

THOSE WHO OPPOSED RAM TEMPLE, SURGICAL STRIKE, YOGA DAY, ARE NOW AGAINST AGRICULTURE REFORMS: PM MODI 1P3



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APOLOGISES FOR
'UNSAVOURY' KILLING
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DEEPIKA PADUKONE SHED TEARS THRICE DURING NCB 'WHATSAPP GROUP CHAT' PROBE: REPORT | P16





Tuesday, September 29, 2020

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NEWS WEEKLY

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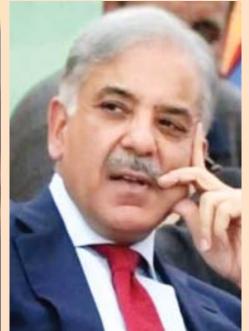
SHARIF FAMILIES CLASH WITH PAKISTANI ESTABLISHMENT



SHEHBAZ ARRESTED BECAUSE HE **STOOD BY NAWAZ, SAYS MARYAM NAWAZ**



STRUGGLE NOT AGAINST IMRAN KHAN **BUT THOSE WHO BROUGHT HIM INTO POWER: NAWAZ SHARIF**



NAB-NIAZI NEXUS HAS FAILED: SHAHBAZ SHARIF

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Y MEDIA EXCLUSIVE

IS OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM READY FOR THE SECOND WAVE?

DR. NAVEED MOHAMMAD (PRESIDENT AND CEO - WILLIAM OSLER HEALTH SYSTEM) ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS ON COVID 19

BY - SIDDHARTHA SHARMA

With the rise in Covid-19 cases daily in Ontario to numbers that were not even seen during the start of the pandemic, the concerns among healthcare workers and communities are growing. Y Media's Group Editor and CEO, Yudhvir Jaswal brings you an exclusive interview with Dr. Naveed Mohammad President and CEO of William Osler Health System on the rise of Covid-19 cases in Ontario. In this interview Dr. Naveed Mohammad talks about rise in cases, FAQ's and action plan to counter Covid-19 in the upcoming flu season. Read on.

Yudhvir Jaswal: The Prime Minister and Premier Ford has already said that we are already in the second wave of Covid-19, what does this actually mean to the residents of Ontario? Dr. Naveed Mohammad: Second Wave of Covid-19 is just like how it was with SAARS. The first time when these viruses pop up, there is a rise in the number of cases, and people take all the precautions necessary so that a virus does not affect them. However, over time people become a bit relaxed on taking precautionary measures, which is trait in human nature, and that is where the number of cases rise again. Especially in Canada, during fall and winter, cough and cold are quite common. Since the flu season is just around the corner it will be very difficult to ascertain who is suffering from Covid and who has only flu. Numbers are definitely on the rise, and it seems like the second wave is already here. We

are preparing and in our hospitals we are ready since we do have resources in place, we have beds and ventilators as well, however outside the hospitals we do need more measures to stop the spread of covid-19 in communities. Yudhvir Jaswal: How do you plan to deal with the challenges faced by the medical workers in the hospital during the second wave?

Dr. Naveed Mohammad: The main challenge for hospital workers during the second wave is that their children are now attending schools and also their partners are getting back to their work places, so we are scared that if any of their family members catch Covid-19, our health workers will also have to undergo quarantine. This might result

in shortage of staff members in hospitals. The second concer n is that since the flu season is about to start, if our medial staff catches flu, we would have to give them at least a couple of days off, which will further increase the pressure on hospitals to tackle the second wave of Covid-19.

Despite all these concerns we are hiring more and more health care workers and nurses. Recently we have hired 60 new screeners and we aim to hire 300-500 more nurses in coming months. We are providing PPE's and protective gears to all our staff. Also, when the staff comes on their shift, they are pre-screened and made to fill an online form via an app before they can enter hospital premise. So, we are a bit concerned but also taking all the necessary precautions for our health workers to also stay safe during this pandemic.

I CONTD. ON PAGE 6

15 MINUTES COVID 19 RAPID TESTS APPROVED BY HEALTH CANADA, "FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SIGNED DEAL FOR 7.9 TEST KITS

The Government of Canada is protecting the health and safety of all Canadians, while moving quickly to have access to a safe and sustainable economic recovery. This includes taking steps so Canadians can quickly and easily access COVID-19 testing. "The Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, and the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, today announced

that the Government of Canada has signed an agreement with Abbott Rapid Diagnostics ULC to purchase up to 7.9 million ID NOW rapid point-of-care tests, pending Health Canada authorization of the tests.""If authorized, these tests would be deployed to provinces and territories to support them in ramping up surge capacity for COVID-19 testing."

I CONTD. ON PAGE 5

SAD LEADER MANJINDER SINGH SIRSA **ALLEGES DEATH THREAT FROM PAKISTAN** AMID ONGOING BOLLYWOOD DRUG PROBE

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Monday alleged that he received a death threat from Pakistan asking him to withdraw the complaint against Bollywood amid the ongoing probe in a drug-related case. Taking to micro-blogging site Twitter, he said, "I got a call from Pakistan in which the caller threatened me to withdraw the complaint against Bollywood or I might have to face serious consequences if I don't do as they

desire." He alleged that he received the call from one Mohammad Wasim, who told him to withdraw the complaint filed against Bollywood filmmaker Karan Johar as 'Bhai' has asked him to. Sirsa further said that the caller asked him to take back his complaint and on further asking about 'bhai's' identity, the caller said, "you and your family will know when we shoot you".

SONU SOOD RECEIVES SPECIAL HUMANITARIAN ACTION AWARD

Actor Sonu Sood, who has been hailed as a hero on social media for his efforts to send thousands of stranded migrants to their home villages during and after the lockdown, has been honoured with the prestigious SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award by the Department of Planning of the Government of Punjab. The actor has received the award at a virtual ceremony on Monday for selflessly helping stranded migrants during the coronavirus crisis by

arranging food, buses, trains and chartered flights for them and providing them job opportunities for better livelihood. The 47-yearold actor also offered his hotel in Mumbai for medical professionals to stay in and arranged safe shelters for several people in Mumbai before cyclone Nisarga hit Maharashtra coast in July.

KHALSA AID FOUNDER RAVI SINGH TESTS **POSITIVE FOR COVID-19**

Ravi Singh, the founder of the international non-profit relief organisation Khalsa Aid, has tested positive for the novel coronavirus, he said on Tuesday.Ravi Singh took to the microblogging site Twitter to post the news. He said in a tweet: "Dear All. I have been very sick with ex-

tremely high temperatures since last Wednesday. I have never felt so broken! My #COVID19 test has come back positive (sic)."He further added that "he is on medication and is resting most of the time." "I have been drugged up & sleeping most of the time. Some members of my fam have tested positive too. Feeling horrible," he said.



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CANADIAN SIKH COMMUNITY RAISES FUNDS FOR LATE HOUSTON DEPUTY SANDEEP DHALIWAL'S FAMILY



SEEN IN THE PICTURE PEEL POLICE CHIEF NISHAN DURAIAPPAH ALONG WITH PEEL POLICE OFFICERS AND INDERJIT SINGH BAL ALONG WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE INDO-CANADIAN SIKH COMMUNITY.



