



**POLICE FROM BJP-
RULED STATES
TERRORISING VOTERS IN
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BANERJEE | P9**



**PAKISTAN PRESIDENT DR
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ON DAD SAIF ALI KHAN IN THE
MOST UNUSUAL WAY | P17**







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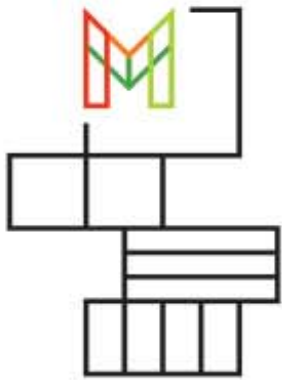
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INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS EASE AS PM IMRAN KHAN RESPONDS TO PM MODI'S LETTER, SAYS PAKISTAN ALSO DESIRES 'PEACEFUL RELATIONS'

Y MEDIA COVID & VACCINE REPORT

CANADA'S COVID-19 VACCINE DELIVERY TIMELINE RAMPS UP

POOJA LUTHRA

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in a press briefing on Tuesday said Canada will receive five million doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine ahead of schedule. The above doses will now arrive in June, instead of late summer following negotiations with the federal government, said Trudeau. He further added that 9.6 million doses from Pfizer will arrive in the month of June. "We now have handily exceeded our promised target of six million doses delivered before April. And this week, we begin our ramp-up phase." Canada is all set to receive a million doses of Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine throughout April and May. Procurement Minister Anita Anand also announced deliveries of the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine will start at the end of April. Canada has pre-ordered 10 million doses of J&J vaccine, with an option to purchase 28 million more doses. Anand said Canada is on track to receive 44 million doses of vaccine by Canada Day. Federal officials expect the supply of Pfizer and Modernavaccines will be enough to fully vaccinate everyone before Fall.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 6

- Canada has approved four vaccine candidates till now, namely Pfizer- BioNtech, Moderna, Oxford-AstraZeneca and Serum Institute of India's CoviShield, and finally Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) pauses AstraZeneca vaccine for people 55 years and below.
- Johnson & Johnson vaccine will arrive in Canada by April end, Canada has pre-ordered 10 million vaccine doses.
- 5 million Pfizer vaccine doses to arrive early in June, instead of late summer; PM Trudeau announces.
- Canada to receive 9.6 million Pfizer vaccine doses by June.
- Canada to receive 3.2 million vaccine doses this week- 1.5M AstraZeneca doses via US, 590,400 Moderna doses, 1.2M Pfizer doses.
- Canada expects supply of Pfizer & Moderna vaccines will be enough to fully vaccinate everyone before Fall.
- New Covid infection rates highest among Canadians aged 20-39.
- Variant cases 'increasing rapidly' in Canada: modelling.
- Peel residents 70 and over can now book their vaccine appointments, visit peelregion.ca/COVID19vaccine or call 905-791-5202.
- York residents 70 yrs & older can now book Covid-19 vaccine appointment online for Canada's wonderland drive-thru clinic at http://york.ca/covid19vaccine.
- Ontario aims to have all eligible Ontarians receive 1st Covid-19 vaccine shot by June 20.
- Ontario government expects to inoculate up to nine million people between April 2021 and July 2021.
- B.C. to begin inoculating front-line workers including grocery store workers, teachers from April.
- President Biden announces new goal of administering 200 million doses in his 1st 100 days in office.
- President Biden says every American adult will be able to get covid-19 vaccine by May

MURDER CHARGE LAID IN NORTH VANCOUVER FATAL STABBING



Yannick Bandaogo, 28, has been charged in connection with the stabbing death of a woman in North Vancouver, B.C.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 6

'WE ARE BUILDING SECOND HOSPITAL IN BRAMPTON': PREMIER FORD

BRAMPTON - The Ontario government is delivering a long-awaited new hospital for the people of Brampton. The 2021 Budget includes an additional \$3 billion investment in health care infrastructure over 10 years, which will support the transformation of the Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness ("Peel Memorial") in Brampton from a day facility into a new inpatient hospital with a 24/7 Emergency Department. The 2021 Budget, Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy, brings the government's total investment to protect people's health to \$16.3 billion.



| CONTD. ON PAGE 6

SUV CASE: 'MADE SCAPEGOAT' SAYS VAZE AS NIA CUSTODY EXTENDED TILL APRIL 3

MUMBAI, (IANS) A special court in Mumbai on Thursday extended till April 3 the NIA custody of Assistant Police Inspector (API) Sachin Vaze, the prime accused in the SUV case that pertains to the explosives-laden Scorpio with a threat note that was found abandoned near Antilia, the residence of industrialist Mukesh Ambani.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 6

ANGRY FARMERS TEAR CLOTHES OF BJP LEGISLATOR IN PUNJAB



CHANDIGARH, (IANS) Angry over the three Central farm laws passed by the Parliament in September last year, a group of protesting farmers on Saturday heckled Arun Narang, the BJP legislator from Abohar, in Punjab's Malout town, the police said.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 6

26-YEAR-OLD BAKHSHINDERPAL SINGH MANN ARRESTED ON AN OUTSTANDING WARRANT, EXTRADITED TO US

Peel Regional Police, in partnership with the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA), executed an outstanding warrant for a man wanted by Bakersfield Police Department in California for Accessory After the fact to Murder and Unlawful Sexual Intercourse involving an underage person (two counts).

| CONTD. ON PAGE 6



CHARGES LAID ON ARJUN CHOUDHARI, 33, FOLLOWING HATE-MOTIVATED INCIDENTS IN MARKHAM

INVESTIGATORS WITH THE YORK REGIONAL POLICE HATE CRIME UNIT AND THE #5 DISTRICT CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS Bureau have charged a 33-year-old man following several hate-motivated incidents in the City of Markham. Arjun Choudhari was arrested Monday and faces one count of assault with a weapon, two counts of criminal harassment and three counts of assault.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 6



PM TRUDEAU ASSURES CANADIANS TO GET INOCULATED BEFORE SEPTEMBER



PREMIER FORD ANNOUNCES TO BUILD NEW HOSPITAL IN BRAMPTON, MAYOR BROWN PATRICK WELCOMES THIS DEVELOPMENT



DETAILS ON PAGE 4



BJP SUPPORTERS DURING PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI'S PUBLIC MEETING AHEAD OF WEST BENGAL ASSEMBLY POLLS, AT BRIGADE PARADE GROUND IN KOLKATA. (PTI)

NEARLY 80% POLLING IN BENGAL, 77% IN ASSAM IN PHASE 1

NEW DELHI, (IANS) As many as 79.79 per cent voters exercised their franchise in the first phase of polling in 30 Assembly seats in West Bengal on Saturday, while the turnout was a little over 77 per cent in Assam where 47 seats went to the polls in the first phase, as per the data released by the voter turnout app of the Election Commission of India. More than half of the 73-lakh electorate in Bengal's 30 Assembly constituencies have cast their ballot and sealed the fate of 191 candidates who were in the fray on the first day of the eight-phase elections in West Bengal, where five districts went to the polls on Saturday. At least 21 female aspirants are contesting the elections in West Bengal, while 23 are in the fray in Assam. In Bengal, the serpentine queues showed people are aware of the importance of the crucial poll that is seeing a bitter battle between the ruling Trinamool Congress-led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the BJP that has pitched every high-profile leader into campaigning in West Bengal. As per the latest figures from Bengal, the approximate voter turnout trend till 5 p.m. in Bankura was the highest at 80.03 per cent, Jhargram at 80.55 per cent, Purbo Medinipur at 82.42 per cent, Paschim Medinipur at 80.16 per cent and Purulia at 77.13 per cent, according to the Election Commission's voter turnout app.

