was arrested and charged with the following offences: First Degree Murder Attempted Murder Using Firearm x5 On Wednesday, June 9, 2021, Suliman Raza, a 25-year-old man from Mississauga, was arrested and charged with the following offences: First Degree Murder Attempted Murder Using Firearm x5 Naqash Abbasi and Suliman Raza appeared at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on Wednesday, June 9, 2021. On June 10, 2021, Anand Nath, a 20-year-old man from Mississauga surrendered to Montreal Police. He will be returned to the Region of Peel to answer to the charges of First Degree Murder and Attempt Murder Using a Firearm x5.



BANK OF CANADA WILL HOLD CURRENT LEVEL OF POLICY RATE AT 0.25%



The Bank of Canada today held its target for the overnight rate at the effective lower bound of ¼ percent, with the Bank Rate at ½ percent and the deposit rate at ¼ percent. The Bank is maintaining its extraordinary forward guidance on the path for the overnight rate. This is reinforced and supplemented by the Bank’s quantitative easing (QE) program, which continues at a target pace of \$3 billion per week. With COVID-19 cases falling in many countries and vaccine coverage rising, global economic activity is picking up. Growth remains uneven across regions, however. The US is experiencing a strong consumer-driven recovery and a rebound is beginning to take shape in Europe, while a resurgence of the virus is hampering the recovery in some emerging market economies. Financial conditions remain highly accommodative, reflected in broadly higher asset prices. Commodity prices have risen further, notably oil, and the Canadian dollar has seen a further appreciation. In Canada, economic developments have been broadly in line with the outlook in the April Monetary Policy Report (MPR). Despite the second wave of the virus, first-quarter GDP growth came in at a robust 5.6 per cent. While this was lower than the Bank had projected, the underlying details indicate rising confidence and resilient demand. Household spending was stronger than expected, while businesses drew down inventories and increased imports more than anticipated. Renewed lockdowns associated with the third wave are dampening economic activity in the second quarter, largely as anticipated. Recent job data show that workers in contact-sensitive sectors have once again been most affected. The employment rate remains well below its pre-pandemic level, with low-wage workers, youth and women continuing to bear the brunt of job losses. With vaccinations proceeding at a faster pace, and provincial containment restrictions on an easing path over the summer, the Canadian economy is expected to rebound strongly, led by consumer spending. Housing market activity is expected to moderate but remain elevated. Strong growth in foreign demand and higher commodity prices should also lead to a solid recovery in exports and business investment. Despite progress on vaccinations, there continues to be uncertainty about the evolution of new COVID-19 variants. More broadly, the risks to the inflation outlook identified in the April MPR remain relevant. As expected, CPI inflation has risen to around the top of the 1-3 percent inflation-control range, due largely to base-year effects and much stronger gasoline prices. Core measures of inflation have also risen, due primarily to temporary factors and base year effects, but by much less than CPI inflation. While CPI inflation will likely remain near 3 percent through the summer, it is expected to ease later in the year, as base-year effects diminish and excess capacity continues to exert downward pressure. The Governing Council judges that there remains considerable excess capacity in the Canadian economy and that the recovery continues to require extraordinary monetary policy support. We remain committed to holding the policy interest rate at the effective lower bound until economic slack is absorbed so that the 2 percent inflation target is sustainably achieved. In the Bank’s April projection, this happens sometime in the second half of 2022. The Bank is continuing its QE program to reinforce this commitment and keep interest rates low across the yield curve. Decisions regarding adjustments to the pace of net bond purchases will be guided by Governing Council’s ongoing assessment of the strength and durability of the recovery. We will continue to provide the appropriate degree of monetary policy stimulus to support the recovery and achieve the inflation objective.



PM TRUDEAU CONCLUDES PRODUCTIVE NATO SUMMIT

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today participated in the NATO Summit in Brussels, Belgium. At the Summit, leaders discussed threats and challenges affecting transatlantic security and joint efforts to strengthen shared commitments to keep our people safe. Leaders also welcomed an ambitious NATO 2030 agenda that will continue NATO's adaptation to address evolving security challenges, including the security implications of climate change. During the meeting, Prime Minister Trudeau reiterated Canada's unwavering commitment to NATO and to Alliance values, including individual liberty, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. The Prime Minister highlighted Canada's contributions and leadership within NATO, including our leadership of the enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group in Latvia, our command of Standing NATO Maritime Group One, with Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Halifax as its flagship, as well as our contributions to NATO Mission Iraq and NATO's Kosovo Force. Climate change is one of the greatest threats of our time, impacting all of our people and our global security. Prime Minister Trudeau announced Canada's proposal to establish and host a new NATO Centre of Excellence on Climate and Security and work with Allies as the Centre's framework nation. It would provide Allies with a central location to pool their knowledge and develop effective preparedness and responses to the security impacts of climate change. The Prime Minister also announced Canada's contribution of \$1 million to the NATO Trust Fund to support United Nations (UN) peace operations. This project aims to increase the safety and security of peacekeepers deploying to UN peace operations around the world. Recognizing the increasingly broad and sophisticated cyber threats facing Allies, Prime Minister Trudeau highlighted that Canada is providing cyber effects to NATO. This contribution will help shape how cyber operations will be integrated into NATO missions and operations. The Prime Minister reiterated that Canada's cyber operations will be subject to all applicable domestic and international law. Prime Minister Trudeau joined Allies in endorsing the NATO 2030 agenda and reaffirming the solidarity, unity, and cohesion of the Alliance. NATO 2030 sets out an ambitious agenda for a renewed and reinvigorated Alliance, which will enable NATO to meet the security challenges of today and tomorrow.

PM Trudeau said, "As a founding member of NATO, the Alliance has been a cornerstone of Canada's defence and security for more than 70 years. The advances we made at this Summit will ensure NATO continues to adapt to meet the security challenges of today and to-

tomorrow, including those brought on by climate change and will build a safer and more resilient world for our people."

The Prime Minister also participated in the German Marshall Fund's NATO 2030 at Brussels Forum along with the Prime Minister of Estonia, Kaja Kallas. At the event, the Prime Minister reiterated Canada's commitment to work with our Allies and partners to tackle global challenges, like ending COVID-19, fighting the climate crisis, and keeping our people safe. He also highlighted Canada's role in NATO, and the importance that the Alliance has on our collective security and the promotion of democratic values around the world.

Canada is a proud member of NATO, and the Summit was an opportunity for Allies to discuss shared priorities and values. Together, we will continue to protect our people and build a safer and more peaceful world for everyone.

QUICK FACTS

The Prime Minister held meetings with the Secretary-General of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg, the President of Latvia, Egils Levits, the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Mark Rutte, and the Prime Minister of Spain, Pedro Sánchez.

NATO Allies also endorsed the NATO Climate Change and Security Action Plan, the new NATO Comprehensive Cyber Defence Policy, a new NATO Policy on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, and a Strengthened Resilience Commitment. NATO Leaders also tasked the Secretary-General to begin the process to update NATO's Strategic Concept.

NATO is a cornerstone of Canada's international security and defence policy, and the primary international forum in which to engage and collaborate with Allies and Partner nations on transatlantic defence and security.

Canada is committed to NATO's principle of collective defence and is providing direct support to NATO missions and operations. Currently, Canada is: Leading the multinational NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group in Latvia as a framework nation as part of Operation REASSURANCE since 2017.

Commanding Standing NATO Maritime Group One (SNMG1) as part of Operation REASSURANCE, with Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Halifax as its flagship. Canada is leading the mission until January 2022. SNMG1 operates in Western and Northern European waters, including the Baltic, North, and Norwegian Seas.

Deploying Canadian Armed Forces members as part of NATO Mission Iraq (NMI) through Operation IMPACT. Canada is a strong sup-



porter of NMI and commanded the mission from 2018 to 2020.

Providing logistical and headquarters support to NATO's Kosovo Force through Operation KOBOLD.

Canada also contributes to transatlantic security through our support for Ukraine's security and stability, including through our military training mission, Operation UNIFIER.

NATO Centres of Excellence (COEs) are international military organizations that are established, run and funded by individual NATO Allies (Framework Nations). NATO COEs train and educate personnel from Allied and Partner countries on specialized topics of relevance to NATO. A Canada-led NATO Centre of Excellence (COE) on Climate and Security would be an important vehicle for the Alliance to better understand, adapt to, and address the security implications of climate change. This would be the first NATO COE established in Canada.