Worldwide death toll from coronavirus eclipses 1 million



RELATIVES MOURN THE DEATH OF A MAN DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19), AT A CREMATORIUM IN NEW DELHI, INDIA.

CHINA RAKES UP FRESH CONTROVERSY, SAYS IT DOES NOT RECOGNISE "ILLEGAL" UT LADAKH

Amid heightened tensions between India and China along the LAC, a provocative remark was made by the Chinese about the Indian Union Territory of Ladakh on Tuesday.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin while speaking to the Global Times, a mouthpiece of the administration in Beijing, stated that China doesn't recognize the Union Territory of Ladakh "illegally established by India".

Wenbin also said that China was opposed to any infrastructural development in "disputed border areas" for military purposes.

In view of India fast-tracking construction of roads along the border, Wenbin said, "China does not recognize the so-called Union Territory of Ladakh illegally established by India, and opposes infrastructure construction in disputed border areas for military control purposes." The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson further added: "According to the recent consensus reached between China and India, neither side should take any actions in border areas that would complicate the situation, so as not to affect the efforts of both sides to ease the situation." Earlier, the IAF chief RKS Bhadauria said at the moment "no war, no peace" status was holding along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) despite concerted efforts to end the ongoing standoff at several friction

points in eastern Ladakh. The Air Chief Marshal, however, added that the armed forces are prepared for any eventuality and that the Air Force particularly is resolved to counter "any misadventure". "Airpower will be a crucial enabler in our victory in any future conflict". The Air Chief also made it clear that the induction of the Rafale fighter jets along with Chinook, Apaches and other aircraft fleet has bolstered the tactical capabilities of the Indian Air Force.

"Present security scenario along our northern frontiers is at an uneasy — no war, no peace status... The recent induction of Rafales along with other aircraft has provided the IAF with substantial practical and strategic capability enhancement," Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria said.

Meanwhile, the Indian Army is preparing itself for a long standoff with the PLA in Ladakh this winter. The Army has rushed tanks, heavy weaponry, ammunition, fuel, food and essential winter supplies to high-altitude areas in the eastern part of the region.

According to military sources, the aim is to prepare the force and ensure its combat readiness through the treacherous winter which lasts for some months in Ladakh. The operation is being considered as one of the biggest military logistics in decades.

SHARIF FAMILIES CLASH WITH PAKISTANI ESTABLISHM

NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD (IANS): Widespread anger is simmering among civilians in Pakistan against the top military leadership ever gether on a common agenda. But, the campaign for democracy since former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif took on the Bajwa-Khan was scuttled with Benazir Bhutto's assassination, for which the partnership. "In a significant multi-party virtual conference held in military ruler at the time, Pervez Musharraf has been held Islamabad last Sunday, PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif speaking from London, hit out at the Pakistan Army, accusing it of installing Imran Khan's incompetent government, wrecking Pakistan's economy and foreign relations, censoring media and indulging in massive corruption. "He said it is very important that Pakistan's armed forces stay away from the governmental system according to the country's Constitution and the founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah's vision, and not interfere with the people's choice. "We have made this country a joke in our own eyes and internationally as well," Sharif said. The former prime minister, who was deposed in 2017 and jailed in a corruption case in Pakistan, has been in the UK for medical treatment since November last year.""The conference was attended by Pakistan's main opposition parties including Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl) headed by Maulana Fazlur Rehman. A religious hardliner, Rehman held the opposition parties responsible for allowing the Khan government to survive and urged them to "take concrete decisions". ""Sharif agreed with Maulana Fazlur Rehman, describing the Army as being a "state above the state", a "parallel government", an "illness", and "the root-cause of our problems". His speech immediately stirred a nation-wide debate on the Army, which remains as powerful in the supposedly democratic Pakistan, as it was when it ruled the country.""The common man in Pakistan is today aware that Prime Minister Imran Khan is nothing but a civilian representative of the Pakistan Army, which actually runs the country. It is called hybrid martial law over here," Shahid, an Islamabad resident, told IANS on phone.""Nawaz Sharif's supporters in Punjab province point out that he has been the most significant prime minister who democratised the country. During his second term as Prime Minister (1997-99), he attempted to undo the semi-presidential system in favour of a more parliamentary system through constitutional amendments. However, weeks later, parliament was suspended by a military coup and the semi-presidential system in the country imposed again under a legal order. "In 2006, setting aside their differences, Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto signed a 'Charter of Democracy', bringing the two main political parties of Pakistan – Pakistan People's Party

(PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) - toresponsible.""No Prime Minister has completed his or her term in Pakistan. It is almost a norm for Pakistan that ousted Prime Ministers or ministers will be charged or tried or penalised or sent into exile. "In his third term as the Prime Minister (2013-17), Sharif and the military remained at loggerheads with the latter outraged over his peace overtures to India. The Army was so furious that they ran a campaign to paint him as an Indian agent, working against the interests of Pakistan. "Sources said that the current Army chief Major General Qamar Javed Bajwa and the ISI chief Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed, were so troubled by Sharif's latest comeback into Pakistan's politics while in exile, that they leaked it to media that the key opposition party leaders had secretly met Bajwa and Faiz, before the all parties' conference. The objective was to imply that except for Nawaz Sharif, all the opposition parties in Pakistan are allies of the military. "Even as the Army denied its role in democratic politics of the country, but people in Pakistan can't help notice that "the Bajwa-Khan government" is failing, many Pakistani columnists have noted. ""Critics of the government believe that Imran Khan was chosen by the Army to head the government to avoid international pressure against the military rule and avoid domestic pressure over military's failures on social, economic and foreign policy including cross-border terror. ""Pakistan is almost bankrupt, our diaspora has refused to help in a big way and by allying with China, we have lost our strategic partnership with the US. And by allying with Turkey and Iran, our relations with Saudi Arabia has been ruined too," Aziz, an activist in Islamabad said. ""Pakistan's defence expert Ayesha Siddiqa recently wrote that Bajwa-Hameed duo "seem to have pushed the Army in the direction of an increasingly uncomfortable relationship with the society." "The Pakistan military, she wrote, "is gradually moving in a direction from where its oppression has become more visible. From gagging of the media and manipulation of the judiciary to disappearance of people increasing fear in the name of fighting a 5th generation warfare is likely to increase the military's vulnerability."

THOSE WHO OPPOSED RAM TEMPLE, SURGICAL STRIKE, YOGA DAY, ARE NOW AGAINST AGRICULTURE REFORMS: PM MODI

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi targeted the opposition parties opposing the Agriculture Bill. Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the eight sewer treatment plants (STPs) in Uttarakhand under the Namami Gange project. On this occasion, the PM said that the opposition is insulting the farmers. There will also be MSP and farmers will also have freedom, some people are not able to tolerate this. Another means of their black money earning has stopped. These people also opposed the opening of Jan Dhan accounts of the poor. Also opposed to GST. However, due to GST, there is either no tax on household goods or less than five percent. These people also have problems with GST. These people are neither with the country nor with the youth nor with the farmer

Major reforms have been made related to the farmers, workers, and health of the country. These reforms will empower the country's workers, empower the youth of the country, empower the women of the country, empower the farmers of the country. But today the country is seeing how some people are protesting just for the sake of protest. Today, even when the central government is giving the farmers their rights, these people came down on protest. These people want the farmers of the country could not sell their produce in the open market. These people are now humiliating the farmers by setting fire to the goods and equipment that the farmer worships.