"The turnout of voters is estimated at over 77 per cent. The percentage may increase a bit after the final compilation of reports from all the returning officers," a senior election official told IANS over the phone on Saturday night. Data showed 72.14 per cent voting in 22 districts in Assam till 5 p.m. There was 77.16 per cent voting in Biswanath, 71.10 per cent in Bokakhat, 73.29 per cent in Charaldeo, 72.85 per cent in Dhakuakhana, 70.76 per cent in Dhansiri, 71.10 per cent in Dhemaji, 70.14 per cent in Dibrugarh, 71.34 per cent in Gohpur, 75.16 per cent in Golaghat, 72.49 per cent in Jonai, 71.49 per cent in Jorhat, 74.19 per cent in Kaliabor, 70.43 per cent in Lakhimpur, 77.19 per cent in Majuli, 70.67 in Margherita, 78.20 per cent in Nagaon, 64 per cent in Nazira and 71.63 per cent in Sadiya. The voting percentage in Sivasagar was 77.72 per cent, 67.91 per cent in Sonitpur, 70.63 per cent in Tinsukia and 70.92 per cent in Titabor, till 5 pm. In Bengal's East Midnapore, two security personnel were reportedly injured in a firing incident that took place early Saturday at the Satsatmal, Bhagwanpur Assembly constituency ahead of voting. Tension prevailed in the Tulsidi village where the incident took place. Security forces are keeping a close vigil in the area, surrounded by forests that were once Maoist hideouts. There were reports of EVM malfunctioning at 20 booths in Bankura district, eight in Jhargram and 39 in Purulia. EVMs in various booths had stopped working temporarily due to a technical glitch. People said they had to wait for more than two hours to cast their ballot. In Purulia, allegations were raised by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) against a former minister and Trinamool candidate of purportedly distributing cash among voters. The BJP has filed a complaint with the poll body. Suvendu Adhikari's brother and BJP leader Soumendu Adhikari accused Trinamool Block President Ram Govind Das and his wife for poll rigging at three polling booths, saying "my arrival here created a problem for them to continue with their mischief, so they attacked my car and thrashed my driver".

Dibyendu Adhikari, another of the Adhikari siblings, told the media he got to know that his brother's vehicle was attacked in Contai with the help of Trinamool Block President Ram Govind Das. "Soumendu isn't injured. The driver was beaten up. I've informed the Police Observer." There are seven seats in high-stakes Purba Medinipur -- home ground of BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari. These seven -- Patashpur, Kanthi Uttar, Bhagabanpur, Khejuri, Kanthi Dakshin, Ramnagar and Egra -- are perceived as sensitive.

Polling began at 7 a.m. amid tight security for the first phase when the Jungal Mahal area in the south-western fringes that is said to be Maoist-affected, also voting. The polling will end at 6 p.m. The polls are being closely watched because of the prestige battle between Suvendu Adhikari, a former Trinamool Congress man, who is now facing his erstwhile supremo Mamata Banerjee in Nandigram. West Bengal BJP President Dilip Ghosh cast his vote at a polling booth in Jhargram during the polling.

Compared to first two hours in the morning, the number of voters increased manifold in the afternoon on polling booths with all section of citizens seen enthusiastically exercising their franchise. Women, particularly first-time voters, carrying voter slips and Aadhaar cards were seen standing in long queues. Special police officers deputed for election duty helped the aged and the physically challenged voters at the polling stations. Of the five assembly elections scheduled in four states and one Union Territory, West Bengal has the most number of seats and voting spread over eight phases, a maximum. The other seven phases to the 294-member West Bengal Assembly will be held on April 1, April 6, April 10, April 17, April 22, April 26 and April 29. Results will be declared on May 2. In Assam, voting began across 11,537 polling stations mostly covering eastern Assam's 12 districts at 7 a.m.

The balloting will continue till 6 p.m as the Election Commission extended the time by an hour in view of the Covid-19 induced situations.

A total of 8,109,815 voters, including 4,032,481 females, are eligible to cast their ballots. Covid-19 protocols for the voters, including social distancing and thermal screening, are being maintained.

Election officials said that to avoid crowding, the number of voters for every booth has been brought down to a maximum of 1,000.

As a result, the number of polling booths has been augmented by 34.71 per cent to 33,530 from 24,890 in 2016.

To avoid direct contact with the EVM, every elector is being given a hand glove. In the 2016 elections, the ruling BJP-led alliance secured 35 of the 47 seats, while the Congress won nine and the remaining three seats by other parties. According to the election officials, over 30,000 Central Armed Police Forces along with thousands of state security forces have been deployed to maintain law and order during this phase.

The officials said that to maintain social distancing and other Covid-19 protocols and due to technical snags of the EVMs in some polling stations, the casting of votes was a little slow in some areas.

No major untoward incident has been reported so far from any of the 12 districts where balloting is underway.

MIND GAMES WON'T WORK, THIS IS BENGAL: DEREK ON SHAH



NEW DELHI, (IANS) After Union Home Minister Amit Shah claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party will win with massive margin in West Bengal and bag more than 200 seats, Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien said that "mind games won't work" in Bengal.

Reacting sharply to Shah's claim, Brien tweeted: "Mind games won't work, Mo-Sha. Try your seat prediction stunts at the Gujarat Gymkhana. This is Bengal. #KhelaHobe"

He further claimed that the TMC will sweep the Phase one polls while Shah claimed that the BJP will win 26 seats in this phase.

Shah in his news conference on Sunday claimed that the BJP is sweeping phase one of elections.

"After discussions with party leaders and booth level workers, I can say that out of 30 seats we will win more than 26 seats in West Bengal," he said.

More than half of the 73-lakh electorate in Bengal's 30 Assembly constituencies have cast their ballot and sealed the fate of 191 candidates who were in the fray for the first day of the eight-phase elections in West Bengal. Polling was held in five districts on Saturday. The other seven phases of polling for the 294-member West Bengal Assembly will be held on April 1, April 6, April 10, April 17, April 22, April 26 and April 29. Results will be declared on May 2.

BJP'S CENTRAL LEADERSHIP TARGETS TO GARNER POWER IN PUDUCHERRY



CHENNAI, (IANS) The BJP's central leadership is eyeing to garner power in Puducherry as the BJP, AINRC and AIADMK alliance is sitting pretty in the Union Territory.

With several opinion polls predicting a landslide victory for the NDA coalition in the upcoming Assembly elections, the BJP's national leadership has exuded confidence that the combine will emerge victorious at the hustings.

Single phase polling to 30 seats in Puducherry is slated for April 6. The All India N.R. Congress (AINRC) is contesting 16 seats, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) 9 seats and the remaining 5 seats by All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK).

The NDA had announced N.Rangaswami, former Chief Minister and President of AINRC, as the Chief Ministerial candidate and ever since the BJP alliance has been hitting the right chord.

In the 30-member Assembly, the saffron party has hardly a member but has always been backed by 3 nominated members.

The election manifesto of the NDA alliance was released by the Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Meanwhile, a galaxy of senior party leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari will be attending the electioneering in Puducherry.

Union Ministers Amit Shah and Irani are the two senior leaders who will be attending the public programmes in the UT.

Prime minister Narendra Modi will be attending the NDA public programme at 5pm on Tuesday at the Anglo- French stadium.

BJP leader in-charge of Puducherry, Nirmal Kumar Surana told IANS, "The NDA alliance is led by former Chief Minister N Rangaswamy of the AINRC and he knows the in-and-out of the state. We are leaving no stone unturned and the NDA combine is heading for a comfortable majority. With the arrival of senior national leaders of the party, the BJP campaign will gain momentum and we are in course of a huge electoral victory in this assembly elections."

BJP SEEKS DISMISSAL OF PUNJAB GOVT OVER ATTACK ON MLA

CHANDIGARH, (IANS) A delegation of BJP leaders, led by state party chief Ashwani Sharma and Union Minister Som Prakash, on Sunday called on Punjab Governor V. P. Singh Badnore here and demanded dismissal of the state government over attack on party legislator Arun Narang allegedly by farmers protesting against the Centre's farm laws. In a memorandum, the BJP highlighted the increasing attacks on BJP workers and leaders at the behest of the state Congress government. The delegation brought to the notice of the Governor the violent attack on Narang by politically motivated miscreants backed by the ruling party. The delegation called for the dismissal of the Congress government and restoration of law and order in the state. The Governor later called up the Chief Minister and conveyed his concern on the issue, an official statement said.

The Governor condemned the attack and said the state authorities cannot allow such blatantly unlawful and violent attacks on anybody. He said this kind of incidents should not repeat and strong action should be taken to book the culprits. He also sought a report from the state government on the action being taken against the accused. Strongly condemning the attack, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Saturday warned of strict action against anyone trying to disturb the state's peace by taking the law into their hands.