Canada's contribution to NATO's Trust Fund to support UN peacekeepers will allow NATO to share its expertise with the UN in key areas, including military performance and evaluation, medical care, countering improvised explosive devices, and signals information and communications technology. This will contribute to more effective peace operations.

By integrating Canada's sovereign cyber effects into NATO operations and missions, Canada is joining a group of Allies volunteering to integrate their sovereign cyber effects to help achieve NATO operational objectives. Canada's cyber operations will be subject to all applicable domestic and international law.

G7 pledges 870mn vaccine doses, half to be delivered by 2021-end



GENEVA, (IANS) Leaders of G7 countries have agreed in an agreement at their summit to share at least 870 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines directly, at least half of which are to be delivered by the end of 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Sunday. In a statement, the WHO said the G7 countries have reaffirmed their support for COVAX, a WHO-led international campaign for equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines globally, as "the primary route for providing vaccines to the poorest countries", Xinhua news agency reported. While welcoming the G7's commitment, COVAX partners have also called for their continued support for exporting the vaccines in significant proportions, promotion of voluntary licensing and not-for-profit global production.

COVAX has been facing an urgent supply gap, according to the WHO, and is focused on securing as many shared doses as possible immediately. It will work with the G7 and other countries that have stepped up to share doses as rapidly and equitably as possible, to address short-term supply constraints and minimize the prospect of future deadly variants.

"Many other countries are now facing a surge in cases — and they are facing it without vaccines. We are in the race of our lives, but it's not a fair race, and most countries have barely left the starting line," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "But we need more, and we need them faster," he added.

"This is an important moment of global solidarity and a critical milestone in the push to ensure those most at risk, everywhere are protected," said Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

"As we strive towards our goal of ending the acute phase of the pandemic, we look forward to working with countries to ensure these doses pledged are quickly turned into doses delivered," he added.

The G7 has committed one billion doses since the February 2021 virtual G7 Early Leaders' Summit, including pledges made at the G20 Global Health Summit and the Gavi COVAX Summit.

PM TRUDEAU CONCLUDES PRODUCTIVE G7 LEADERS' SUMMIT IN UNITED KINGDOM

During the Summit, G7 leaders agreed to work together to address important challenges that all our people face, including ending COVID-19 and preparing for future pandemics, building a recovery that creates jobs and grows the middle class, fighting climate change and biodiversity loss, and advancing gender equality and democracy. To beat COVID-19 everywhere, Prime Minister Trudeau encouraged prioritizing equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines around the world and urged continued G7 leadership in closing the funding gaps for the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator. The ACT Accelerator supports the global access of vaccines, tests, and treatments, and Canada is one of four countries around the world that has stepped up to meet its assessed share. At the Summit, G7 leaders announced a collective commitment of more than 2 billion doses to be shared with the world, and Canada's portion of that is 100 million. Canada's \$1.3 billion contributions to the ACT Accelerator, as part of the \$2.5 billion that we have contributed to the global fight against the virus, is helping provide 87 million vaccine doses to developing countries. We are also donating 13 million doses, procured by Canada, to other countries through COVAX.

During the summit, G7 leaders agreed to take bold action to tackle climate change and build a green recovery that creates jobs, growth, and a cleaner future for our people. To drive this, the G7 leaders have each committed to increased 2030 targets, which will cut the G7's collective emissions by around half compared to 2010. Climate change is a global challenge, and we must support all countries in the fight against it to build a cleaner and more resilient future for everyone. That's why Prime Minister Trudeau announced a doubling of Canada's climate finance, from \$2.65 billion in 2015 to \$5.3 billion over five years, including increased support for adaptation, as well as nature and nature-based solutions that are in line with the G7 Nature Compact. The Prime Minister also announced Canada will increase its provision of grants to 40 per cent, up from 30 per cent previously, for improved access by impacted communities. This funding will help developing countries build domestic capacity to take climate action, build resiliency, and reduce pollution, including by finding nature-based solutions to climate change like protecting biodiversity and planting trees and supporting the transition to clean energy and the phasing-out of coal.

Y MEDIA SPECIAL REPORT ON TRINAMOOOL CONGRESS MP AND ACTRESS NUSRAT JAHAN

MARRIAGE TO NIKHIL JAIN NOT LEGAL, SEPARATED LONG BACK: NUSRAT JAHAN

KOLKATA, (IANS) In a surprise development, Trinamool Congress MP and actress Nusrat Jahan claimed on Wednesday that her marriage to Nikhil Jain was not valid in India and it was only a live-in relationship, adding that their separation happened long back.

Nusrat had reportedly got married to businessman Nikhil Jain in Turkey in 2019. A reception was also held in Kolkata that was attended by celebrities and leading politicians.

In a detailed statement, the Trinamool MP from Basirhat said, "Being on foreign land, as per Turkish Marriage Regulation, the ceremony is invalid. Moreover, since it was an interfaith marriage, it required validation under the Special Marriage Act in India, which did not happen. As per the court of law, it is not a marriage, but a relationship or a live-in relationship. Thus, the question of divorce does not arise. "Our separation happened long back, but I did not speak about it as I intended to keep my private life to myself. Thus, my actions must not be questioned based on 'separation', by the media or anybody I am not related to. The alleged marriage is not legal, valid and tenable; and thus, was not a marriage at all in the eye of law."

The statement, however, has raised eyebrows because Nusrat had declared in her affidavit submitted to the Election Commission before the 2019 Lok Sabha polls that she was married.

"She has now announced that she was not married and was only in a live-in relationship. If I am not wrong, then she had announced that she was married in the affidavit filed before the elections. How can she do that? She is a people's representative and she cannot make this kind of a wrong statement. This will raise questions and she will have to answer them," said a senior lawyer of Calcutta High Court.

In the statement, Nusrat also said, "My visit to any place for business or for the purpose of leisure, should not concern anyone with whom I have separated. All my expenses have always been borne by me



contrary to claims by 'someone'.

"I would also state that I have solely borne the expenses for my sister's education and my family's well-being, from day one, as they have been my responsibility. I need not use or keep anyone's Credit Card, which I am not related to anymore. This too can be backed up by evidence." Alleging that Jain had taken money from her bank account by accessing it illegally, besides holding back all the family jewellery, including her own hard-earned assets, the actress said, "Being 'rich'

does not always give a man the right to act as a victim & belittle the woman alone, in this society. I have made my own identity by my sheer hard work; thus I would not allow anyone not related to me to share the limelight or a title or followers, based on my identity." Though Jain has denied commenting on the matter, sources in the Calcutta High Court said that he has already filed for an annulment of his 'marriage' with Nusrat in the high court and the case is likely to come up for hearing on June 20.

Nusrat Jahan controversy snowballs into political potboiler



KOLKATA, (IANS) The now controversial marriage of Trinamool Congress MP and city-based businessman Nikhil Jain has taken a political hue as the BJP has jumped into the squabble alleging that the film actress has cheated people by showing off her wedding as a happy inter-religious marriage.

The issue sparked debate after BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya posted a video on Twitter showing the oath taking ceremony of Jahan where is seen married with a dollop of sindoor on her forehead and wrote: "TMC MP Nusrat Jahan Ruhi Jain's personal life, who she is married to or who she is living in with, should not be anyone's concern. But she is an elected representative and is on record in the Parliament that she is married to Nikhil Jain. Did she lie on the floor of the House?" State BJP President Dilip Ghosh was quick to respond. "She has asked for a vote showing that she was married. She had created the impression of a married Bengali woman and won the election. She has cheated the people," Ghosh said.

Jahan had won the election from Barasat assembly constituency on a Trinamool Congress ticket. She defeated BJP's SayantanBasu by a margin of more than 3.5 lakh votes.

Trinamool Congress defended the issue terming it as 'personal'. Speaking to the media, Trinamool general secretary Kunal Ghosh said:

"Nusrat Jahan is well established and she is a professional. Some issues regarding her personal life have come to the fore but that has nothing to do with the party and the organisation. The party is keeping a close watch on the development. BJP should not do politics on this else they would be in trouble".

Though TMC is trying to put up a brave face, it is undoubtedly true that the issue has created uneasiness in the party. Senior Trinamool leaders are of the opinion that though these kinds of things are not at all wanted but it is not that might lead to the cancellation of the membership of the Parliament. "She should have sorted the problem amicably," a senior Trinamool leader said.

Meanwhile after Jahan's claims that she was not at all married to Nikhil Jain and was in a live-in relationship, Nikhil came out with an open statement that though he had insisted several times but Jahan refused to go for the registry.