In this period, the country has seen how the Digital India campaign, Jan Dhan bank accounts has helped people. When our government started this work, these people were opposing them. These people have always opposed the opening of the bank account of the poor of the country, they should also do digital transactions. For years these people kept saying that they would implement MSP but did not. Our government did the work of implementing the MSP as per the wish of the Swaminathan Commission. Today these people are also spreading confusion over MSP. There will also be MSP in the country and the farmer will also have the freedom to sell crops anywhere in the country.

SITHARAMAN SLAMS SONIA GANDHI'S ADVICE TO PARTY-RULED STATES ON FARM **BILLS, CITES CONGRESS MANIFESTO**

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday targeted Congress over party chief Sonia Gandhi's advice to party-rules states to bypass farm laws brought by Centre through legislative measures and said the opposition party in its 2019 Lok Sabha manifesto had

promised repeal of Agricultural Produce Market Committees Act. Sitharaman said in tweets that Congress had promised to make trade in agricultural produce--including exports and inter-state trade--free from all restrictions. She asked if Congress had made false promise during the Lok Sabha 2019 elections or is "provoking people now" by asking states to bypass the central legislation.

DRUG PROBE NOT CONNECTED TO RAJPUT'S DEATH: NCB OPPOSES RHEA CHAKRABORTY'S BAIL PLEA IN HC

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Tuesday opposed the bail applications filed by actor Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik in the

Bombay High Court following their arrest in a drug case linked to Sushant Singh Rajput's death. The anti-drug agency told the court on Tuesday that the investigation has nothing to do with Rajput's death and it's a case of 'drug syndication'. "All throughout arguments, applicants state that this is connected to Sushant Singh Rajput death case but this investigation has nothing to do with it," ASG Anil Singh, lawyer for NCB, told the court, as quoted by ANI. The court is hearing the bail pleas filed by Rhea and her brother.

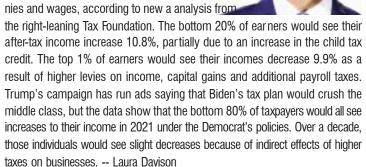


BORIS JOHNSON APOLOGISES FOR GETTING HIS OWN COVID-19 RULES WRONG

Boris Johnson apologised after wrongly explaining his own government's coronavirus restrictions, in a gaffe that will fuel growing criticism of his response to the pandemic. "Apologies, I misspoke today," the UK Prime Minister said on Twitter. It was the third time in three hours that government spokespeople had failed to be clear on the new rules that are being brought in at midnight Tuesday to combat the disease in northeast England.

JOE BIDEN'S TAX PLAN FORECAST TO RAISE \$3 TRILLION OVER 10 YEARS

Democratic nominee Joe Biden's tax plan would raise \$3 trillion over 10 years. Biden looks more likely than President Donald Trump to pick up spare electors. And Speaker Nancy Pelosi is making backup plans for a contested election. That's the amount that Biden's tax plan would raise over the next decade, although it would even out to only about \$2.65 trillion after accounting for economic effects from higher levies on compa-



MOVIE THEATRES, SWIMMING POOLS: WHAT'S NEW IN CENTRE'S GUIDELINES FOR RE-OPENING

As India nears the fifth stage of nationwide Unlock ends on September 30, the Centre on Wednesday announced new guidelines for re-opening where it gave relaxations on restarting of movie theatres, entertainment parks, schools and colleges among other things.

Ever since the country went into a complete lockdown late March this year as a precautionary measure against rising spread of coronavirus (Covid-19). the Centre has announced significant relaxations in phases.

With the fifth stage of Unlock set to begin from October 1, the Centre is likely to announce relaxations on number of activities such as cinema halls, swimming pools, etc. Though there has been a rise in Covid-19 cases India, the government had assured that there would be more relaxations.

In Unlock 4, the Centre allowed several activities to restart such as resumption of Metro services, which were for shut since March and partial reopening of schools and colleges from September 21.

CONGRESS SEEKS ASSAM CM SARBANANDA SONOWAĽS RESIGNATION OVER POLICE RECRUITMENT SCAM



Pointing fingers at the ruling BJP, the opposition Congress in Assam have demanded chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal's resignation over the job recruitment scam in the state's police department.

The Assam unit of the Congress staged a protest rally in Guwahati on Wednesday seeking the resignation of Sonowal over the police recruitment scam. Congress's state unit president Ripun Bora and MLA Rakibul Hussain and dozens of party workers were detained by the police.

The written exam to recruit T587 sub-inspectors (SI) was cancelled on September 20 after the question paper got leaked and was found circulating on Whatsapp. Nearly 64,000 applicants were scheduled to appear for the examination. At present, the crime branch and criminal investigation department (CID) are probing the leak and have arrested over a dozen suspects.











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Golfers tee up to raise more than \$220,000 for local health care at 24th Annual Etobicoke Invitational Golf Tournament



GOLFERS ENJOYED A SUNNY DAY ON THE LINKS AT THE 24TH ANNUAL OSLER OPEN: ETOBICOKE INVITATIONAL. PICTURED L-R: BOB PEACOCK, CHAIR, WILLIAM OSLER HEALTH SYSTEM FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS (ALMAG ALUMINUM); SANDY NIXON (LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP); NICK TETI; MANNY MANN (SEACLIFF CAPITAL & PRIVATE EQUITY).

ETOBICOKE – With new procedures and precautions in place to protect against COVID-19, things looked a little different at the 24th annual Osler Open: Etobicoke Invitational. What didn't change was the enthusiastic support of this highly-anticipated event, which raises funds for William Osler Health System's (Osler) Etobicoke General Hospital.

The 2020 tournament, hosted at The Country Club in Woodbridge, saw a total of 144 golfers tee off in a staggered start in support of Osler Foundation. Golfers were treated to a carry-out breakfast before enjoying a day on the links. The event raised \$220,288 to fund equipment and development needs at Etobicoke General Hospital.

"This is an unprecedented time, not only for our communities, our country and our world-but specifically for health care workers," says Ken Mayhew, President & CEO, William Osler Health System Foundation. "Osler's staff and physicians have been working day and night to keep our community healthy and safe, and events like this help purchase the equipment they need to provide critical care close to home, both during the pandemic and afterward. We're grateful and inspired to see the community's support for our frontline workers. It's needed now more than ever."

All equipment in a hospital must be funded by the community. To help meet the community's ongoing health care needs, Osler Foundation set out to raise \$5 million to help purchase essential equipment. To help mobilize the community behind this new fundraising goal. Armour Insurance Brokers Ltd. is generously matching new donations—dollar for dollar—up to \$500,000.

"The community Osler serves has been hit hard by the pandemic, putting increased demand on an already strained health care system," said Dr. Naveed Mohammad, President & CEO, William Osler Health System. "Vital life-saving equipment is needed to help our hospitals keep up with the demand. This includes items like ventilators, vital signs monitors, stretchers and personal protective equipment. We're incredibly grateful for the golfers and sponsors for their support of our health care heroes."

The Osler Open: Etobicoke Invitational Golf Tournament was made possible with generous support from Downsview Kitchens and DG Group.