Even as he urged the farmers not to indulge in such acts of violence, the Chief Minister appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to urgently resolve the crisis triggered by the farm laws to prevent the situation from escalating further.

The Chief Minister also directed DGP Dinkar Gupta to take strict action, under the law, against the perpetrators, who also clashed with the police personnel who tried to rescue the MLA.

1st phase gone, Cong still struggling for coordination in Bengal

NEW DELHI/KOLKATA, (IANS) In the first phase of the Assembly polls in West Bengal, no high-profile leader of the Congress came for campaigning even as the party is contesting the elections in the state in alliance with the Left.

Sources said there has been a lack of coordination between the state's Congress unit president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and state in-charge Jitin Prasada, as Chowdhury has been taking decisions regarding the elections and leaders from Delhi drafted for the state are not being kept in loop. Prasada has hence returned from Bengal and close aides say that he is miffed with the way Chowdhury is managing the election-related affairs. The Congress is contesting on 92 seats in the state that went to the polls in the first phase on March 27 (Saturday). Jitin Prasada and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury jointly were to spearhead the campaign in the state.

Prasada, when asked about the campaign programme of top party leaders including Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka, said "once the programme is finalised, we will inform the media", while other leaders insisted: "Ask Adhir".

According to sources, leaders who are in the star campaigner list are also not excited to go for campaigning as there is no positive feedback from the state.

The ruling Trinamool Congress in the state, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are in direct contest while the Left is trying to win back its rural support, and the Congress is trying to retain its last tally of 44 in 2016 elections.

The first sign of cracks emerged during the ticket distribution which was delayed and after many hiccups it was finalised, but not before differences surfaced within the party.

Another concern for the Congress is that till elections in Kerala gets over, it cannot go full-throttle in West Bengal as it's difficult for the party to praise the Left in Bengal and criticise in Kerala.

BJP to win 26 seats in Bengal, 37 in Assam in first phase: Shah

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that the BJP would win 26 of the 30 seats in West Bengal and 37 of the 47 in Assam where polling was held on Saturday in the first phase of the Assembly polls.

Addressing a press conference at his residence here, he said: "Based on discussions and feedback received from booth level workers and leaders, I can confidently say that the we are winning 26 of 30 seats which went in for polling in the first phase in West Bengal."

"People in West Bengal are unhappy with the (Mamata Banerjee) government. They voted for change in 2011 but nothing changed. The BJP has under the leadership of Prime Minister is committed to 'Sonar Bangla'," he said. Shah also claimed that women voted in favour of his party. He noted that it was for first time that West Bengal witnessed violence-free polls. "After many years, no incidents of violence were reported and I thank the Election Commission for conducting a peaceful election," he said. In Assam, people voted for the BJP for development and for the commitment for a flood free state, he said, claiming 37 seats out of the 47 would go to the BJP. He thanked voters of both the states for voting for the BJP. "The massive turnout of shows enthusiasm among voters," he said.

PM MODI MADE US GLORIFIED WITH HIS PRESENCE DURING PANDEMIC: HASINA



DHAKA, (IANS) Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday expressed her gratitude to her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, saying the government of India always stands by Bangladesh through thick and thin. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Dhaka on Friday on a two-day visit to Bangladesh to attend the celebrations of the country's 50th year of liberation from Pakistan and the 100th birth anniversary of its founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of Sheikh Hasina. "I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Modi Ji and the people of India," Hasina said. On the last day of the 10-day celebrations to mark the country's 50th year of liberation from Pakistan, Modi and Hasina enjoyed the music of legendary classical vocalist Pandit Ajoy Chakravarty at the National Parade Square in Dhaka, along with the President of Bangladesh, Abdul Hamid, and others. Hasina said, "The Prime Minister of India made us glorified with his priceless presence in this pandemic period. The people of Bangladesh are grateful to Modi Ji and the people of India, who served the most for the people of Bangladesh in 1971." Hasina added that India must play a leading role in building a politically and economically prosperous South Asia. "We can make this region a hunger-free, poverty-free zone. We will achieve the goal set by the UN by 2031," she said. "I am grateful to India for nominating Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for the prestigious Gandhi Peace Prize in 2019. India is our friendly neighbour, and the two countries share a long standing relationship. The

government of India had provided all kinds of assistance to the people of Bangladesh who took refuge there to save their lives from the atrocity, rape and arson of the Pakistani army in 1971. The Indian government and its people gave shelter, served food and assured medical help to around 1 million helpless people from Bangladesh," she said. "In 1971, many army officers from India shed their blood for the independence of Bangladesh. I respectfully remember their contributions. India's cooperation will never be forgotten. I'm personally grateful to the people and government of India. After all my family members were killed during the war, I was at my husband's workplace in Germany with my sister and children. I had lost everyone. There was no arrangement to stay in that country. At that time, then Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi and Yugoslav leader Marshal Tito gave us shelter," Hasina said. The Bangladesh premier also appreciated the policies of Modi, and his slogan "Neighbours first and foremost", saying that Bangladesh receiving 2 million Covid vaccine doses from India establishes this principle. With the inauguration of the Maitri Bridge, India will now be able to use the Chittagong Port and Mongla Port, Hasina assured to Modi. "May Bangladesh-India friendship be long-lasting for all kinds of cooperation," she said. Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid said, "During my stay in India for nine months during the liberation war in 1971, I myself witnessed how the government of India and its people gave shelter to 10 million people and refugees from Bangladesh. I hope all the unresolved issues will be settled soon. Bangladesh is always grateful to India."

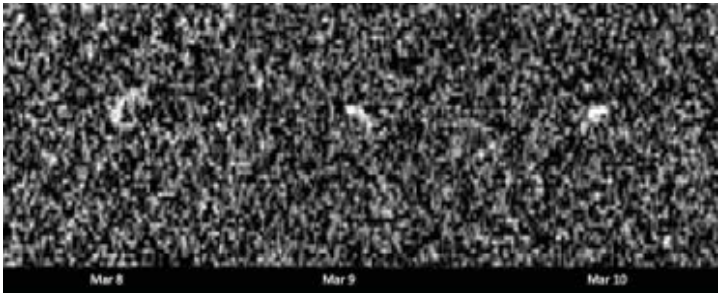
INDIA WILL DONATE MILITARY EQUIPMENT USED IN 1971 FOR MUSEUMS IN BANGLADESH



DHAKA, (IANS) Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that New Delhi will donate military equipment used by the country in the 1971 Liberation War to be displayed in museums in Bangladesh. Modi made the announcement on Saturday in Dhaka on the last day of his two-day official visit to Bangladesh, which was his first trip abroad after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. On Saturday evening, Modi met his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina for one-on-one talks at the latter's office in Dhaka after which the two sides signed five MoUs, inaugurated and launched eight projects and made 10 announcements. During his visit, he also laid the foundation stone for a memorial honouring martyrs from the Indian Armed Forces who were killed during the Liberation War. It will be built at Ashuganj, near Dhaka. This is the first memorial in Bangladesh exclusively honouring the Indian martyrs. Modi arrived in Dhaka and participated in a gala event commemorating the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as well as the celebrations mark-

ing the golden jubilee of Bangladesh independence. On Saturday evening, the Indian head of state announced a Bangabandhu Chair at the Delhi University to facilitate Bangladesh studies aimed at increasing mutual understanding. After visiting the historic Jeshoreshwari Temple in Shyamnagar, Sathkira, Modi announced that India will build a community hall-cum-cyclone shelter under a grant funding of the government for the benefit of all at the district. At Orakandi, Modi announced that India will build a primary school for children and upgrade a middle school for girls under the government of India funding. He announced that to commemorate the 50th year of the Liberation of Bangladesh and the 75th year of India's Independence, '1½Best of India, Best of Bangladesh Exhibition' and business meeting will be held. He also announced that India will participate in the first-ever air dhow to be held in Bangladesh in 2022. Modi left Dhaka for New Delhi on Saturday night. Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen saw him off with an album of the photographs of all memorable moments in Bangladesh during his two day state visit.