"Since August 2020 during the shooting of a film, my wife's behaviour started changing towards me, for reasons best known to her. During our stay together I requested her on a number of occasions to get the marriage registered but she avoided my requests," he wrote.

"After marriage, to get her released from the heavy interest burden of a home loan, I transferred money from my family accounts to her account, on understanding that she would return the same shortly by instalments and as and when the funds are available. "Any money-transfer made by her from her account to my family account was repayments of the loan which I gave in good faith. Considerable amount is to be paid. The allegations made by her are all baseless and derogatory and truthful.

"One need not find or create proof, the proof is always there, my bank debit and credit card statements are proof enough. My family has only given with both arms to her in the capacity of a daughter, not knowing we would see this day," he added.

"We lived together as husband and wife and introduced ourselves as a married couple in the society. I devoted all my time and resources to being a faithful and responsible husband. Friends, family and people close to us know everything that I did for her. My unconditional support for her is unchallenged. However, within a very short period she changed her attitude towards married life with me," he said.

NUSRAT JAHAN FLAUNTS BABY BUMP



KOLKATA, (IANS) Trinamool Congress MP Nusrat Jahan who is in the news for the last few days over the controversy regarding her relationship with her estranged husband Nikhil Jain again hit the headlines as she flaunted a baby bump confirming pregnancy.

The Bengali actress who is not living with her husband for the last six months posted the photograph along with some other co-actors on social media exposing her baby bump.

The speculation of pregnancy was making rounds for three months when she made an encrypted Instagram post saying - - "You will blossom in our own way."

Even without uttering a single word, Nusrat sure managed to raise the heat of the ongoing speculation. Though she was silent on the issue, speculations were high that the 31-year-old actress turned politician was expecting a baby.

However, the photograph on social media has now ended the speculation.

Nusrat Jahan on Wednesday issued a statement saying her marriage with Nikhil Jain was never valid as an interfaith marriage in India has to be registered under the Special Marriage Act, which never happened and so the question of divorce doesn't arise.

"Our separation happened long back, but I did not speak about it as I intended to keep my private life to myself," she said. The TMC MP married the Kolkata-based businessman Jain in June 2019 in Turkey. The wedding ceremony was conducted according to the Turkish Marriage Regulation.

Nusrat in her statement also accused Nikhil Jain of mishandling her money and alleged that his family members have held back the jewellery given to her by her parents. "The one who claims to be "rich" and "been used by me" has been taking money from my account by accessing my bank accounts illegally and by illegitimate means at odd hours of the night, even post-separation. I have already taken this up with the concerned banking authority and a police complaint shall be filed shortly," she said in the statement.

Jain has claimed that the couple has not been together for the last six months. The indifferences between Nusrat and him became public recently after both of them made startling revelations against each other.

Jain initially said he didn't want to comment as the matter is in court. Later, the businessman revealed that he pressed Jahan several times to get their marriage registered in India, but she avoided these requests all the time.

The issue snowballed into a political controversy as the BJP jumped into the scene alleging that the film actress had cheated the people showing that she is married.

BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya posted a video showing the oath taking ceremony of Jahan where she is seen married, and wrote on his Twitter handle: "TMC MP Nusrat Jahan Ruhi Jain's personal life, who she is married to or who she is living in with, should not be anyone's concern. But she is an elected representative and is on record in the Parliament that she is married to Nikhil Jain. Did she lie on the floor of the House?" Trinamool Congress, however, refused to make any comment on the issue and said that the party was keeping a close watch on the developments.

WON'T BE REMEMBERED AS A WOMAN WHO CAN KEEP HER MOUTH SHUT: NUSRAT

KOLKATA, (IANS) Bengali film actress and Trinamool Congress MP Nusrat Jahan took to social media on Wednesday to write a cryptic post, saying she does not want to be remembered as someone who can keep her mouth shut. Nusrat shared a throwback photograph of herself on Instagram and captioned it: "I won't be remembered as a woman who can keep her mouth shut... and I'm ok with that.... #throwbackpic #deserted #retrospective."

Nusrat's cryptic social media post came on the same day when she issued a statement claiming that her marriage to businessman Nikhil Jain was not valid in India and it was only a live-in relationship. The actress further claimed that their separation happened long back. "Our separation happened long back, but I did not speak about it as I intended to keep my private life to myself. Thus, my actions must not be questioned based on 'separation', by the media or anybody I am not related to. The alleged marriage is not legal, valid and tenable; and thus, was not a marriage at all in the eye of law." Nusrat mentioned in her statement. Nusrat had reportedly tied the knot with businessman Nikhil Jain in Turkey in 2019. This was followed by a star-studded reception hosted in Kolkata.





G7 'LETDOWN' ON TRIPLE CRISES OF CLIMATE, NATURE, COVID

BY VISHAL GULATI

NEW DELHI, (IANS) The recently-concluded G7 summit has been a massive letdown on a historic opportunity to tackle the triple crises of climate, Covid and collapse of nature, experts across the globe said on Monday.

If the leaders cannot get their act together by the October G20, the UN climate conference, COP26, slated in November in Glasgow is doomed to fail -- that's the take of leading analysts as the 2021 Cornwall summit wrapped up on Sunday.

Challenged to meet 2010 promises on climate finance, ensure the developing world is fully vaccinated by 2022 and restructure the debt hold facing African, Asian and Latin nations -- they fell well short.

The September UN General Assembly is now set as the key date for G7 leaders to deliver ahead of COP26.

Responding to the G7 communique, Christian Aid's Patrick Watt's, Director of Policy, Public Affairs and Campaigns, told IANS: "This summit was an opportunity for the richest nations of the world to tackle the perfect storm of the pandemic, the climate emergency, and the debt crisis that is hitting the world's poorest people hardest. "We've heard warm words about a green Marshall Plan and ambitions to vaccinate the world, but this falls well short of what's needed. This is a partial plan not a Marshall Plan. The US committed 6.5 per cent of its post-war GDP to the Marshall Plan. The UK, in contrast, has reneged on an aid promise one tenth as ambitious. The G7 needed to progress comprehensive debt relief, deliver on climate finance promises, and act to end vaccine apartheid.

"The G7 leadership has failed to make real progress in any of these

areas. The success of the COP26 climate summit now hangs in the balance. There is still time for rich nations to deliver a solidarity package that tackles these interconnected crises. Without it, the COP will fail."

Jennifer Morgan, Executive Director of Greenpeace, said: "Everyone is being hit by Covid-19 and worsening climate impacts, but it is the most vulnerable who are fairing the worst due to G7 leaders sleeping on the job. "We need authentic leadership and that means treating the pandemic and the climate crisis for what they are: an inter-connected inequality emergency. The G7 have failed to set us up for a successful COP26 as trust is sorely lacking between rich and developing countries." Echoing similar sentiments, Rachel Kyte, Dean of Fletcher School at Tufts University, and former UN climate envoy, said: "We need a detailed plan for making the \$100 billion a reality by the UN General Assembly. It's a big year for climate diplomacy and the G7 members will have to hit high notes at the G20 finance meeting in July before arriving in Glasgow in November."

Ahead of the G7, YouGov polling for climate think tank E3G showed overwhelming public support across Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, the UK and the US for helping poorer countries cut their dependence on fossil fuels.

Taken as one, 66 per cent of voters in G7 countries support this, with clear majorities of support in all seven countries.

The public in all seven countries wanted their government to stick to promises made at the UN in 2010 to deliver \$100 billion of climate finance a year.

"Fifty per cent of G7 voters want their government to stick to their pledge, while just 29 per cent think circumstances have changed sufficiently that their government should go back on their pledge,"

said the poll.

The good news from Cornwall is that tackling climate change was inextricably woven through every agenda item.

Each G7 country did commit to increase and improve climate finance through to 2025, but only a few offered clear new pledges. Canada was also among those countries to hike climate finance contributions, while others said they will review pledges pre-COP26.

The leaders did agree to end the public financing of coal by 2021, with Canada, Germany, the UK, and the US agreeing to back a \$2 billion coal transition fund. The deal leaves China isolated as the world's biggest public backer of the world's dirtiest fossil fuel.

G7 leaders offered a vision of a green alternative to China's Belt and Road, but the G7 'Marshall Plan' or 'Build Back Better World' initiative urgently needs details, which should be delivered by the UN General Assembly.