To support the cause or to see photos from the Osler Open: Etobicoke Invitational, visit www.oslerfoundation.org. To learn more about Etobicoke General Hospital, visit www.williamoslerhs.ca.

The establishments are:

MARBL, 455 King St. W.

Casa Mezcal, 291 King St. W.

These closure orders were undertaken based on Toronto Public Health (TPH) investigations, including contact tracing data, which has shown that each establishment has not taken the necessary steps to sufficiently protect both the public and employees from the spread of COVID-19. TPH found a concerning link involving these locations where many people are connected to more than one of the businesses noted. In some cases, for example, people infected with COVID-19 were employed at more than

existing provincial regulations to limit the spread of COVID-19. Another business has been uncooperative with investigators, significantly impeding investigation efforts. Staff have also been found to be working while ill or pressured to work while ill. When the Medical Officer of Health is satisfied that each estab-

lishment has complied with her order, the order will be lifted. City enforcement teams of Toronto Police, bylaw officers and TPH officers will ensure compliance with these orders in the interim.

vice - that's how we got through the first wave and it is how we will get through this second wave. The City and Toronto Public Health are committed to doing everything we can to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Today's action is a real-time response aimed at specific businesses identified by our enforcement officials. I hope this enforcement will ensure we are protecting employees and customers.

TRILLIUM HEALTH PARTNERS RELEASES PLAN TO MANAGE SECOND WAVE

HOSPITAL HARD HIT BY COVID-19 TO FOCUS ON INCREASING CAPACITY, REDUCING VIRUS TRANSMISSION AND SUPPORTING WORKFORCE

Mississauga—As the Region of Peel sees an increase in the number of COVID-19 positive cases, Trillium Health Partners (THP) has released its plan to address a second wave of the virus. One of the hospitals most impacted by COVID-19 in Ontario, THP is one of three hospitals that has had COVID-19 patients in hospital each and every day since the beginning of the pandemic in March, "We have been working everyday fighting COVID-19 on the front lines to ensure that patients and staff are safe at THP and that those who require our services are able to receive the high quality care they need," said Michelle DiEmanuele, President and CEO, THP. "We have also been getting ready for this fall by building on the strong foundation of actions taken during wave one." Over the past few months, THP has taken a number of key actions that include:

Testing and Assessment Centres - THP has gone from performing on average 450 COVID-19 tests per day at our assessment centres in May, to performing on average 1,200 tests per day in September. The hospital is also working with community health care partners to increase testing capacity in Mississauga even further.

- Access to Safe Hospital Care o With support from the provincial government, THP has created new capacity to be able to care for a surge in patients if needed including building a Pandemic Response Unit, which will be winterized; as well as additional beds at the Queensway Health Centre and
- Mississauga Hospital. o The hospital has resumed planned surgical procedures.
- o THP has hardwired infection prevention and control measures, such as screening people at hospital entrances; and wearing masks throughout the hospital, to name a few.
- o New IT applications have been built to assist with contact tracing and screening.

Transitions to the Community - THP continues to provide virtual care to long-term care (LTC) partners to ensure appropriate access to specialist services that prevent hospital admissions.

Safe and Supported Workforce - THP has invested in the best infection prevention and control practices, advice, guidance and training to support frontline workers. The hospital has also continued to hire and train new staff to ensure it has the appropriate workforce ready when needed.

15 MINUTES COVID 19 RAPID TESTS APPROVED



BY HEALTH CANADA, "FEDERAL GOVERNMENT **SIGNED DEAL FOR 7.9 TEST KITS**

CONTD. FROM PAGE 2

"Under the agreement with Abbott, the Government of Canada is also purchasing up to 3,800 analyzers, which are the devices that perform the test and deliver the rapid results.

"COVID-19 testing technologies are advancing as the pandemic continues. On behalf of the Public Health Agency of Canada, Public Services and Procurement Canada is actively exploring additional agreements to secure access to the most promising candidates. ""Quotes" "With testing technology rapidly evolving, the Government of Canada is moving quickly to ensure that Canadians have access to the most effective and efficient testing solutions possible. If authorized, these rapid tests will increase our capacity to detect and respond to new outbreaks, keeping Canadians healthy and safe." "The Honourable Anita Anand "Minister of Public Services and Procurement """As cases of COVID-19 are rising, following public health measures is important to flatten the curve. Detecting cases of COVID-19 quickly is also critical to slow the spread of the virus and today's announcement will help increase Canada's capacity, should the tests be authorized by Health Canada.""The Honourable Patty Hajdu"Minister of Health""Quick facts"Public Services and Procurement Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Health Canada and Innovation. Science and Economic Development Canada are working together to purchase and deploy COVID-19 rapid tests. ""The Abbott ID NOW system is a rapid molecular point-of-care test for COVID-19. The technology can detect the virus directly from a nasal swab, returning results between 5 and 13 minutes. "The testing system is small and lightweight and can easily be transported to remote locations and operated with minimal training. ""The chemicals, or reagents, used to conduct these tests do not require special storage temperatures.

Three restaurants and bars ordered closed by Toronto's Medical Officer of Health

Last night, Toronto's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Eileen de Villa, issued orders to three restaurant and bar establishments in the City of Toronto to close under Section 22 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act. A fourth establishment is in the process of being served.

King Taps, 100 King St. W.

one of these locations. One business has served food buffet style, which is prohibited under

"Throughout this pandemic, we have followed public health ad-





Y MEDIA EXCLUSIVE

IS OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM READY FOR THE SECOND WAVE?

Dr. Naveed Mohammad (President and CEO - William Osler Health System) answers your questions on COVID 19

CONTD. FROM PAGE 2

Yudhvir Jaswal: The Mayor of Brampton always praises you and William Osler staff on your fight against Covid-19, however he always says that we see delayed testing in Brampton, your comments?

Dr. Naveed Mohammad: I am constantly in touch with the Mayor and we have discussed this on several occasions that we should do Covid-19 testing at our own hospital, since we do have the capability to give results in 12-24 hours. However, about two weeks ago I spoke to Premiere Ford, and he has approved this recommendation by us for faster testing. We have already bought the rapid testing machines and now calibrating them so that we get 100% correct results on them. It's important for us since we have done the maximum tests in the province and currently also we are doing between 1500-2000 every day.

Yudhvir Jaswal: Among the existing hotspots, why do we see a spike in Covid-19 cases in Peel region and Toronto?

Dr. Naveed Mohammad: We have accessed the numbers and found that most of the cases in Peel and Toronto are happening because of three reasons and not because of the borders being open. One of the reason is household spread, which basically means that a single person in a house gets infected by Covid-19, and then everyone living in home gets effected. Second is the work place spread, work places opening up have put the public at risk and even if one person is infected, it puts the coworkers also at the risk of getting Covid-19. The third biggest reason is of social gathering. The bars, night clubs, restaurants and casinos that saw relaxation of restriction did help in spreading the outbreak. Also, people having parties at their homes, weddings and social gatherings at their homes also resulted in the

increase of cases. The spread of Covid-19 due to travel or schools reopening is still under control.

Yudhvir Jaswal: There is still a lot of confusion between CDC and WHO on the capabilities of Covid-19 being an airborne hazard. Could you help us understand, whether it actually can spread through an aerial route?