NASA rules out asteroid Apophis hitting Earth in 2068



NEW YORK, (IANS) In a big relief, NASA has ruled out the possibility of asteroid Apophis impacting Earth in 2068, saying that our planet is safe from this notorious space rock for at least a century. The results from a new radar observation campaign combined with precise orbit analysis have helped astronomers conclude that there is no risk of Apophis impacting our planet for the next 100 years at least, NASA said. Discovered in 2004, asteroid Apophis, estimated to be about 340 metres across, quickly gained notoriety as an asteroid that could pose a serious threat to Earth when astronomers predicted that it would come uncomfortably close in 2029. Thanks to additional observations of the near-Earth object (NEO), the risk of an impact in 2029 was later ruled out, as was the potential impact risk posed by another close approach in 2036. Until this month, however, a small chance of impact in 2068 still remained. When Apophis made a distant flyby of Earth around March

5, astronomers took the opportunity to use powerful radar observations to refine the estimate of its orbit around the Sun with extreme precision, enabling them to confidently rule out any impact risk in 2068 and long after. "A 2068 impact is not in the realm of possibility anymore, and our calculations don't show any impact risk for at least the next 100 years," Davide Farnocchia of NASA's Centre for Near-Earth Object Studies (CNEOS), which is managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California, said in a statement. "With the support of recent optical observations and additional radar observations, the uncertainty in Apophis' orbit has collapsed from hundreds of kilometres to just a handful of kilometres when projected to 2029. This greatly improved knowledge of its position in 2029 provides more certainty of its future motion, so we can now remove Apophis from the risk list." To arrive at the latest Apophis calculations, astronomers turned to the 70-metre radio antenna at the Deep Space Network's Goldstone Deep Space Communications Complex near Barstow, California, to precisely track Apophis' motion. "Although Apophis made a recent close approach with Earth, it was still nearly 17 million kilometres away. Even so, we were able to acquire incredibly precise information about its distance to an accuracy of about 150 metres," said JPL scientist Marina Brozovic, who led the radar campaign. "This campaign not only helped us rule out any impact risk, it set us up for a wonderful science opportunity."

BANGLADESH MILITANTS SET FIRE TO CENTRAL LIBRARY



DHAKA, (IANS) Hefazat militants on Sunday set fire to the central public library in Bangladesh's Brahmanbaria district, the birthplace of legendary Indian sarod player and multi-instrumentalist Allauddin Khan, during a dawn-to-dusk nationwide strike. The strike by Hefazat-e-Islam is underway in Dhaka, Norshingdi, Narayanganj, Brahmanbaria, Chittagong, Sylhet, Rajshahi and other districts. No long-route buses were plying on the roads, but the movement of rickshaws and auto-rickshaws was normal. Narayanganj Madaninagar madrasa students put up a barricade on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway by burning tires, disrupting the capital city's road communications with Chittagong and Sylhet. In Sylhet, Jamaat-e-Islam activists behind the banner of Hefazat-e-Islam brought out processions in different parts of the city including the Court point after morning prayers. The militants set two stationary buses of state-owned Bangladesh Road Transport and Corporation (BRTC) on fire at Rajshahi Truck Terminal in the city's Amchattar area on Sunday. Saiful Islam Khan, officer-in-charge of Shah Makhdum Police Station, said police are investigating the incident.

CHINA SANCTIONS US, CANADIAN INDIVIDUALS, ENTITY



BEIJING, (IANS) China has announced sanctions on US and Canadian individuals and an entity, citing the two countries' recent moves of imposing "unilateral, disinformation-based sanctions" over human rights abuses in Xinjiang province. According to a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson's announcement on Saturday, the US and Canada imposed unilateral sanctions on relevant individuals and entities in Xinjiang on March 22 based on rumours and disinformation, reports Xinhua news agency.

US, CANADA SLAM CHINA FOR TIT-FOR-TAT SANCTIONS



WASHINGTON, (IANS) The US and Canada have criticized China for retaliatory sanctions imposed by Beijing in an ongoing row over human rights. In a coordinated move, the US, the EM, Britain and Canada on March 22 slapped sanctions on Chinese officials and entities for abuses against the mostly Muslim Uighur people, reports DPA news agency. In a retaliatory move on Saturday, Beijing sanctioned Chair of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) Gayle Manchin; Vice-Chair of the USCIRF Tony Perkins; Canadian MP Michael Chong; and the Subcommittee on International Human Rights of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development of the House of Commons of Canada, citing Washington and Ottawa's sanctions that it said were "based on rumours and misinformation". The individuals will not be able to travel to China's mainland, Hong Kong or Macao and Chinese businesses and institutions are barred from doing business with them or holding exchanges with the Canadian committee.

PAK TO HOST INDIA FOR NEXT ROUND OF INDUS WATER TREATY TALKS



ISLAMABAD, (IANS) After detailed discussions on the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) during the two-day meeting between delegations of Pakistan and India in New Delhi, Islamabad will be hosting the Indian counterpart delegation for the second round of talks next month. Mehar Ali Shah, the Indus Water Commissioner from Pakistan, said the "dialogue with the neighbouring country on the water issues would continue in the future." "The Indian side has listened to the objections raised by Pakistan on different projects on its rivers and promised serious review of such projects," he maintained while speaking to media at the Wagah border upon his return from India. The Pakistani delegation led by Shah was in New Delhi for the two-day talks. As per the Indian external affairs ministry, "talks were held in a cordial manner", adding that both sides agreed to interact more frequently to resolve issues through bilateral discussions." Shah highlighted the meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) in New Delhi as a positive step forward as it had not happened since August 2018. "It is a good sign that India invited the Pakistani side for a meeting even during the tough times of the Covid-19 pandemic," Shah said. As per details of the meeting, the Indian side shared flood data for the monsoon season, while Pakistan shared its concerns over the construction of various projects. "India has expressed willingness for the visit and will give us the names and dates for the site visits. Pakistan will invite Indian officials for a meeting after April 1," said Shah.

Y MEDIA COVID & VACCINE REPORT

CANADA HALTS ASTRAZENECA VAX FOR ADULTS UNDER 55 YRS

OTTAWA, (IANS) Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has recommended that the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine should not be used in adults under 55 years of age at this time, while rare cases of serious blood clots were being further probed.

In a statement issued on Monday, the NACI said the cases, known as vaccine-induced prothrombotic immune thrombocytopenia (VIPIT), "have been recently reported in Europe following post-licensure use of the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine".

"Cases identified so far have been primarily in women under the age of 55 years, although cases in men have also been reported and have mostly occurred between four and 16 days after receipt of the vaccine." The statement further said: "Following population-based analyses of VIPIT assessing the risk of Covid-19 disease by age, and considering that alternate products are available (i.e., mRNA vaccines), from what is known at this time, there is substantial uncertainty about the benefit of providing AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine to adults under 55 years of age given that the potential risks associated with VIPIT, particularly at the lower estimated rates.

'WE ARE BUILDING SECOND HOSPITAL IN BRAMPTON': PREMIER FORD

CONTD. FROM PAGE 3

"Thanks to years of under-investment, Brampton has waited far too long for access to the health care services their growing city needs," said Premier Ford. "In the 2021 Budget, our government is finally delivering a new hospital and 24/7 Emergency Department for the great people of Brampton."

Currently, Peel Memorial is an urgent care centre that provides a range of day procedures and outpatient services. To support the transformation of Peel Memorial into a new hospital, the province will fund the construction of over 250 net new beds at the site. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2023. The province is also providing up to \$18 million in 2021-22 to expand the urgent care centre to 24/7 operations, paving the way for an eventual emergency department as Peel Memorial expands into an inpatient hospital.

"Ontario's hospitals have been on the frontlines of the province's COVID-19 response, and our government is committed to ensuring they have the infrastructure and tools they need to continue delivering exceptional care to our communities," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "By supporting the transformation of Peel Memorial, this investment will help improve access to care for patients in the region, while also expanding hospital capacity and helping to end hallway health care."

The investments in Peel Memorial will allow the people of Brampton to have access to 24/7 hospital services including urgent care, complex continuing care, enhanced mental health, and rehabilitation for patients and their families.

Last year, William Osler received up to 87 hospital beds to help alleviate hospital capacity pressures and reduce wait times as part of the government's investment of \$351 million for more than 2,250 new beds at 57 hospitals and alternate health facilities across the province.