Bernice Lee, Hoffmann Distinguished Fellow for sustainability and Research Director Futures at Chatham House, said: "It's good to see G7 turning their back on coal, but words are not enough. They now need to get serious about a global clean partnership that delivers for developing nations."

The mixed outcome places huge pressure on the shoulders of Italy Prime Minister Mario Draghi, who will steer G20 talks that commence in July, with a finance meeting in Venice now set as a critical moment ahead of COP26.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed within this article are the personal ideas of the author. The facts and conclusions appearing in the article do not reflect the views of Y Media and Midweek Newspaper, and Y Media does not assume any responsibility or liability for the same.

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Ontario enters **Step 1** on June 11th

✓

More than 60% of adults have one dose

- ✓ 72% of adults have received at least one dose (as of June 6)
- ✓ Declining hospitalizations
- ✓ Declining ICU admissions
- ✓ Declining case rate
- ✓ Declining per cent positivity

Continuing improvements in key public health and health care indicators

☀️

Outdoor spaces begin reopening

- Gatherings for 10 people
- Patio dining for 4 people
- Outdoor attractions
- Overnight camping at campgrounds and campsites, including Ontario Parks
- Outdoor sports and fitness classes
- Day camps for children

With restrictions for smaller, well-managed crowds where risk of transmission is minimized

👜

Limited indoor settings with restrictions

- Essential retail permitted at 25% capacity
- Non-essential retail permitted at 15% capacity
- And more...

With restrictions for smaller, well-managed crowds where risk of transmission is minimized

ONTARIO ENTERS STEP-1 OF 'ROADMAP TO REOPEN' AS 74% ONTARIAN ADULTS RECEIVE ONE DOSE OF COVID-19 VACCINE (CHRISTINE ELLIOT/TWITTER).

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND MANOJ BADALE, LEAD OWNER OF THE INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE SIDE RAJASTHAN ROYALS, FLAGGED OFF A CYCLING EVENT IN LONDON TO RAISE FUNDS FOR COVID19 RELIEF IN SOUTH ASIA.

G1/G2 road tests resuming

G2/ G AND M1/ M2 ROAD TESTS RESUME IN ONTARIO BY APPOINTMENT ONLY (DOUG FORD/ TWITTER).

We're receiving over
20 MILLION
vaccines in June.

CANADA IS ON TRACK TO RECEIVE OVER 20 MILLION VACCINES IN JUNE (ANITA ANAND/ TWITTER).

CANADA'S WONDERLAND TO REOPEN JULY 7

- SEASON PASS HOLDER PREVIEW JULY 5-6; PARK OPENS TO GENERAL PUBLIC JULY 7
- RESERVATIONS REQUIRED TO HELP MANAGE CAPACITY, NEW SAFETY PROTOCOLS TO BE OBSERVED

Canada's Wonderland amusement park is set to open for the 2021 season and welcome guests back to fun outdoors, with new health and safety protocols in place to keep guests and associates safe. In alignment with Step 2 of the province's reopening framework, the park opens with limited capacity July 5-6 for Season Passholder Preview and July 7 to the general public. Splash Works opens July 12 and reservations to both the park and water park will be required for all guests. "We are looking forward to reopening the park and we're ready to provide safe, fun and unforgettable experiences to all our guests," said Norm Pirtovshek, GM of Canada's Wonderland. "Safety has and will always be Canada's Wonderland's number one priority, and that includes the health of our guests and associates. With our new protocols in place, we are eager to offer some long-overdue fun to our guests." Detailed information has been added to Canada's Wonderland website that outlines the new protocols to ensure a safe and clean environment. These protocols include: A new online reservation system, which requires each guest to have a reservation for their day of visit and time of arrival as part of the



park's plan to help manage capacity; Health screening and temperature checks for guests, associates and vendors prior to entering the park; All guests age two and older are required to wear a face-covering in all areas unless otherwise designated or while dining seated; Physical distancing markers throughout the park, including ride queue lines; Enhanced cleaning procedures, including additional deep cleaning and sanitization of restrooms, dining facilities and other park areas; Additional hand sanitation stations; and Capacity management throughout the park. Reservations for visits will open this Thursday on Canada's Wonderland website or mobile app. 2021 Season Passes are now on sale for only \$79.99 and are valid until Labour Day 2022. New in 2021, Canada's Wonderland will debut Mountain Bay Cliffs in Splash Works. Guests can experience the exhilaration of cliff jumping from a variety of heights into the water below, with the ultimate challenge of conquering the highest peak at seven and a half metres (25 feet). Beagle Brigade Airfield is a new airplane ride in Planet Snoopy where young pilots can take an exciting flight.

OSLER ANNOUNCES SPECIAL COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC FOR MEDICALLY COMPLEX KIDS ON JUNE 22

Osler will hold Medically Complex Day Vaccine Clinic open to eligible individuals aged 12-17 On June 22, 2021, William Osler Health System (Osler) will hold a special one-day Medically Complex COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic, from 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at Osler's Brampton Civic Hospital COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic. At this one-day clinic, eligible individuals 12-17 years of age will receive their first or second dose (if the first dose was administered on or before May 9) of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, the only vaccine currently authorized for use in this age group. Family and pediatric physicians will be on-site to help administer the vaccine and answer any questions. Eligible individuals, along with one caregiver, can be identified by their family physician, specialist and/or Osler clinic to be prioritized to receive the COVID-19 vaccine during the Medically Complex Clinic. Examples of Medically Complex Conditions include:

- * Down Syndrome
- * Autism Spectrum Disorder
- * Chromosomal Syndromes
- * Physical limitations such as Cerebral Palsy
- * Intellectual disabilities
- * Children requiring respiratory support such as the use of tracheostomy tubes
- * Immunocompromised individuals – oncology population, IBD patients (an immunosuppressant), others on immunosuppressant
- * Active Cardiac issues – Congenital Heart Disease
- * Nephrotic Syndrome, renal failure
- * Diabetes
- * Neurological issues such as seizure disorders
- * High BMI (Body Mass Index)

Eligible individuals and their caregivers can self-book online or by phone at 905-494-6685 for the one-day clinic or at any of Osler's Vaccine Clinics. Since Osler opened its COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic in December 2020, it has administered more than 200,000 COVID-19 vaccinations, in alignment with the Ontario Government's three-phased Vaccine Distribution Plan and Peel and Toronto Public Health. Osler remains committed to sharing more information about vaccine rollout plans as they become available. Osler Vaccine Clinic locations open to individuals 12 years and older:

Century Gardens Recreations Centre
360 Vodden Street East Brampton, Ontario
Hours of operation: 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., every day
Youth Pad Hours of Operation: 4:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., every day
Brampton Civic Hospital
2100 Bovaird Drive East Brampton, Ontario
Hours of operation: 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., every day
Osler-Humber College COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic
207 Humber College Blvd., Etobicoke, Ontario
Hours of operation: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Monday – Friday

ONTARIO FURTHER ACCELERATES SECOND DOSES IN DELTA HOT SPOTS

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In addition, this includes more than 706,000 individuals aged 50 and over in hot spots who became eligible to book the first dose on April 9 through the provincial booking system. The province is further expanding eligibility to help stop the spread of COVID-19 variants and protect communities with the highest rates of Delta (B.1.617) variant transmission. Beginning 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 14, 2021 individuals who live in Delta hot spots in Halton, Peel, Porcupine, Toronto, Waterloo, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph and York public health units and also received their first dose of an mRNA vaccine on or before May 9, 2021, will be eligible to book their accelerated second dose appointment through the provincial booking system (for Peel and Toronto public health units), directly through public health units that use their own booking system and through participating pharmacies. Primary care providers will be reaching out to book appointments. Mobile vaccine units supported by province-operated pop-ups and employer-led clinics that provided first doses in Peel, Toronto and York public health regions will also begin operating second dose clinics beginning the week of June 20, 2021. Increasing first and second-dose coverage in Delta hot spots will help to minimize the risk of the variant's spread in Ontario, protecting all neighbourhoods provincially. The province will further expand eligibility for accelerated second

doses across Ontario as additional vaccine allocations and shipment timelines are confirmed by the federal government, including the recently announced Moderna vaccines. "Thanks to the efforts of our public health partners, we've made tremendous progress in the rollout of vaccines across the province," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "With the increasing number of doses being administered every day, coupled with the overall positive trends in new cases, we're able to implement Step One of our Roadmap to Reopen across the province. I urge everyone to continue to follow the advice of their local public health unit, which will allow all Ontarians to resume activities with their friends and families as it is safe to do so." To help ensure all eligible Ontarians are able to receive their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, individuals who received their first dose or both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine outside of the province are now able to register their vaccination through their local public health unit. Individuals who received a COVID-19 vaccine outside of Ontario or Canada are required to provide proof, such as a vaccination receipt or certificate, to their public health unit in order to be registered in the system. Once complete, these individuals will be able to book their second dose appointment through the provincial booking system, public health units that use their own booking system or participating pharmacies and primary care settings at an interval that aligns with Ontario's vaccine strategy.