Dr. Naveed Mohammad: Only in a few special cases Covid-19 can spread through air Bourne transfers. In hospitals, there are air Bourne procedures like setting up a ventilator or conducting endoscopy that can lead to a transfer of this virus. However, if you look at communities, there are instances in the world where people gather around and sing songs in groups or in religious places where prayers are sung aloud, the air borne droplets can travel good distances. If you are keeping social distancing and talking at a normal pace, there are almost zero findings that Covid-19 can be air borne.

Yudhvir Jaswal: Are their ways to distinguish between the symptoms of flu and Covid-19 or is getting the test is the only way of finding what one might have?

Dr. Naveed Mohammad: The biggest problem is, that there is no difference between the symptoms of flu and Covid-19. So, we have been constantly urging everyone to get tests done if they get any symptoms that are flu like. Also, it is advisable that irrespective of cause, if you do have symptoms do isolate yourself for 14- days or get your test done as fast as you can to know the cause. Since, nobody wants to ideally isolate for 14-days, many are opting for the tests right now.

Yudhvir Jaswal: How much time does it take to get the test done and get the results at William Osler?

Dr. Naveed Mohammad: Usually the test and waiting time for the test and results at William Osler was taking about 24-36 hours. However, in the past one week, due to the rise in the number of cases in the province the time of getting the results after the test have increased to 72-96 hours. I am hoping that as soon as we'll start our local testing the average time taken will be guicker that what's seen before.

Yudhvir Jaswal: A lot of people are concerned about schools reopening amidst the second wave of Covid-19, your comments?

Dr. Naveed Mohammad: Ideally we should try to get back to normal life where it is possible, as this virus is not like SAARS virus. This virus is here to stay with us for another couple of years, and we cannot let the future of children suffer because of that. There is not a big spread in cases in schools as of now since we have kept a low threshold in schools. What it means is that even if we get two cases of Covid-19 in a school, we'll declare it as an outbreak and that school or that class will be closed for a certain number of days. Right now there are just 2 or 3 schools where we got 2 or more cases. We just need to take precautions and try to get back to a

normal life.

Yudhvir Jaswal: Canadians are expected to get a vaccine for Covid-19 by first of second quarter of 2021. If we all get a vaccination will Covid-19 as a pandemic cease to exist? Dr. Naveed Mohammad: I am assuming that the vaccine won't be able to come in the time period. We still need to test the vaccine and see what the results are. A simple example is that of the flu vaccine, in some years the flu vaccine was only 25% effective, in a few it was 50-60% effective, so vaccine will definitely help in reducing the number of cases and controlling the spread to some degree, however I would personally still like to see what will be the complications of the vaccine and the effective rate of it. There are a lot of people who also don't believe in vaccinations, as they are scared of of its sideeffects and complications. So we need to be patient with our predictions.

Yudhvir Jaswal: Will you encourage people to get flu vaccinations done before we enter the winter season?

Dr. Naveed Mohammad: People think that if we get vaccinated for flu, we won't catch a cough of a cold. However, the flu vaccine is available for two to three types of influenza viruses. We do advice people who are old or have pre-existing medical conditions to get

the flu vaccine done, because if they catch the influenza, they can get a lot of complications. This, does not mean that regular people should not get vaccinated for influenza. It will protect you against influenza. For those who think that it will eliminate your chances of getting regular cough and cold, that is not the case.

Yudhvir Jaswal: Since we don't have a vaccine as of now, there are a lot of healthcare products in the market that are advertised as immunity boosters and protective shield for cough and cold, ado they really help? Dr. Naveed Mohammad: I tell everyone that if you want to boost your immunity you have to adopt a health conscious lifestyle. If you smoke or drink you should quit or at-least try to reduce the intake as much as you can. Make sure you exercise and sleep for at least 6-7 hours. All these online remedies that are being sold can just help you psychologically. Just make sure you exercise regularly, eat healthy food and quit your vice.

Yudhvir Jaswal: Any new developments that you see happening the in the future from the Mayor or the Premier's office to help you overcome the covid-19 pandemic in the province?

Dr. Naveed Mohammad: We have been discussing this and have acknowledged the low funding to us as compared to other regions of the province to fight with this pandemic. It now by design, however it's just that our population has expanded more than funds that we had considered for healthcare in our region. We have proposed expansions of healthcare facilities to the Province and they are working on fast tracking a solution for it. What we need is more beds and more funds so that we can make more access for community members. Behind the scenes we are doing everything that we can, even the Ministry of Health is with us in this fight and is very supportive. If we didn't have Covid-19 to deal with we would have already had all our new proposals approved by now. I don't push the Province much since they are dealing with Covid-19 on a larger scale, however I am positive that in the next 6-8 months well see a few positive announcements by the Province for Brampton.

MidWeek

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CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Newspaper

MIDWEEK NEWS WEEKLY Published in English every Tuesday

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MONTREAL'S LUXURY HOUSE PRICES POST DOUBLE DIGIT GAINS OUTPACING TORONTO AND VANCOUVER SINCE ONSET OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- City of Montreal posts highest luxury house price appreciation across Canada rising 15.9% year-over-year
- Vancouver luxury condominiums buck national trend posting double digit price growth
- Soft luxury condo demand creates buying opportunities in the GTA
- A balanced luxury property market emerges in Ottawa's hot real estate sector

TORONTO- According to Royal LePage research, the median price of a luxury house and condominium has risen in many but not all regions since the pandemic disrupted the Canadian real estate market in mid-March.[1] The lower price threshold defining a luxury home varies greatly by region, from \$1,000,000 for a Montreal condominium, to \$3,500,000 for a detached house in Greater Vancouver.[2]

Nationally, an entry-level luxury house and condominium is defined as \$2,000,000 and \$1,000,000, respectively. Overall in Canada, the national median price of a luxury house increased 1.0 per cent year-over-year to \$2,500,000, while the median price of a luxury condominium remained constant at \$1,250,000. Recent steep increases in overall Canadian home prices have pushed more properties over the national lower price threshold, increasing the overall quantity of Canadian homes defined as luxury properties. In four of Canada's largest major urban centres, luxury detached houses showed healthy price appreciation since mid-March compared to the same period in 2019. The median price of a luxury condominium decreased modestly in both the Toronto and Montreal regions, while the median price of a condominium in the City of Vancouver posted double digit growth.

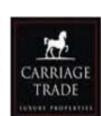
"In recent years, baby boomers and older millennials have been migrating to suburban communities and smaller cities, driven by retirements and growing families, respectively. The quest for affordable space has been supercharged by the pandemic, and no property class has benefited more than the large, detached home," stated Phil Soper, president and CEO of Royal LePage. "Demand far exceeds the supply of detached houses in Canada. Such is not the case in the luxury condominium space, where some owners have been discouraged by the restrictions on access to shared amenities, such as party rooms and pools, and higher density living in general. As a result, the condo segment is more balanced, with people seeking large condos roughly equal to those planning to escape elegant downtown tower living for the 'burbs." Price data, which includes both resale and new build, is provided by Royal LePage's sister company RPS Real Property Solutions, a leading Canadian real estate valuation company.