"As a precautionary measure, while Health Canada carries out an updated benefit/risk analysis based on emerging data, NACI recommends that the vaccine not be offered to adults under the age of 55.

"Adults 55 years of age and older may still be offered the AstraZeneca vaccine with informed consent, given the increased risk of hospitalization and death due to Covid-19 in this population and since VIPIT appears to be a rarer event in that age group."

According to the Committee, the "rate of this adverse event is still to be confirmed" and information is being gathered to be more accurate.

"Anyone receiving the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine should be informed of this potential adverse event and advised to seek immediate medical attention if they develop symptoms of thromboembolism and/or thrombocytopenia between days four and 20," it added.

Canada's move comes after over a dozen European countries had halted their use of the vaccine due to the blood clot issue.

Some nations have resumed vaccinations while others have continued their suspensions.

"With Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy, we are accelerating our long-standing work with a more than \$30 billion plan to build, expand, and improve hospitals across the province over the next ten years," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board. "No government has committed to invest more in Ontario hospitals. This includes a historic and overdue investment for the Peel Region to ensure people can access care when they need it in their community." Healthy people are essential for a healthy economy. With vaccines being distributed, hope is on the horizon. Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy provides the resources necessary to finish the battle with COVID-19, building on the government's record investments to protect health and jobs during the global pandemic.

"This is a historic moment for the residents of Brampton and I am excited about Premier Ford's announcement of a new 24/7 hospital right here in Brampton. Health and education remain the priority of our government and I thank Premier Ford and this government for giving Bramptonians the support and services they deserve, which was conveniently ignored by the previous governments for too long."

- Amarjot Sandhu

MPP for Brampton West

"This is an historic day for the people of Brampton, and I'm thrilled that after years of neglect from previous governments our community is finally getting our fair share. This new hospital will ensure that every Bramptonian has access to the quality care we need and deserve, and that hallway health care will finally become a thing of the past for Brampton families."

- Prabmeet Sarkaria

MPP for Brampton South

ANGRY FARMERS TEAR CLOTHES OF BJP LEGISLATOR IN PUNJAB

CONTD. FROM PAGE 3

Narang's supporters said the Abohar legislator was injured after he was attacked by a group of unruly men. His clothes were allegedly ripped off by the protesters, who also threw black ink on him as soon as he arrived there. The BJP leaders left the spot in a huff, alleging that the Congress government in the state was behind the incident. All hell broke loose when Narang reached Malout in Muktsar district to address the media at the BJP party office there. The protesters, who had gathered there ahead of the arrival of the BJP MLA, told Narang that the farm laws passed by the Centre were against the farmers and they should be revoked. The protesters did not allow the legislator to reach the venue. His vehicle was also disfigured with black paint.

A video of his heckling has gone viral on social media, in which the police could be seen trying to protect and ensure the safety of the legislator. A senior police officer too received injuries in the scuffle.

SUV CASE: 'MADE SCAPEGOAT' SAYS VAZE AS NIA CUSTODY EXTENDED TILL APRIL 3

CONTD. FROM PAGE 3

Vaze was produced before the Special NIA Court after his NIA custody ended on Thursday and the agency secured his custody for another nine days, exactly a month after the SUV was found near Antilia on February 25. Seeking extension of Vaze's custody by 15 days, Additional Solicitor-General Anil Singh, representing the NIA, said the agency had seized 62 live bullets from Vaze's home which are not yet accounted for since he was only issued 30 bullets by the police department, of which five have been accounted for.

He argued that when Vaze had allegedly gone to plant the SUV near Antilia, he reportedly collected and destroyed some critical CCTV footage of several places, and used fake id cards to check into a five-star hotel. The NIA has already seized around half-a-dozen high-end cars and gathered forensic evidence like burnt clothes and mobile phones, other samples and blood traces from the vehicles which have now been sent for DNA profiling and further forensic analysis. Seeking Vaze's extended custody, the NIA said that it wants to question him further and verify his statements by confronting him with the other accused who have been arrested in connection with the case. In his submissions before the special court, Vaze and his lawyer Abad Ponda dismissed the NIA's contentions and urged that its plea for extending custody should be rejected, as he was innocent and was being framed in the entire matter. "I am being made a scapegoat in this whole incident. I have nothing to do with the crime," pleaded Vaze, who was arrested on March 13, four days after the probe was handed over to the NIA on March 9 following a massive political furore. He said that he had investigated the case for just one-and-a-half days, doing whatever was required as the IO, along with other Mumbai Police and Crime Branch officers, but something happened abruptly and when he went to the NIA office on March 13, he was arrested. Advocate Ponda said that the NIA would also have to convince the court on invoking the stringent anti-terror provisions under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, on March 24, even as it was handed over the connected case pertaining to the death of Mansukh Hiran. Thane-based businessman Hiran, who was in possession of the Scorpio, was found dead under mysterious circumstances on March 5. A former high-profile 'encounter specialist', Vaze was suspended in 2004, joined the Shiv Sena briefly, and was reinstated to the police force in 2020.

RCMP and CBSA work together to seize tonne of opium



Delta Port - A joint operation involving RCMP and CBSA officers resulted in a significant seizure of opium being illegally imported into Canada in February.

In early February, 2021, after several months of investigation, officers from the RCMP Federal Serious & Organized Crime (FSOC) and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) executed a general warrant on two freight containers to locate a shipment of drugs from overseas. Officers discovered 2,500 individual packages of suspected opium, each weighing 400 grams, for a total of 1,000 kgs. This literal tonne of opium was seized and replaced with a placebo in order to allow the investigation to continue without further risk to Canadians.

On February 11, 2021, the containers were picked up and transported to a warehouse in Surrey, BC. There, members of the FSOC Major Projects team arrested 5 men: a 34-year-old Vancouver man; a 25-year-old Ontario man; a 28-year-old Ontario man; a 32 year-old Ontario man; and a 37-year-old Ontario man. A sixth male fled the scene and evaded capture by police. "The RCMP takes very seriously any substance that threatens the safety and security of Canadians," said Supt Richard Bergevin, Officer in Charge of Federal Serious & Organized crime Major Projects in BC. "This operation is just one example of many successful collaborations between the RCMP and the CBSA combatting the importation of illicit drugs by organized crime groups that care nothing about the harm they cause." Opium is collected from the dried milky fluid that comes from incisions made on the immature seed pods of the opium poppy. It can be used in its raw form or chemically processed to produce heroin and other synthetic opioids. Despite being the substance from which opioids are derived, heroin and fentanyl are far more commonly seized by police, due mainly to their increased potencies compared to opium. Of course, it's this very same reason that is a major contributing factor to our current opioid overdose crisis in Canada. The investigation is ongoing and no charges have yet been laid.

CHARGES LAID ON ARJUN CHOUDHARI, 33, FOLLOWING HATE-MOTIVATED INCIDENTS IN MARKHAM

CONTD. FROM PAGE 3

On March 16, 2021, York Regional Police received a report regarding an assault that occurred at approximately 2 p.m., in the area of Pillar Rock Crescent in Markham. The victim had been outside walking when a suspect ran up behind her and hit her in the back with an object.

Through the investigation, officers located additional victims and linked five other incidents that occurred between January and March to the same suspect. All of the victims are Asian and investigators believe that the incidents were hate-motivated.

Investigators identified the suspect and on Monday, March 22, 2021, he was arrested and has been charged.

MURDER CHARGE LAID IN NORTH VANCOUVER FATAL STABBING

CONTD. FROM PAGE 3

On March 27, 2021, at around 1:40 p.m., the North Vancouver RCMP and other emergency responders were called to the Lynn Valley library for reports of a stabbing. Officers arrived on the scene to find multiple victims with stab wounds. Six individuals sustained stab wounds of varying severity and one woman in her late twenties succumbed to her injuries and died. The remaining victims were transported to the hospital for non-life-threatening emergency medical care. One man was arrested by police at the scene and he remains in police custody.

On March 28, 2021, 28-year-old Yannick Bandaogo was charged with second-degree murder. His background, history in BC and relationship to the victims, if any, is still being determined. IHIT investigators, supported by the North Vancouver RCMP Investigative Services Team, is managing priority tasks, processing the scene, conducting witness statements and completing an extensive video canvass of the area.