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Ontario Releases Plan for Safe Return to Sport

TORONTO – The Ontario government is releasing a framework for select Ontario professional and elite-amateur sports leagues and events that outlines the minimum requirements that must be met for a safe return to play. Details were provided today by Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. “Our government remains committed to protecting the health and well-being of all athletes by supporting return-to-play protocols that are safe, evidence-based and gradual,” said Minister MacLeod. “This is an important first step to getting all Ontario athletes back to sport safely while supporting Ontario-based leagues and events that are strong local economic drivers and job creators.” A small number of professional and elite amateur sports leagues and events will be able to return to play under stringent public health and safety protocols developed in consultation with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. This is in advance of the broader return to play for amateur and recreational sport that will be enabled through the Roadmap to Reopen, which will allow sport and recreation to resume in incremental steps throughout summer. In addition, events hosted by a National Sport Organization (NSO) that is either funded by Sport Canada or recognized by the Canadian Olympic Committee or the Canadian Paralympic Committee, may also return to play if: The event exclusively includes athletes, coaches and officials competing to be a part of Team Canada at the next summer or winter Olympic Games or Paralympic Games; or, The event is an International Single Sport Event (ISSE) authorized by Sport Canada. Key elements of the framework include private COVID-19 screening

and testing, assigned cohorts with limited or no interaction between different cohorts; practice, training and competition protocols; accommodation and travel/transportation services protocols; and individual control measures when not training or competing such as physical distancing and the use of face coverings. Details of the framework are available on the government of Ontario website. The professional and elite-amateur sport framework and the corresponding regulation amendments will allow more sports leagues and events to return to play prior to Steps Two and Three of the province’s recently announced Roadmap to Reopen, marking an important milestone to rebuilding the province’s social and economic well-being. **QUICK FACTS** A return-to-play framework, which sets out minimum expectations for return-to-play plans to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission for participants, workers and the general population was developed in consultation with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. According to a 2013 Conference Board of Canada report, professional sport contributes approximately \$1 billion to the provincial economy each year and creates over 15,000 jobs in the province. The same report estimated that Ontario households spend \$12.6 billion a year on amateur sport and recreation. On June 10, 2021, the government opened the application intake period for the 2021-22 Sport Hosting Program. This annual grant program provides project-based funding to help applicants deliver national and international amateur sports events that help develop Ontario athletes, strengthen local communities, and create sport legacies. As a result of the public health situation due to COVID-19, there will be only one intake period for the 2021-22 year.

MISSISSAUGA BECOMES THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE CITIES CHANGING DIABETES PROGRAMME

Today at General Committee, Council received the corporate report to become a member of Cities Changing Diabetes (CCD). CCD enables cities to understand their own urban diabetes challenge, to set their own unique goals to lower Type 2 diabetes in their city and to work to unite stakeholders behind a common cause. The programme will run over the next three to five years and will provide the City with tools, resources and partners to prevent the rise of Type 2 diabetes in Mississauga. By 2024, it is projected that there will be more than 100,000 new diabetes cases in Peel Region. Mississauga is the only Canadian municipality participating in the CCD Programme. “Type 2 diabetes is affecting a growing number of residents in Mississauga. Incident cases of diabetes in the Peel Region have increased by 182 per cent between 1996 and 2015. As it stands, one in six adults living in Peel Region, ages 45 to 64, has this preventable disease, rising to one in three after age 65. This is significantly higher than the provincial average. This is putting an added strain on our public health agencies and healthcare systems. The projected healthcare cost of diabetes in Peel Region is estimated to be \$689 million in 2024,” said Mayor Bonnie Crombie. “As a City, we’re committed to take action to protect the health and well-being of our residents, provide supports and resources for those living with the disease and assist in preventing and reducing the rise of Type 2 diabetes in Mississauga. Later this fall, I will be formally signing the Urban Diabetes Declaration and I am proud to be the first Canadian mayor to sign this declaration.” Approximately, 53.6 per cent of Peel Region residents are overweight or obese, which is the single, biggest risk factor for developing Type 2 diabetes. Additionally, 51.3 per cent of adults in the Peel Region identify as Asian, South Asian, Arab, Black, Hispanic and Indigenous – representing ethnic groups that are at an increased risk of getting Type 2 diabetes. “As the only Canadian municipality in the CCD Programme, the City of Mississauga will have access to information and knowledge about the challenges associated with urban diabetes. Key insights, global findings and local learnings will allow us to develop a meaningful plan with community-based actions and solutions to lower the rate of Type 2 diabetes in Peel – which is 40 per cent higher than the rest of Ontario,” said Paul Mitcham, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer. “Another key factor is that Mississauga is also home to the second-largest Life Sciences business cluster in Canada. Many of these businesses provide products, technologies and services in diabetes care and treatment.” The City, through its various departments, has implemented numerous programs and initiatives that contribute to healthy living and diabetes prevention. “Our goal is to help bring down disease rates by focusing on reducing obesity and increasing disease prevention to limit the rise of Type 2 diabetes cases in our community. The City has undertaken a number of initiatives to address this including adopting the Region of Peel’s six Core Elements of the built environment that impact health,” said Robert Trewartha, Director of Strategic Initiatives. “Mayor Crombie also hosted two webinars that engaged community stakeholders on how to tackle high rates of diabetes and put health at the centre of City policies to support a healthier society. Additionally, the City has also rolled out many initiatives including a Healthy Food & Beverage Policy for Recreation facilities, continues to promote active transportation and healthy lifestyles and offers a wide variety of fitness and wellness programs.” The City will work with key stakeholders to implement CCD in



Mississauga. CCD launched in 2014 by the Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen, University College London and Novo Nordisk to address the growth of Type 2 diabetes and obesity. Today, the programme has established local partnerships in 37 cities around the world, with the potential to reach more than 175 million individuals to help prevent and control urban diabetes. The Cities Changing Diabetes corporate report will go to Council for final approval on June 16, 2021. For more information about Type 2 diabetes in Mississauga, visit mississauga.ca/projects-and-strategies/city-projects/cities-changing-diabetes-programme/. **BACKGROUND:** About Novo Nordisk Novo Nordisk is a leading global healthcare company, founded in 1923 and headquartered in Denmark. Their purpose is to drive change to defeat diabetes and other serious chronic diseases such as obesity and rare blood and endocrine disorders. They do so by pioneering scientific breakthroughs, expanding access to medicines, and working to prevent and ultimately cure disease. Novo Nordisk employs about 45,800 people in 80 countries and markets its products in around 170 countries. Based in Mississauga, Ontario Canada, Novo Nordisk approached the City of Mississauga to join CCD. In February, the City welcomed a new research hub in Mississauga, funded by Novo Nordisk and the University of Toronto (U of T), aimed at reducing diabetes in the community. The new research hub, located at U of T’s Mississauga campus, will bring leading public health experts together to help reduce global diseases and illnesses like diabetes. Novo Nordisk and the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM), have invested \$40 million to establish the Novo Nordisk Network for Healthy Populations at the UTM campus to address the rise in chronic diseases and diabetes. About Cities Changing Diabetes Cities Changing Diabetes is a first-of-its-kind partnership programme with an ambitious global goal to reduce obesity by 25 per cent so that only 1 in 10 people live with diabetes by 2045. More than 100 local partners – including city leaders and ministries, academia, diabetes associations, health insurers, community groups and business corporations – collaborate across disciplines and in new forms of public-private partnerships to map the diabetes problem, share solutions and drive actions to bend the curve on urban diabetes. The programme was initiated in 2014 by three global partners: University College London, Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen and Novo Nordisk. Today, 17 cities representing more than 130 million citizens are active partners: Beijing, Beirut, Buenos Aires, Copenhagen, Hangzhou, Houston, Jakarta, Johannesburg, Koriyama, Leicester, Mérida, Mexico City, Rome, Shanghai, Tianjin, Vancouver and Xiamen. For more information, visit citieschangingdiabetes.com.