Greater Toronto Area

Since the onset of the pandemic, [3] the median price of a luxury house in the City of Toronto has risen 5.4 per cent year-over-year to \$3,187,500, while the median price of a luxury condominium dipped 1.6 per cent year-over-year to \$1,870,000. During the same period, the median price of a luxury house in the Greater Toronto Area increased 5.9 per cent year-over-year to \$3,177,500 and the median price of a luxury condominium decreased 3.6 per cent year-over-

"The Toronto luxury real estate market has been resilient in the face of the global pandemic. Demand has been driven by low inventory, low interest rates and a renewed focus on lifestyle to accommodate





for our new normal," said Cailey Heaps, managing director & sales representative, Royal LePage Real Estate Services, Heaps Estrin Team.

Heaps added that buyers seeking luxury property are focused on lifestyle when looking for their perfect home. With travel off the table for the near future and many working from home, features such as a home office, outdoor space, a pool and walkability are becoming increasingly important in their search criteria. Appropriately priced homes in the established Central Toronto neighbourhoods such as Rosedale, Leaside & Lawrence Park often sell in a matter of days. Multiple offer situations still occur but to a lesser degree than in the pre-COVID landscape, giving buyers an opportunity to purchase in a slightly less competitive market. "The luxury condominium market has faced some challenges over the recent months. The new rules with respect to short-term rentals, higher inventory and the increased risk that comes with communal spaces or common areas have meant that condos did not perform as well as the freehold market. However buyers will find more selection compared to the inventory of luxury houses,"

Heaps noted that while all luxury buyer demographics are still active, boomers are more quiet this year than previous years. However, often cautious boomers selling their luxury home have the opportunity to stay at their cottage or a secondary property as an additional option during the pandemic.

Looking towards the remainder of the year, Heaps noted that current demand is slowing, which is typical of fourth quarter activity.

Greater Montreal Area

Since the onset of the pandemic,[4] the median price of a luxury house in the City of Montreal rose 15.9 per cent year-over-year to \$1,975,000, while the median price of a luxury condominium decreased slightly by 1.5 per cent year-over-year to \$1,254,000. The double digit price increase in the city's luxury house segment was the largest gain of both property types across all regions surveyed. According to Marie-Yvonne Paint, real estate broker specializing in luxury listings with Royal LePage Heritage in Montreal, demand for larger properties and land in the region fueled luxury home prices since the resumption of real estate activity on May 11th. This sustained demand has put upward pressure on luxury home prices in the city. While properties in the upper end of the luxury segment are seeing softer demand, listings between \$1.5 and \$3 million sell quickly.

I CONTD. ON PAGE 8

MPP Natalia Kusendova Celebrates Franco-Ontarian Day in Mississauga

MISSISSAUGA CENTRE —MPP Natalia Kusendova had the chance to participate in several Francophone events in both recognition and commemoration of Franco-Ontarian Day in celebration of her Bill 182, the Franco-Ontarian Emblem Amendment Act, passing third reading and passing Royal Assent; thus, Bill 182 is now law.

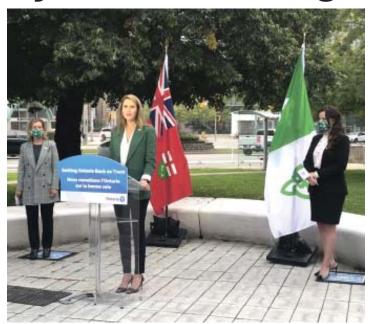
Franco-Ontarian Day, celebrated every year on September 25, commemorates the day that the Franco-Ontarian was ever flown in Ontario in 1975 at the University of Sudbury. The flag, created by history professor Gaétan Gervais and political science student Michel Dupuis, is composed of two bands — one green and one white — that symbolize the opposing poles of summer and winter the climate of Ontario. Within these contrasting bands are both a white lily the international symbol of French-speakers — and a green trillium, the provincial flower of Ontario. Together, this flag characterizes a cornerstone community of the Ontario cultural mosaic.

Firstly. MPP Kusendova joined her colleagues Hon. Caroline Mulroney and PA Gila Martow for an announcement on how the government delivers its commitment to making more services that are French by adding French Language Characters to driver's license cards and Ontario Photo Cards. Starting September 28, 2020, individuals with French names may visit a Service Ontario centre with supporting identification documents to request a free replacement driver's license or Ontario Photo Card displaying their name using French Language Characters.

MPP Kusendova joined LeCercle de l'amitié, the event organizers, for a socially distanced flag-raising ceremony at Mississauga City Hall. In attendance alongside MPP Kusendova was Minister Caroline Mulroney, Minister Stephen Lecce, Mayor Bonnie Crombie, Councillor Ron Starr, Jean-Luc Bernard of the Centre Francophone du Grand Toronto, Mrs. Sylvie A. Landry, the Chair of Conseil scolaire Viamonde, Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir, including Geneviève Grenier, Donald Blais and Director of Education André Blais. Here, the Franco-Ontarian flag flew proudly as attendees reflected on Francophone' societal, economic, and political contributions to the province of Ontario over their four-hundred and seven-year history. Speakers at the event included Minister Mulroney and MPP Kusendova, who reiterated their commitment as legislators to representing the needs and interests of Franco-Ontarians.

After this event, MPP Kusendova, alongside Minister Lecce, hosted a socially distanced roundtable discussion on Francophone education in the province. Attended by several members of the Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir, and Conseil scolaire Viamonde. They had participated in the morning flag raising, alongside Florence Ngenzebuhoro and Jean-Luc Bernard from the Centre Francophone du Grand Toronto. The discussions were constructive and robust, covering numerous topics pertinent to Francophone communities in Ontario regarding accessing public education and how things may come to be affected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This day of celebrating the la Francophonie was finished off with a second flag-raising ceremony, this one taking place at École Élémentaire Catholique René-Lamoureux in Mississauga. Accompanied by MPP Kaleed Rasheed, Annie Laflamme Principle of René-Lamoureux and several board members of the Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir. The





MPP's were able to socialize with some students and raise the Franco Ontarian flag.

"Ontario's Francophone community has been waiting for ID that displays French names using the proper French spelling and characters for too long," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "Adding French Language Characters to driver's licences and photo cards demonstrates our government's commitment to supporting Ontario's Francophonie."

"Franco-Ontarians played an important role in building our great province, and they are an integral part of Ontario's vibrant cultural mosaic," said Ontario's Minister of Education Stephen Lecce. "I thank my colleague, MPP Natalia Kusendova for her passionate leadership and for bringing French school board leaders together as we collaborate on the delivery of quality French lan-

guage education in all communities of our province." Road Users Can 'Take The Pledge' For Safety's Sake

Region of Peel - Road safety is everyone's responsibility. Peel Regional Police is committed to lowering the number of deaths and injuries on our roads. A balance of education and enforcement initiatives, while working with community members and road safety partners, can make a difference.

As the summer months fade away and we begin to see cooler temperatures, the sun rises later on in the morning and it begins to get darker earlier on at the end of the day. This impacts all road users, especially when it comes to visibility and being seen if you are walking, cycling or driving to your destination.

On Friday, September 25, 2020, Peel Regional Police have partnered again with Oxford Properties, Sheridan College, Mississauga Transit, City of Mississauga and Go Transit to educate all road users travelling in and around the Square One area, on how they can do their part to keep themselves and other road users safe.