The BC RCMP's priority today revolves around the victims and their families, as well as the first responders who attended the scene. We continue to be focused on the broader community and working with the district team and other partners to ensure we have the appropriate level of resources and victim services available to anyone that requires that assistance.

26-YEAR-OLD BAKHSHINDERPAL SINGH MANN ARRESTED ON AN OUTSTANDING WARRANT, EXTRADITED TO US

CONTD. FROM PAGE 3

In March 2021, community members provided information to investigators regarding a man they believed was wanted for offences that occurred in the United States of America. It is alleged that the male party illegally entered Canada after removing a GPS monitoring device and was in hiding. Community members observed this male residing in the City of Brampton and reported him to authorities. Peel Regional Police - 22 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau commenced an investigation in conjunction with the US Marshal Service, Bakersfield Police Department and the CBSA.

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YUDHVIR JASWAL
CHIEF EDITOR & CEO
yudhvir@southasiandaily.com
647-272-8182

GURPREET SINGH LOONA
CONTENT EDITOR

DR. PUSHPINDER BRAR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

SIA LAKHANPAL
REBECCA TANDON
POOJA LUTHRA
REPORTERS

SUNIL VERMA
GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT

IMRAN MAHMOUD
PHOTOGRAPHERS

BASHIR NASIR
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EXTERIOR PHOTO OF THE PEEL MEMORIAL CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED HEALTH AND WELLNESS.

PREMIER FORD ANNOUNCES TRANSFORMATIONAL INVESTMENT FOR PEEL MEMORIAL

The Premier of Ontario, the Hon. Doug Ford, and the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, the Hon. Christine Elliott, were on site at Peel Memorial to announce \$18 million in support for Osler. This next phase of development for Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness will involve the construction of a new inpatient building and the expansion of the Urgent Care Centre to 24/7 operations, paving the way for an eventual emergency department. To support the transformation of Peel Memorial, the province will fund the construction of over 250 new beds at the site. Transforming Peel Memorial will have a significant, positive impact for patients, our local health system and the broader community. It also enables Osler to continue to move forward with creating additional hospital capacity to meet the needs of one of the fastest-growing and most diverse areas of Ontario. We thank the Ontario Government along with local elected officials, community members and our supporters for making health care and hospital expansion in Brampton a priority. It's an exciting time for health care in our community.

Capture_MohammadOsler's President and CEO, Dr. Naveed Mohammad, welcoming expansion of Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness. Joining the announcement were Associate Minister and MPP for Brampton South, the Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, MPP Amarjot Sandhu, Mayor of Brampton Patrick Brown and General Rick Hiller, Chair of the Province's COVID-19 Task Force. ABOUT WILLIAM OSLER HEALTH SYSTEM and FOUNDATION: William Osler Health System is a hospital system, which includes Brampton Civic Hospital, Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness and Etobicoke General Hospital, and serves 1.3 million residents of Brampton, Etobicoke and surrounding communities within the Central West region. Osler's emergency departments are among the busiest in Canada and its Mental Health and Addictions Program is one of the largest in the province. William Osler Health System Foundation seeks to create a healthier community through giving by inspiring its communities to invest in exceptional health care close to home.

CITY OF BRAMPTON APPROVES PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT DEFERRAL PROGRAM FOR 2021

BRAMPTON, ON - At its March 24 meeting, Brampton City Council approved an optional Property Tax Payment Deferral Program for 2021, to support residents and businesses facing financial hardship from the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants can apply to defer paying 2021 property taxes until December 15, 2021. The program is by application only and is meant to help residential and business property owners who may require payment flexibility for the 2021 tax year only. The Property Tax Payment Deferral Program does not mean property taxes are waived for 2021. The City issues two tax bills each year, the Interim Tax Bill issued in January and the Final Tax Bill in June. To defer the Interim or Final 2021 Property Tax Bill, apply online, by April 15, 2021. Participants who choose to defer their Interim Tax Bill will also have their Final Tax Bill automatically deferred. To be eligible for the Property Tax Payment Deferral Program, your property tax account must not have tax arrears prior to March 2020. Residents and businesses must also pay property taxes directly to the City of Brampton and not through a mortgage company. The application must be made by the property owner. Financial institutions cannot apply for the tax deferral on the property owner's behalf. Residents and Businesses who qualify for the Property Tax Payment Deferral Program and are currently enrolled in the City of Brampton's Pre-Authorized Tax Payment (PTP) Plan, will be removed from the PTP Plan and will have to submit a new application to re-enroll in the PTP Plan before for the 2022 Interim Tax Bill deadline. All taxes must be paid before re-enrolling for the PTP Plan. For residents and businesses that opt in to the Property Tax Payment Deferral Program, property tax payments can be made at any time, and any number of times, during the year. There will be no penalties or interest charges as long as 2021 taxes are paid in full by December 15, 2021. Please allow for three to five business days for processing time at your bank, or financial institution, to ensure the City of Brampton receives your tax payment on time. Penalty and interest charges will be applied for payments received after December 15, 2021. Penalties and interest charges will also be applied to tax arrears from 2020, or previous years, until the tax account is paid in full. How to apply Apply by April 15, 2021 using the online application form on the City of Brampton's website. If you require a paper version of the application form, please contact the City of Brampton tax office. Once the form is completed, it can be sent to the City by fax at 905-874 2296 or mail to: City of Brampton Finance Department, Revenue Division 2 Wellington St. W. Brampton, ON L6Y 4R2

23-YEAR-OLD BRAMPTON'S KIDNAPPING VICTIM, SALINA OUK, FOUND SAFE

PEEL POLICE LOOKING FOR 21-YEAR-OLD SUSPECT, KWAMI GARWOOD, WHO IS STILL BELIEVED TO BE ARMED AND DANGEROUS



Region of Peel - Investigators from the 22 Division, Criminal Investigations Bureau have located the victim that was kidnapped from a residence in the City of Brampton. On Sunday, March 28, 2021, at approximately 3 a.m., officers responded to a residence on Adventura Drive in Brampton, in regards to a disturbance. An interaction occurred between officers and the male suspect, and he subsequently fled the area with the female victim in a vehicle. The vehicle was located unoccupied a short distance away. On Monday, March 29, 2021 at approximately 7:30 p.m., the female victim arrived at 22 Division by herself. She was transported to a hospital to be treated for non-life-threatening injuries. Officers have had the opportunity to speak with the victim after her treatment and the investigation into locating 21-year-old Kwami Garwood is continuing.

A warrant for the arrest of Kwami Garwood is currently being sought for the following offences:

- 1) Kidnapping
- 2) Forcible Confinement
- 3) Aggravated Assault
- 4) Assault
- 5) Possession of a Loaded/Restricted Firearm Without a License
- 6) Possession of a Firearm Without Being the Holder of a License
- 7) Dangerous Operation of a Conveyance
- 8) Possession of a Prohibited Device or Ammunition Knowing it is Unauthorized x2

Kwami Garwood is still believed to be armed and dangerous. Anyone that observes Kwami Garwood is asked to call 9-1-1. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Kwami Garwood is asked to call investigators from the 22 Division Criminal Investigations Bureau at 905-453-2121 ext. 2233 or to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Kwami Garwood is encouraged to speak with legal counsel and make arrangements to surrender to investigators. Additionally, as a result of information received, investigators have been able to determine that the Kia Soul previously sought is not involved in this incident.