LONDON, ONTARIO ‘TARGET’ ATTACK: ACCUSED, NATHANIEL VELTMAN NOW FACING TERRORISM CHARGES

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On June 7, 2021, Veltman was charged by the London Police Service with four counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted murder. The London Police Service worked in conjunction with RCMP INSET, the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) and the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPSC), determining that the murders constitute terrorist activity. As a result, the Federal and Provincial Attorneys General provided their consent to commence terrorism proceedings, alleging that the murders and the attempted murder also constitute terrorist activity. Today, Nathaniel Veltman appeared at the London Courthouse, 80 Dundas Street, to answer to the following charges: First-Degree murder, contrary to s.235 of the Criminal Code (4 counts) which, in addition to being planned and deliberate murders pursuant to s.231(2) of the Criminal Code, also constitute terrorism offences pursuant to sections 2, 83.01(1)(b) and 231 (6.01) of the Criminal Code; and Attempt to commit murder, contrary to section 239(1) of the Criminal Code (1 count) which, in addition to being an attempted murder, also constitutes a terrorism offence pursuant to sections 2, 83.01(1)(b) and 83.27 of the Criminal Code. The London Police Service and RCMP INSET wish to reassure the public that there is no further known or suspected threat to the public associated with the accused at this time. The investigation is ongoing and will continue to be a collaborative effort between the London Police Service and RCMP INSET.

NOVAVAX COVID-19 VACCINE DEMONSTRATES 90% OVERALL EFFICACY & 100% PROTECTION AGAINST MODERATE AND SEVERE DISEASE IN PREVENT-19 PHASE 3 TRIAL



GAITHERSBURG, Md., June 14, 2021– Novavax, Inc. (Nasdaq: NVAX), today announced that NVX-CoV2373, its recombinant nanoparticle protein-based COVID-19 vaccine, demonstrated 100% protection against moderate and severe disease, 90.4% efficacy overall, and met the primary endpoint in its PREVENT-19 pivotal Phase 3 trial. The study enrolled 29,960 participants across 119 sites in the U.S. and Mexico to evaluate efficacy, safety and immunogenicity, with an emphasis on recruiting a representative population of communities and demographic groups most impacted by the disease. “Today, Novavax is one step closer to addressing the critical and persistent global public health need for additional COVID-19 vaccines. These clinical results reinforce that NVX-CoV2373 is extremely effective and offers complete protection against both moderate and severe COVID-19 infection,” said Stanley C. Erck, President and Chief Executive Officer, Novavax. “Novavax continues to work with a sense of urgency to complete our regulatory submissions and deliver this vaccine, built on a well understood and proven platform, to a world that is still in great need of vaccines.” The company intends to file for regulatory authorizations in the third quarter, upon completion of the final phases of process qualification and assay validation needed to meet chemistry, manufacturing and controls (CMC) requirements. Upon regulatory approvals, Novavax remains on track to reach a manufacturing capacity of 100 million doses per month by the end of the third quarter and 150 million doses per month by the end of the fourth quarter of 2021. “PREVENT-19 confirms that NVX-CoV2373 offers a reassuring tolerability and safety profile,” said Gregory M. Glenn, M.D., President of Research and Development, Novavax. “These data show consistent, high levels of efficacy and reaffirm the ability of the vaccine to prevent COVID-19 amid ongoing genetic evolution of the virus. Our vaccine will be a critical part of the solution to COVID-19 and we are grateful to the study participants and trial staff who made this study possible, as well as our supporters, including the U.S. Government.” Results: Consistent, high efficacy among circulating variants In the placebo-controlled, observer-blinded study randomized 2:1, NVX-CoV2373 demonstrated overall efficacy of 90.4% (95% CI: 82.9, 94.6), achieving its primary endpoint. Seventy-seven cases were observed: 63 in the placebo group and 14 in the vaccine group. All cases observed in the vaccine group were mild as defined by the trial protocol. Ten moderate cases and four severe cases were observed, all in the placebo group, yielding a vaccine efficacy of 100% (95% CI: 87.0, 100) against moderate or severe disease. Efficacy endpoints were accrued from January 25 through April 30, 2021 — a time when the Alpha (B.1.1.7) variant, first identified in the U.K., became the predominant strain in the U.S. Other strains, including Variants of Interest (VoI) and Variants of Concern (VoC), were also on the rise during the PREVENT-19 endpoint accrual window. Click here for CDC definitions of variants. Sequence data are available for 54 of the 77 cases. PREVENT-19 met its key secondary endpoint, demonstrating 100% efficacy (95% CI: 80.8, 100) against variants not considered VoC/VoI. Of the sequenced cases, 35 (65%) were VoC, 9 (17%) were VoI, and 10 (19%) were other variants. Against VoC/VoI, which represented 82% of the cases, vaccine efficacy was 93.2% (95% CI: 83.9, 97.1), achieving a key exploratory endpoint of the study. Thirty-eight of the VoC/VoI cases were in the placebo group and 6 were in the vaccine group. NVX-CoV2373 also showed success among “high-risk” populations (defined as over age 65, under age 65 with certain comorbidities or having life circumstances with frequent COVID-19 exposure): vaccine efficacy was 91.0% (95% CI: 83.6, 95.0), with 62 COVID-19 cases in the placebo group and 13 COVID-19 cases in the vaccine group.



PRIYANKA ASKS MODI TO GIVE DETAILS ON TEMPLE TRUST EXPENDITURE

NEW DELHI, (IANS) After the controversy erupted on the issue of land purchase by Shri Ram Mandir trust, Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday said that it has hurt the people's faith and demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi give the details of the money spent as the trust was formed by him. She also demanded a Supreme Court monitored probe in the alleged land deal. In a Facebook post in Hindi, Priyanka Gandhi, who is in-charge of the Uttar Pradesh Congress said, "According to news reports there have been irregularities in buying land. On March 18, two people bought land in Ayodhya for Rs 2 crore. And within five minutes the land was bought by the Shri Ram Mandir Trust which was formed by the Prime Minister for Rs 18.5 crore."

She said that it means the value of land increased by Rs 5.5 lakh per second. "Can anyone imagine and believe this? Not to be forgotten, the entire money belongs to the people of the country who donated for the construction of Ram temple," she said.

She also said that in the sale deed of the land and registry papers, most of the names in the column of witnesses were common. Priyanka Gandhi said, "One of the witnesses is one of the Trustees of the Ram Mandir Trust (who is a former member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) and another one is a BJP leader and mayor of Ayodhya," she said.

She further stated that the statement from the Shri Ram Trust claimed that the rate of land increased and it was the reason why a whopping amount was paid.

As per the reports the value of land is around Rs five crore as per the existing circle rate, she claimed.

She also cited several media reports and said that the Chairperson of the Ram Mandir Trust Nriya Gopal Das made allegations of no transparency in the functioning of the Trust.

Priyanka Gandhi said that people of the country donated for the construction of the Ram temple. Several women also donated their sav-

ings for the construction.

"No one touches the money donated by people in the name of God. In those donations the faith, devotion, belief and trust is there," she said.

"The Shri Ram Mandir Trust was formed by Modi and many of the members of the trust are close to him. And it is the responsibility of the Prime Minister to assure that the money donated by people for the temple is utilised for the temple and religious works and not in any scams," Priyanka Gandhi said.

Finding an opportunity in faith is a blot on the belief of the crores of people, she said.

"The Shri Ram temple trust was formed on the directions of the Supreme Court. And on behalf of the people of the country, we demand a Supreme Court monitored probe into the land deal," the Congress leader added.

Earlier, Champat Rai, the general secretary of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, issued a statement amid the allegations of corruption in the purchase of the Ram temple land. He said that the trust is working to provide the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple a grand look according to Vastu Shastra, to make the complex safe in all respects and convenient for the visitors.

He said that important temples/places falling within the boundary of the construction wall and retaining wall in the east and west part of this temple have been purchased with mutual consent.

The statement also said that it has been the decision that every institution/person displaced in this process will be rehabilitated. The selection of land for rehabilitation is being done with the consent of the concerned institutions/individuals. Under this process 1.20 hectares of land located at Bagh Bijesi, Ayodhya has been purchased with complete transparency and with the consent of important temples like Kaushalya Sadan, etc. It is worth noting that the above-mentioned land is on a prime location situated on the route near Ayodhya Railway Station, the statement further said.