Drivers can pledge to give their full attention while driving, slow down and to obey the rules of the road. Cyclists can pledge to adhere to the rules of the road including all traffic signs and signals and to clearly communicate their intentions by using hand signals. Pedestrians are among the most vulnerable of road users and are reminded that they play the biggest role in ensuring their own safety; they can pledge to be fully aware, at all times, of their own actions and the movement of vehicles in their vicinity. It is imperative that cyclists, pedestrians and motorists alike be extra vigilant around school zones, intersections, crosswalks and public transit stops.

Ontario Investing \$741 Million to Reduce Surgeries Backlog and Expand Access to Care

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$741 million to help clear the backlog of surgeries and build more capacity in the health care system to effectively manage surges and outbreaks in COVID-19 cases. This is part of the province's COVID-19 fall preparedness plan, Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19. The plan will help the province quickly identify, prevent and respond to any scenario in order to protect communities.

Details were provided today by Premier Doug Ford and Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health.

"The last thing patients and families should have to worry about right now is the cancellation of their surgery or procedure due to the second wave of COVID-19," said Premier Ford. "We are moving mountains to make sure all patients get the top-notch care they deserve, while clearing the backlog of surgeries. At the same time, we are preparing for any future surge or outbreak in order to keep everyone safe and healthy."

"Expanding access to care to help reduce health service backlogs is part of our plan to ensure that we are ready for future waves of COVID-19," said Minister Elliott. "This investment is essential to help more patients waiting for surgeries and other procedures get the care they need faster and help reduce the burden on our system. To ensure that the health system is prepared to respond to any surges of COVID-19 without interrupting routine health services, we are also increasing capacity inhome and community care and expanding digital and virtual health care services."

Accelerate Efforts to Reduce Health Service Backlogs

To support the health care system as it works to reduce surgical backlogs and improve access to care during the COVID-19 pandemic, Ontario has already taken the following actions:

Released A Measured Approach to Planning for Surgeries and Procedures During the COVID-19 Pandemic, a comprehensive framework to help hospitals assess their readiness and begin planning for the gradual resumption of scheduled surgeries and procedures, while maintaining their ability to respond to COVID-19 and the upcoming flu season; and Invested in virtual care providing alternatives to in-person care that limit the transmission of COVID-19, while maintaining access to care.

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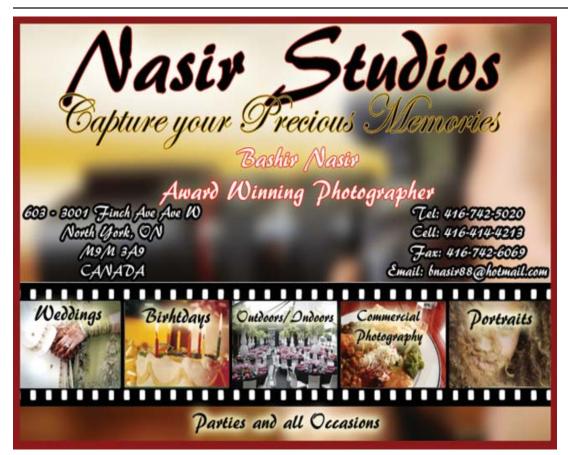
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MONTREAL'S LUXURY HOUSE PRICES POST DOUBLE DIGIT GAINS OUTPACING TORONTO AND VANCOUVER SINCE ONSET OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

CONTD. FROM PAGE 6

Paint stated that despite rising home prices, the current luxury market is healthy, with a better balance between buyers and sellers than a few years ago.

"Luxury condo buyers will find good selection in the Montreal core, which has seen less demand as a result of COVID-19," said Paint. "We continue to witness the exodus to the suburbs, new listings in the luxury condominium category are increasing as buyers favour larger outdoor spaces."

Paint said that the market saw the opposite trend about five years ago with buyers seeking the best of the city through downtown condo living. Paint believes this trend will naturally wind down and the market will become more balanced, offering more equal opportunities to buyers.

Paint added she remains very optimistic for the remainder of 2020, despite a further expected economic downturn.

"There is concern for job loss and our economy but this typically has limited impact on buyers purchasing luxury properties. A more important factor is continued low interest rates, which have the ability to fuel the market," said Paint. In the greater region, the lack of inventory in the detached market, coupled with pent up demand has pushed prices upward in the luxury segment, similar to the overall residential real estate market.

Since the onset of the pandemic, the median price of a luxury house in the Greater Montreal Area rose 4.6 per cent year-overyear to \$1,925,000, while the median price of a luxury condominium decreased 2.0 per cent year-over-year to \$1,254,000. According to Suzanne Havard Grisé, real estate broker with Royal LePage Privilège in Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville, on the South Shore of Montreal, areas such as Brossard, Longueuil, Boucherville, Candiac, Carignan and Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville have seen multiple offers scenarios for most of the spring and summer season.

"Being house-bound for months has definitely influenced homeowners' quest for an improved lifestyle and for many that starts with a larger home," said Havard Grisé. "There was considerable pent up demand, which included both those who had to put their purchasing plans on hold and those who decided during the pandemic that they needed more from their home. By May, the pace of activity quickly picked up without any signs of slowing down for the detached luxury segment." Havard Grisé stated that the region's condominium market is

beginning to see a decline in demand and an increase in new listings, putting slight downward pressure on prices. However, 2019 was a record year in sales across housing categories with a strong sellers market. We could expect a return to a more balanced market in the luxury condominium segment in 2021, although these units, especially outside the Montreal city core, offer more square feet for the price and consequently, great value given the demand for space as a result of the pandemic. **Greater Vancouver**

Vancouver's luxury home market is well on its way to recovery. The median price of a luxury house showed healthy year-overyear price appreciation, rising 3.9 per cent in the City of Vancouver to \$4,010,000 and 8.6 per cent to \$4,180,000 in the greater region since the onset of the pandemic in mid-March.[5] During the same period, the median price of a luxury condominium rose 11.2 per cent to \$2,065,000 in the City of Vancouver and 10.0 per cent to \$2,035,000 in the greater region.

In the City of Vancouver, the brisk pace of luxury condominium price appreciation compared to luxury detached homes is attributed to the housing type's relative affordability. The gain in median price for luxury properties in the suburban Lower Mainland region reflects buyers taking advantage of the lower price per square foot, allowing them to buy a larger home. "Vancouver's real estate market has been recovering slowly upward from the entry-level segment and is now emerging in the luxury segment. While activity has been brisk for properties priced below \$4 million, it has only been the past few months that we have seen clear signs of improving demand and price appreciation for properties above \$5 million," said Jason Soprovich, sales representative, Royal LePage Sussex. Recent year-over-year luxury home price gains are seen as recovered equity after a sustained correction of price softening and low sales. In addition to the impact from the region's market correction, luxury properties in the region's upper end of the market saw significant price declines due to taxation policy targeting homes valued above \$3 million.

"Consumer confidence is back but buyers remain price sensitive. The best strategy for a successful sale is accurate pricing from the start," said Soprovich.

The comparable median dollar values of respective housing types in the City of Vancouver and the greater region reflect weaker sales at the lower price threshold, which defines the luxury segment, outside of the city centre.

Soprovich added that if interest rates remain low and economic conditions remain stable, he expects pent up demand for luxury properties to continue through the remainder of the year.