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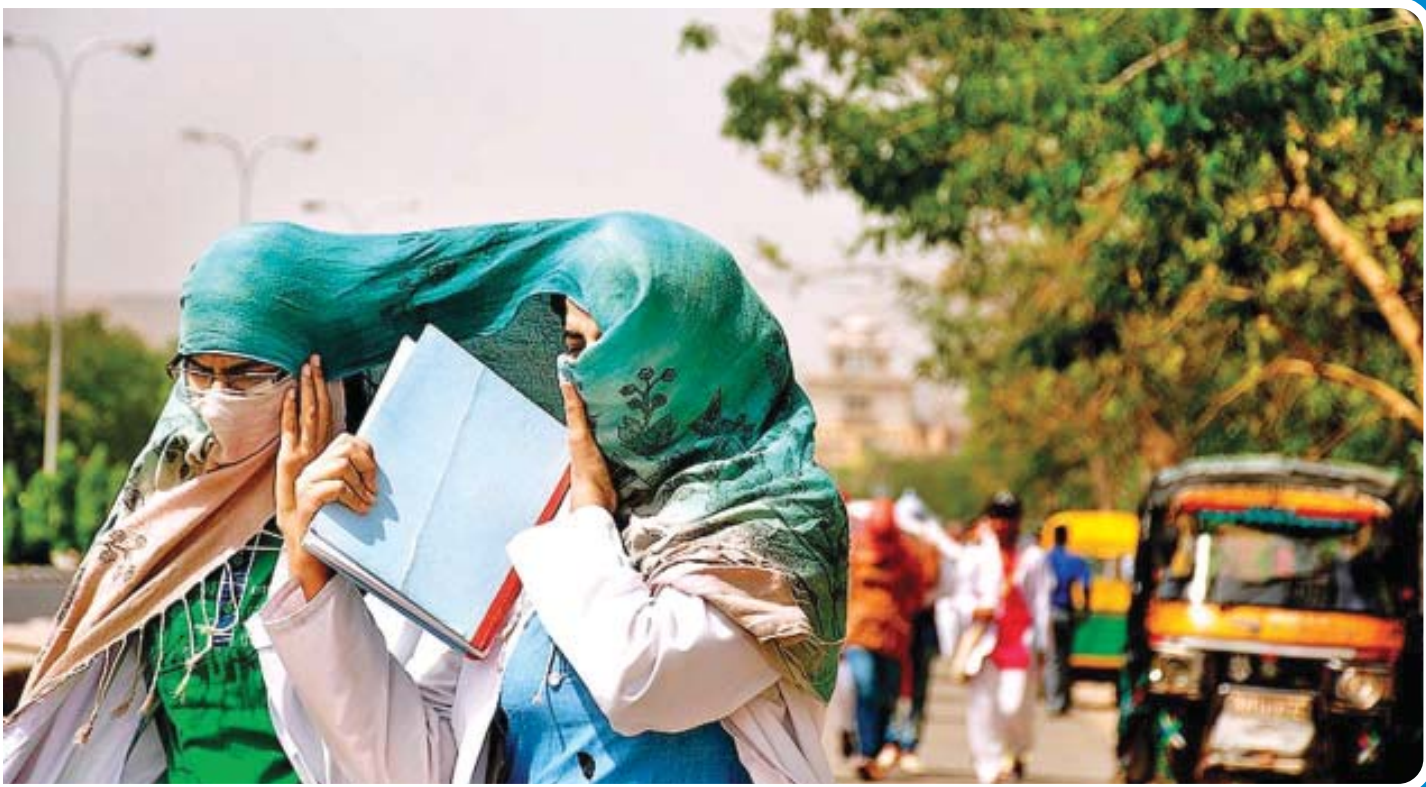
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DELHI SIZZLES WITH SEVERE HEAT WAVE, RECORDS HIGHEST TEMPERATURE SINCE 1945



THE TEMPERATURE IN DELHI CROSSED 40 DEGREES ON MONDAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 76 YEARS.

The month of March is yet to pass, but before that the capital of the country is already in a bad condition. In Delhi, the summer has already started showing its colour in such a way that all the previous records have been broken in the month of March. The temperature in Delhi crossed 40 degrees on Monday for the first time in 76 years. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a statement saying that for the first time since 1945, Delhi has witnessed such hot weather. According to IMD, on March 29, mercury in Delhi reached 40.1 degree Celsius. Not only this, but hot summer winds have also started in the capital, which usually starts in late April. The weather agency says that due to strong winds on Tuesday, Delhiites can get some relief from the heat. Notably, for the past one

week, mercury was continuously rising. The temperature of Delhi was recorded at the beginning of last week at 30, but since then the mercury was continuously going up. It is being said that this is due to the pressure of Western Disturbance, although the same phenomenon is also likely to bring some relief from Tuesday. Global warming is increasing the heat all over the world. Due to the snow is melting in the polar areas, major countries of the world are facing forest fires. Last year, the fire in the forests of America and Australia kept burning for months. This time, the heat has already started showing its colour. Experts say that if global warming is not controlled fast, it will put the whole world in crisis.

COVID-19: Delhi reports 1,935 cases, highest daily increase since December 13



As the entire nation celebrated the festival of Holi, the national capital on Monday (March 29) reported 1,904 covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, the single highest daily increase in cases in more than three months, according to the health department's bulletin. New Delhi reported over 1900 cases the last time on December 12, when 1,935 people had tested positive for COVID-19. With six more fatalities recorded on Monday, the death toll in the national capital now stands at 11,012 while the caseload is 6,59,619, the bulletin stated. With 1,411 patients cured of the virus, the recoveries in Delhi reached 6,40,575 on Monday. As per the bulletin, active cases stand at 8,000. The bulletin also stated that 68,805 tests were conducted on Monday of which 52,490 are RT-PCR/CBNAAT/TrueNat while the remaining 16,315 are rapid antigen tests. The total containment zones in Delhi have reached almost 1,850 while 4,639 patients continue to remain under home isolation. As the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) had issued an order which banned public celebration of Holi, Delhi Police Commissioner SN Shrivastava earlier on Monday said that no violations of

guidelines had been reported. "As per Delhi Disaster Management Authority guidelines, no celebrations for Holi, Shab-e-Barat, Navratri, have been allowed at public places. I am happy to inform you that no violation of guidelines has been reported, so far," ANI quoted Shrivastava as saying. Meanwhile, amid the surge in cases in the national capital, health minister Satyender Jain on Saturday (March 27) ruled out any possibility of another lockdown. Jain said the lockdown was 'not a solution' to contain the spread of the virus. To curb the spread of the virus, the Delhi government on Saturday (March 27) issued new guidelines to curb the spread of coronavirus in the national capital. "In closed spaces, a maximum of 50 percent of the hall capacity will be allowed, with a ceiling of 100 persons. In open spaces, numbers will be allowed keeping the size of the ground/ space in view with a ceiling of 200 persons subject to strict observance of wearing of face masks, maintaining social distancing, provision for thermal scanning and use of hand wash or sanitizer," the DDMA order added.

Assembly Elections 2021 Live Updates: TMC complains to EC over PM Modi's visit to Bangladesh, says it violated poll code

Assembly Elections 2021 Live Updates: The TMC has written to the Election Commission alleging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Bangladesh violated the model code of conduct in place for the West Bengal Assembly polls and some of his programmes there "intended to influence the voting pattern" in the state. Addressing an election rally in Tamil Nadu's Dharapuram, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said the NDA has development as their agenda while Congress and DMK have dynasty agenda. "On one hand, NDA has our development agenda, on the other hand, Congress and DMK have their own dynasty agenda," he said. Meanwhile, at an election rally in Sona Chura, Nandigram, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee hit out at the BJP by saying, "Bury BJP and bowl them out from Nandigram." Banerjee said she chose to contest the upcoming elections in the state from Nandigram to pay her respect to the mothers and sisters of the place. "I could have contested from any other constituency but I have chosen Nandigram to pay my respect to the mothers & sisters of this place. To salute the Nandigram movement, I chose Nandigram over Singur," she said. The TMC leader said Nandigram was her place and she will not leave it. "Remember, if I have entered Nandigram once, I will not leave. Nandigram is my place, I will stay here," she added. Earlier at an election rally in Kerala, PM Modi attacked the LDF over the gold smuggling scam and said it betrayed Kerala for a few pieces of gold. "Judas betrayed Lord Christ for a few pieces of silver. LDF has betrayed Kerala for a few pieces of gold," he said. Modi alleged people are now seeing how the LDF and UDF misled them. "For many years, the worst kept secret of Kerala politics was the friendly agreement of UDF and LDF. Now, the first time voter of Kerala is asking — what is this match fixing? People are seeing how UDF & LDF misled them."