Mithun Chakraborty questioned by Kolkata Police over 'inciteful speech'

KOLKATA, (IANS) Kolkata Police virtually questioned BJP leader and Mithun Chakraborty on a complaint lodged against him alleging that the actor was responsible for inciting violence through one of his speeches made during a BJP campaign.

A complaint filed in Maniktala police station against him, has accused the actor of inciting post-poll violence in West Bengal through his speeches. Chakraborty moved the Calcutta High Court for quashing the case against him.

But the court asked him to appear for questioning through video conferencing. In the complaint it has been mentioned that the popular actor has used phrases like "marbo ekhane lash porbe shoshane (Will hit you here and the body will land in the crematorium)" and "ek chobole chobi (one snake bite and you will turn into a photograph)" at a rally in Kolkata after he joined the BJP on March 7.

The complaint also mentioned that these dialogues were enough to incite violence. The national award-winning actor, however, told the court that he had just uttered popular dialogues from his films.

The actor claimed that the utterances of such film dialogues were only recreational and that he is innocent and in no way connected with any offence as alleged by the complainant.



After the hearing the Calcutta High Court directed Chakraborty to provide his e-mail address to the state so that he can make himself available for questioning through video conferencing. Kolkata police following the direction of the court have started questioning Chakraborty.

INDIA'S ACTIVE COVID CASELOAD FALLS BELOW 9L AFTER 70 DAYS

NEW DELHI, (IANS) With continued slide in daily new Covid cases, India's active caseload on Wednesday stood at 8,65,432 -- a decline below nine lakh mark after 70 days.

A net decline of 47,946 is witnessed in the last 24 hours and active cases are now only 2.92 per cent of the country's total positive cases, reveals the latest data of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

India continues to report a sustained slide in the daily new Covid-19 cases with its fresh 24 hours report showing 62,224 cases. Less than 1 lakh daily new cases have been reported for nine consecutive days now.

Union Health Ministry said it was a result of sustained and collaborative efforts by the Centre and the states as well as Union Territories (UTs). As more people are getting recovered from Covid-19 infection, India's daily recoveries continue to outnumber the daily new cases for 34 consecutive days now, said the data, adding 1,07,628 recoveries were registered in the last 24 hours.

Over 45,000 (45,404) more recoveries were reported during the last 24 hours as compared to the daily new cases.

Out of the people infected since the beginning of the pandemic, 2,83,88,100 people have already recovered from Covid-19 and 1,07,628 patients have recovered in the last 24 hours. This constitutes an overall recovery rate of 95.80 per cent, which is showing a sustained increasing trend. With ramped up testing capacity across the country, a total of 19,30,987 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours in the country. Cumulatively, India has conducted over 38.33 crore (38,33,06,971) tests so far.

While on one side testing has been enhanced across the country, a continued decline in weekly case positivity is noticed. Weekly positivity rate is currently at 4.17 per cent while the daily positivity rate stands at 3.22 per cent on Wednesday.

"It has remained less than 5 per cent for 9 consecutive days now," mentions the data.

Meanwhile, India crossed the landmark of 26 crore vaccination coverage on Tuesday. A total of 26,19,72,014 vaccine doses have been administered through 36,17,099 sessions. A total of 28,00,458 vaccine doses were administered in the last 24 hours.



ASARAM HOSPITALISED WITH POST-COVID COMPLICATIONS



JODHPUR, (IANS) Controversial self-styled godman Asaram, who is serving a life sentence in connection with a rape case in Jodhpur jail, was shifted to the AIIMS here on Wednesday after he complained of breathing issues owing to post-Covid complications.

On May 7, Asaram was admitted to the ICU of MDM Hospital here after testing positive for Covid-19. Later he was shifted to AIIMS Jodhpur. He started complaining of having breathing problem on Tuesday night and by Wednesday morning, his condition worsened following which he was shifted to the hospital. Initially, he had refused to go to the hospital, but got admitted after doctor's advice.

DELHI POLICE ARRESTS JUDO COACH IN SAGAR DHANKAR MURDER CASE



NEW DELHI, (IANS) The Delhi Police Crime Branch on Wednesday arrested one more accused identified as Subash, a judo coach in connection with wrestler Sagar Dhankar murder case.

According to Crime Branch officials, Subhash, a friend of two time olympian Sushil Kumar was arrested after his role in the murder of Dhankar emerged.

Dhankar was killed in a brawl at the Chhatrasal stadium on May 4. This is the 11th arrest in connection with the murder of Dhankar.

Delhi Police has already arrested Sushil Kumar, his close aide Ajay and several members of the Neeraj Bawana and Kala Asauda gangs.

WOMAN FILES RAPE COMPLAINT AGAINST LJP MP PRINCE RAJ IN DELHI



NEW DELHI, (IANS) Hours after Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Chirag Paswan mentioned of a complaint against his cousin Prince Raj of sexual misconduct, a woman has come forward to file a complaint of rape against Prince Raj with Delhi Police.

According to sources, the woman submitted a three page complaint at Connaught Place police station here on Tuesday night against Prince Raj, accusing him of raping her after sedating drink.

Police sources said that a case has not been registered as of now. "The police is verifying the allegations against the Lok Sabha MP and after the outcome a case will be registered," the source said.

Chirag, who faced a coup by his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras, cousin Prince Raj and three other MPs, had shared the six page letter on his Twitter handle on Tuesday. In the letter dated March 29 to his uncle, Chirag had mentioned about the complaint of sexual molestation by a woman party worker against Prince Raj.

NO POVERTY, ZERO HUNGER, GENDER EQUALITY: KEY PRIORITIES FOR URBAN INDIANS



NEW DELHI, (IANS) Poverty alleviation, achieving zero hunger and gender equality are the major priorities among the 'Sustainable Development Goals' (SDG) for urban Indians, according to a World Economic Forum-Ipsos survey.

The survey also found that good health and wellbeing is among the top priorities for urban Indians, said an Ipsos statement.

Further the top three SDG priorities of global citizens for 2021 were, zero hunger, no poverty and good health and well-being.

Amit Adarkar, CEO, Ipsos India noted that the pandemic and lockdowns have largely impacted livelihoods and the top three goals only support tiding over the rough patch of ensuring that people are fed, financially supported and the healthcare system is stepped up to provide treatment and vaccination. Government has also geared its focus on these three areas, until the virus is contained, he added.



MAYAWATI LASHES OUT AT SP, ACCUSES IT OF PLANTING STORIES IN MEDIA

LUCKNOW, (IANS) A day after her rebel legislators met Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati mounted a blistering attack on SP. She blamed the 'divisive and hatred-filled forces' of planting stories in the media about the BSP legislators defecting to other parties. In a series of tweets, she termed the reports as a 'mirage' of sorts. She said, "These MLAs have already been suspended when they were prompted to defeat a Dalit candidate at the behest of SP and a corporate entity. However, there is no split in BSP." She further said, "If the SP was honest about these legislators, it would not have left them out. The SP knows that if it takes these MLAs, then there would be a revolt in SP because there are many MLAs there who are ready to join the BSP." The BSP president went on to state that, "Everyone knows that the character of Samajwadi Party

is always anti-Dalit and nothing has changed over the years. The SP governments have never worked for the welfare of Dalits. Their government even changed back the name of Bhadohi which had been changed to Sant Ravidas Nagar." Mayawati said that the media reports of suspended BSP MLAs meeting SP leadership seems to be because of the upcoming Zila Panchayat elections. It may be recalled that the rebel BSP legislators had met SP president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday and later BSP MLA Aslam Raini said that they would form a separate party as soon as they reached the requisite number of 12. He said that at present, there are 11 MLAs who have revolted against the BSP leadership. The BSP has 19 MLAs in the state Assembly and two of them --Lalji Varma and Ram Achal Rajbhar -- were recently expelled from the party. Seven MLAs had earlier been suspended last year by the BSP and two more had joined the rebel group later.

SAD joins hands with BSP for Punjab polls; latter to contest 20 seats

CHANDIGARH, (IANS) The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Saturday formed an alliance to contest the 2022 Punjab Assembly elections together. An announcement in this regard was made jointly by SAD President Sukhbir Singh Badal and BSP national General Secretary Satish Chandra Mishra here. Mishra, while disclosing that BSP supremo Mayawati has approved the alliance, said that both the parties would strive to form the next government in Punjab under the leadership of Sukhbir Badal. The BSP General Secretary appealed to the Dalits and disadvantaged sections of the society to support the alliance wholeheartedly. Mishra also visited five-time Chief Minister and SAD patron Parkash Singh Badal along with BSP Punjab coordinator Randhir Singh Beniwal and Punjab BSP chief Jasbir Singh Garhi. Speaking on the occasion, Sukhbir Badal announced that the BSP would contest 20 out of the 117 seats under its alliance with the SAD, including eight seats in the Doaba region, seven in Malwa and five in Majha region. The seats are -- Kartarpur,

Jalandhar West, Jalandhar North, Phagwara, Nawanshahr, Hoshiarpur City, Tanda, Dasuya, Chamkaur Sahib, BassiPathana, Mehal Kalan, Ludhiana North, Sujanpur, Boha, Pathankot, Anandpur Sahib, Mohali, Amritsar North, Amritsar Central and Payal. Sukhbir Badal said a coordination committee of leaders from both the parties would be formed soon to ensure seamless working in all the constituencies. Terming the alliance as historic, the SAD chief said it is not just limited to the 2022 Assembly elections, but would continue in future also. He said the both the SAD and the BSP have the same ideology and have always worked for the welfare of the farmers, poor and 'khet mazdoors' (field labourers). "The Congress has not initiated a single welfare scheme for the weaker sections and it is responsible for closing down schemes like the SC scholarship scheme," he said. Sukhbir Badal further said that it is because of these factors that there is a demand from the grassroots workers of both the SAD and the BSP to form a common front. He also thanked BSP President Mayawati for her clear decision to join forces with the SAD to uproot the Congress from Punjab.

Y MEDIA POLITICAL SENSEX

AAP TO CONTEST ALL SEATS IN 2022 GUJARAT ASSEMBLY POLLS: KEJRIWAL



CONTD. FROM PAGE 1
Addressing a press conference in Ahmedabad, Kejriwal said, "Our candidates will contest all the Assembly seats in Gujarat." This is the second time that Kejriwal has visited Gujarat this year, presumably to expand the party on the home turf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. AAP leaders, both in Gujarat and at the national level, have been claiming that the people of the state are looking at AAP as the main alternative to BJP. Kejriwal said Gujarat is suffering because of the friendship between the BJP and the Congress. "The BJP has ruled Gujarat for the last 27 years. I have heard people say that the Congress is in the pocket of the BJP. Both the BJP and the Congress are the same. This must stop," he said. The AAP is looking to present itself as a formidable alternative to the Congress in Gujarat and challenge the BJP. The party is trying to fill in the gaps left by the Congress, which has seen setbacks in the recent past with several of its MLAs resigning. The Congress also put up a poor show in the local body polls held in February this year. The Delhi Chief Minister claimed that the people of Gujarat are ready for an alternative, which the AAP can provide. Kejriwal, who came to Ahmedabad to inaugurate AAP's Gujarat state headquarters, also welcomed the induction of popular TV news anchor Isudan Gadhvi into the party on Monday.

BANGLADESH ACTRESS, PORI MONI, CLAIMS ATTEMPTED RAPE, MURDER; SEEKS JUSTICE

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1
On her verified Facebook page on Sunday, Pori Moni, addressed a post to Hasina, asking for justice as a citizen of Bangladesh. She claimed to have approached the law enforcement agencies for help but no one has been able to provide assistance within the last four days. She said a press conference will be convened soon to share the details with the public. "I have been physically abused. Someone tried to rape and kill me. I want justice," she wrote on her Facebook page. Addressing PM Hasina as "mother", she wrote: "I was about 2 and a half years old when my mother died. Today, I need a mother Please save me.". "I have asked for help from so many people. They always listen and say that they'll 'look into it'. But no one has helped me yet, I haven't found justice in the last three or four days. I feel helpless right now," she posted on her Facebook page.



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Presidents Biden, Erdogan hold 'fruitful and sincere' meeting

BRUSSELS, (IANS) US President Joe Biden and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan held their first in-person meeting here on the sidelines of the NATO Summit, which the latter described as "fruitful and sincere".

The meeting on Tuesday was part of Biden's first foreign trip as President. The first leg of the visit took him to the UK for the G7 Summit last weekend and his next stop will be Geneva where the much-anticipated meeting with Russian leader Vladimir Putin will be held on Wednesday.

During the 90-minute meeting, Biden and Erdogan discussed a number of issues, including the global fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and the vaccine situation, Xinhua news agency reported.

"There are no outstanding problems between the US and Turkey that cannot be solved. On the contrary, there are many areas where we could focus on prospective and fruitful cooperation," Erdogan told journalists at a news conference.

"Our history goes back a long time and we managed to exchange views on a vast area of issues. We also focused on the incidents on which we have different opinions and, in a very constructive fashion, talked about areas where we could further explore cooperation.

"We agreed on the necessity to effectively use dialogue channels between our nations in a regular fashion so, at the end of the day, it was a very fruitful and very sincere meeting. We also underlined the fact that bilateral cooperation should be revitalised," he added.

In response to a query about whether the S-400 defence system was discussed, Erdogan said: "I expressed our previous opinion on the S-

400, I also expressed our opinion on the F-35.

"What are the steps we can take, I expressed them. Of course, this process does not end here, our ministers will secure this process as a result of their talks.

"We said that our Defense and Foreign Ministers should discuss these among themselves, and after this meeting they will hold among themselves, we have to take our steps, we have come to such a decision." Describing his relationship with Biden as "long-standing", Erdogan said he invited his American counterpart to visit Turkey.

He added that Biden indicated that he might pay a visit once his intense schedule allows it.

Addressing a separate press conference, Biden said of the meeting: "We had a positive and productive meeting, much of it one-on-one. We had detailed discussions about how to proceed on a number of issues..." "Our teams are going to continue our discussions and I'm confident we will make real progress with Turkey and the US."

He also emphasised that it was a "positive and productive meeting", adding that "our countries have big agendas. Our teams will continue our discussions, I think we will make great progress as the US and Turkey". Biden, who has sought to reassert American backing for the 72-year-old alliance, said that NATO was critically important for "US interests" and it had a "sacred obligation" to observe Article 5 of its founding treaty, which commits members to defend each other from attack, the BBC reported.

Asked about his forthcoming summit with Putin, he described the Russian President as a "worthy adversary".

PAKISTAN ECONOMY GROWS 3.94% WITH V-SHAPED RECOVERY



ISLAMABAD, (IANS) Pakistan's V-shaped economic recovery on the back of broad-based growth across all sectors has enabled it to witness a 3.94 per cent growth during the first nine months of FY21 (July 2020-March 2021). Unveiling the economic survey on Thursday on the eve of the presentation of the budget for FY22 (July 2021-June 2022) in the National Assembly, Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin said that the growth exceeded the government's target of 2.1 per cent as manufacturing and services sectors made remarkable progress during the ongoing financial year, reports Xinhua news agency.

The economic survey is an annual report on the performance of the economy, focusing in particular on major macroeconomic indicators. The survey said that manufacturing has witnessed broad-based growth as major sectors of large-scale manufacturing including textile, food beverages and tobacco, non-metallic mineral products and automobile have shown significant improvement, due to which the first nine months of FY21 recorded the highest period-wise growth of 8.99 per cent since 2007. Tax collection of the Federal Board of Revenue also witnessed a significant growth of around 18 per cent during July-May FY21 owing to the revival of domestic economic activity and ongoing comprehensive tax policy and administrative reforms, it added.

PAK FM SLAMS FORMER GOVT FOR SPOILING KULBHUSHAN JADHAV CASE

ISLAMABAD, (IANS) Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has slammed the former Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government for spoiling the case of Kulbhushan Jadhav.

"The PML-N are the ones who mishandled the Kulbhushan Jadhav case," he said. Qureshi said that the incumbent Imran Khan government was implementing the recommendations of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), adding that India wanted to delay the matter and drag Pakistan back to The Hague-based court.

"We are implementing the recommendations of the ICJ and we took measures on their advice. India didn't want consular access to Jadhav, rather wanted to drag Pakistan to the ICJ once again," he added.

Qureshi's statement comes after a bill, aimed at complying with the orders of the ICJ in the Jadhav case, was passed by the lower house of Parliament last week. Pakistan has been calling on India to appoint a counsel for Jadhav in a review case, being heard in the Islamabad High Court (IHC). However, the Indian High Commission, raising question over the high court's decision to appoint a defence counsel in the case, has challenged the case. Pakistan maintains that India is deliberately trying to linger the matter and accuse Pakistan for not complying with the orders of the ICJ.

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