AUTHORITIES REJECTS MEHBOOBA MUFTI'S PASSPORT RENEWAL, EX-J&K CM LAMBASTS GOVT



The Jammu and Kashmir Police has opposed giving passport to former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti. This has been made official by a letter sent to her by the passport office in Srinagar. The letter says, "whereas the passport verification report received from the Additional Director General of the Police, J&K CID do not favour issuance of passport and has returned as 'Not recommended passport case'." The rejection of her passport saw sharp reach from Mehbooba Mufti as well as from former CM Omar Abdullah. Mehbooba posting the commutation letter from passport office to her Twitter handle wrote "Passport Office refused to issue my passport based on CID's report citing it as 'detrimental to the security of India. This is the level of normalcy achieved in Kashmir since Aug 2019 that an ex Chief Minister holding a passport is a threat to the sovereignty of a mighty nation.'" While Omar tweeted, "What a shame J&K police is going along with this farce. How is it that Mehbooba Mufti was not a threat to the nation when her party was allied with the BJP? As Chief Minister she was in charge of the Home Department & head of the Unified Command, now suddenly she's a threat!" However, the letter of commutation of rejection of passport to Mehbooba Mufti also reads that she can approach the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

BHARAT BIOTECH, BIOVET, SAPIGEN BIOLOGIX SIGN COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AGREEMENT WITH CSIR-IICT



Hyderabad: Bharat Biotech International, Biovet, and Sapigen Biologix have signed a joint Master Collaborative Agreement (MCA) with CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT) today to collaborate on the development of novel platform technologies for Bio Therapeutics and vaccines to support the indigenous, affordable health care solutions for humans and animals. The collaborators will identify mutually interesting projects to pursue under the agreement. As a part of this MCA, the industry collaborators shall provide necessary financial support to CSIR-IICT for developing key raw materials, and also perform in-vitro and in vivo studies for further development of potential vaccine candidates and bio-therapeutics formulations to be designed by them. The broad-based MCA enables the partners to take up futuristic development activities in other related areas as well. The MCA follows the contribution by CSIR-IICT during February 2021 in developing a synthetic process route for adjuvant molecule TLR 7/8 to BBIL for Covaxin, an indigenous vaccine rolled out by BBIL. The MCA was signed in presence of Dr Shekhar C Mande, DG CSIR, Dr. Krishna M. Ella, CMD, Bharat Biotech, Dr. Krishna Mohan, Executive Director, Bharat Biotech, Dr. Jalachari Ella, Director, Biovet and Dr. Raches Ella, Director, Sapigen Biologix and Dr. S Chandrasekhar for CSIR-IICT. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Shekhar C Mande, DG, CSIR, said that he is delighted about the collaboration as "it would help realise India's Aatmanirbhar vision and contribute to disruptive technologies in the healthcare arena.

POLICE FROM BJP-RULED STATES TERRORISING VOTERS IN NANDIGRAM: MAMATA BANERJEE

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday alleged police forces from BJP-ruled states have been brought in to "terrorise" voters in Nandigram assembly seat where she is locked in a keen contest with confidante-turned-adversary Suwendu Adhikari of the saffron party. Before leading a colourful roadshow from Bhangabera, Banerjee told a public meeting in Sonachura that police personnel from Madhya Pradesh have been deployed to "terrorise" voters in villages and tilt the balance in favour of the BJP. She, however, said she was confident of a massive win from the seat and also about leading her party to a third straight term in power. In a veiled threat to Adhikari, she said, "They (police forces from outside) will be here only for a few days. Make no mistake, we will be back and give the betrayers a befitting reply." She said the Election Commission is being apprised of the alleged acts of impropriety by police personnel from outside. Banerjee urged the people to be alert against "any bid to incite communal riots" in Nandigram ahead of the polling on April 1. "They (the BJP) have plans to kill their own people and pass it off as our handiwork to engineer riots. We have the information. Be on guard," she said without naming the saffron party. "Nandigram stood united in the battle against forcible land acquisition in which people from all communities participated. Be on guard against any bid to fuel tension by keeping any object in places of worship. We are all united. Defeat the riot mongers," she said.

FINALLY WE WILL KNOW WHAT CAUSED THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC? WHO REPORT TO RELEASE TODAY



THE WHO TEAM OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS VISITED WUHAN LAST MONTH, THE CHINESE CITY WHERE COVID-19 WAS FIRST DETECTED.

The combined study of the COVID-19 origin by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Chinese scientists has concluded that the most likely way of transmission of the coronavirus has been from bats to humans and that a lab leak is extremely unlikely. The WHO team of international experts visited Wuhan last month, the Chinese city where COVID-19 was first detected. Based on this visit and its study there the WHO team made the report. In the draft study, researchers listed four scenarios in order of likelihood for the emergence of the coronavirus named SARS-CoV-2. Topping the list was a transmission from bats through another animal, which they said was most likely. The team in its report also stated that the spread through cold-chain food products as possible but not likely. Bats are known to carry coronaviruses and, in fact, the closest relative of the virus that causes COVID-19 has been found in bats. However, the report says that the evolutionary distance between these bat viruses and SARS-CoV-2 is estimated to be several decades, suggesting a missing link. It said highly similar viruses have been found in pangolins, which are another kind of mammal, but also noted that mink and cats are susceptible to the COVID-19 virus, suggesting they could be carriers, too. On the other hand, the draft report is inconclusive on whether the outbreak started at a Wuhan seafood market that had one of the earliest clusters of cases in December 2019. The report, which is expected to be made public Tuesday, is being

closely watched since discovering the origins of the virus could help scientists prevent future pandemics. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus acknowledged that he had received the report over the weekend and said it would be formally presented Tuesday.

PAKISTAN PRESIDENT DR ARIF ALVI TESTS COVID-19 POSITIVE AFTER TAKING CHINESE VACCINE

Days after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, President Dr Arif Alvi Monday informed that he also tested positive for the coronavirus. This comes as the President and his wife Samina Alvi received the Chinese vaccine Sinopharm earlier this month, according to news agency Xinhua. Alvi's news of testing COVID-19 positive comes almost 10 days after Prime Minister Imran Khan tested positive for the virus. He had also taken the Chinese vaccine. "I have tested positive for Covid-19. May Allah have mercy on all Covid affectees. Had 1st dose of vaccine, but antibodies start developing after 2nd dose that was due in a week. Please continue to be careful," Alvi wrote in a tweet. On March 20, Prime Minister Imran Khan had also tested positive for COVID-19 after which he had self-isolated himself. The premier had also been inoculated on March 18 -- two days before he tested positive for the virus.

US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN INVITES 40 LEADERS INCLUDING PM MODI, PUTIN, XI JINPING TO CLIMATE SUMMIT

US President Joe Biden has invited 40 world leaders for a summit on the climate crisis hosted by his administration next month. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Chinese President Xi Jinping are on the guest list. The online summit, which is scheduled for April 22 and 23, is intended to underscore the urgency with which the world must act and highlight the economic benefits of going green, the White House said on Friday. European leaders including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson were invited. Besides, Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan were also on the list. The event is to be streamed live on the internet for public viewing. The US will announce an "ambitious" new 2030 emissions target for the country by the time the summit gets underway, the White House said, part of Washington's new push to meet the goals of the Paris climate agreement. Biden urged other leaders to use the summit as a forum in which to outline their own new, more forceful contributions. The next UN climate conference is in Glasgow, Scotland, in November.

PM invites 50 entrepreneurs to invest in India, hands over Gandhi Peace Prize

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today addressed the National Day event held at National Parade Ground in Dhaka. Modi is on a two-day visit to Bangladesh, his first foreign diplomatic visit since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out last year. Over the next two days, the Prime Minister is set to hold talks with his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina, and will also participate in the 50th-anniversary celebrations of the nation, and the birth centenary celebrations of Sheikh Mujib ur Rahman on his 100th birthday. In his address in Dhaka, the PM said that both India and Bangladesh should remain united and vigilant to counter-terrorism in the region. "We must remember that we have similar opportunities in the fields of trade and commerce, but at the same time, we've similar threats like terrorism. The ideas and powers behind such types of inhumane acts are still active. We must remain vigilant and united to counter them," Modi said. Modi said that both nations have the power of democracy. "India and Bangladesh should move ahead together to progress. In the times of Corona too, we cooperated with each other," Modi said. Narendra Modi said that he got an opportunity to go to jail for the independence of Bangladesh. "I would like to remind our brothers and sisters of Bangladesh with pride that the struggle for independence of Bangladesh was one of the first movements that I participated in."

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