"Buyers took advantage of price softening of luxury homes priced below \$4 million but those opportunities are becoming more rare," said Soprovich. "The gap between the asking price and selling price is quickly narrowing for homes priced over \$5 million but there are still many buying opportunities." Ottawa

The median price of a luxury house in Ottawa increased 2.9 per cent year-over-year to \$1,800,000 since COVID-19 disrupted the Canadian real estate market in mid-March.[6]

"While the Ottawa real estate market continues to post significant price appreciation, price growth in the region's luxury market has been relatively modest," said Charles Sezlik, sales representative, Royal LePage Team Realty. "Where we are seeing the big numbers in the luxury market is in demand. Year-to-date, sales of luxury houses over \$1.5 million have doubled compared to the same period last year."

Sezlik added that many buyers purchasing luxury property are local homeowners who are trading up for a larger home where they can live, work and play.

"Many buyers want to stay in their older, centrally located neighbourhood but they also want a home office and a pool. Due to the sizable backlog for contractors, they are looking for properties that already have these features," said Sezlik. "This demand is driving sales in the entry level of the luxury market and putting upward pressure on prices."

As affordability wanes in the Ottawa region, how buyers define luxury real estate in the region has changed over the past few

"There are homes across the city that are considered luxury now that would not have been considered luxury 5 years ago. Consistently high price appreciation over the years has pushed more desirable properties in good neighbourhoods into the luxury segment as they become increasingly out of reach for many Ottawa buyers," said Sezlik.

According to Sezlik, current demand for luxury properties in Ottawa remains healthy.

"I expect that we will continue to see multiple offers on homes valued around \$1.5 million for the remainder of the year if economic conditions and interest rates remain the same," said Sezlik.



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PUNJAB CM CAPTAIN AMARINDER SINGH HELD A SIT-IN PROTEST AGAINST THE FARM BILLS.

JALANDHAR: Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Monday said he would consult a team of lawyers on the contentious farm legislations that have lead to widespread protests in Punjab.

The chief minister also said that the government would be moving the Supreme Court on the issue.

Punjab Congress leaders, led by Singh, on Monday launched a sit-in agitation against the laws at Khatkar Kalan in Nawanshahr, the birth-place of Bhagat Singh.

Besides legal recourse, the Punjab government was looking at other options to scuttle the Centre's new agriculture laws "that are designed to ruin Punjab's farmers and economy", said the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister sat on 'dharna' against the "draconian" laws after paying tributes to Bhagat Singh at his 'Samadhi Sthal' on his 113 birth anniversary. The CM was accompanied by his wife and ex-minister Preneet Kaur, new Congress in-charge of Punjab affairs Harish Rawat, PPCC chief Sunil Jakhar, Vidhan Sabha Speaker Rana KP, Cabinet ministers, around 45 MLAs and six MPs. They all sat in the memorial complex right in front of the statue and sat on dharna for over an hour. The CM said he will consult a team of lawyers on the farmers' legis-

lation and would move the matter in the Supreme Court. He also said that he will invite Rahul Gandhi to Punjab to take the lead of the forthcoming campaign.

Among those conspicuously absent in the event were ex-minister Navjot Sidhu and area MP of Anandpur Sahib Manish Tewari.

SAD leader and ex-MP PS Chandumajra also visited the site and paid obeisance at the memorial. He said that if the government would knock the doors of the Supreme Court, his party would support the state against the Centre. He also sought CM's intervention to make the entire campaign an all-party event. Ex-minister Navjot Sidhu remained absent from the event. Terming President Ram Nath Kovind's assent to the Farm Bills as "unfortunate and distressing", Amarinder Singh said his government is exploring all options, including possible amendments to the state laws, to protect the interests of the farmers. The Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on Sunday received presidential assent.

IN KARNATAKA, BANDH AGAINST FARM BILLS EVOKES MIXED RESPONSE; PROTESTING FARMERS DETAINED



The Karnataka Bandh on Monday called by a clutch of farmers, labour, Left, pro-Kannada and Dalit organizations spearheaded by the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and supported by the main opposition party Congress as well as others like SDPI evoked mixed response in the state. Thousands of farmers marched in the state capital Bengaluru and around 300 of them were detained including KRRS leaders Kodihalli Chandrashekar and Kurburu Shanthkumar, Congress leaders including leader of opposition Siddaramaiah, KPCC President DK Shivakumar, national spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala and other leaders who were protesting near the Congress office in the city. The protesters were asking for the withdrawal of changes in the land reforms act - permitting non-agriculturists to buy farm land - and amendments in the APMC Act which now permits farmers to sell their produce to anybody of their choice. They are also demanding that changes made in the Essential Commodities Amend-

ment Bill be withdrawn. Siddaramaiah speaking at the protest said that the proposed changes were the 'death knell' to the farming community. "I challenge the CM to resign and let there be polls on these issues and we will see what the outcome will be," he said. KPCC president DK Shivakumar demanded that the 'three black laws' be withdrawn or repealed. Later, a Congress delegation also submitted a memorandum to the Governor on this issue.

Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa addressing a press conference reiterated that the farm bills passed in the just concluded assembly session were in the interests of the farmers. "As a farmer's son, I will never do anything against their interests. The Opposition is trying to misguide the farmers and it is a conspiracy. Even now anybody buying irrigated agricultural land cannot use it for any other purpose. They cannot buy land of SC/ST or small farmers."

G20 LEADERS' SUMMIT TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY IN NOVEMBER

The G20 Leaders' Summit, to be held virtually during November 21-22 and chaired by Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, will focus on protecting lives and restoring growth by tackling vulnerabilities uncovered by the Covid-19 pandemic.

This will be the second virtual G20 Leaders' Summit since March, when Saudi Arabia, the current chair of the grouping, had convened a meeting following a suggestion from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss ways to counter the pandemic and its economic impact. India is set to take over as the G20 chair in 2022.

The upcoming summit will also build on the outcomes of more than 100 virtual working group and ministerial meetings, said a statement from the G20 secretariat.

The G20 has contributed more than \$21 billion to support the production, distribution and access to diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines, and injected \$11 trillion to safeguard the global economy as part of the fight against the pandemic.

It has also launched a debt suspension initiative for least developed countries that will allow beneficiary nations to defer \$14 billion in debt payments due in 2020 and to use these amounts for financing their healthcare systems and social programmes.

"The upcoming G20 Leaders' Summit will focus on protecting lives and restoring growth, by addressing vulnerabilities uncovered

during the pandemic and by laying down the foundations for a better future," the statement said.

"The summit will also focus on fostering international action to realise opportunities of the 21st century for all, by empowering peop

"The summit will also focus on fostering international action to realise opportunities of the 21st century for all, by empowering people and protecting our planet, whilst harnessing the potential of innovation to shape new frontiers," it added.

PM Modi pays tribute to Bhagat Singh on his birth anniversary



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday paid tributes to revolutionary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh on his birth anniversary, saying his valour will inspire people for ages. Singh was born on this day in Punjab in 1907. His defiance of the British rule from a very young age, his revolutionary acts to target the empire and his hanging when he was only 23 have made him one of the more notable heroes of the Indian Independence movement.

"Tributes to the immortal martyr Bhagat Singh on his birth anniversary. His saga of bravery and valour will inspire the countrymen for ages," the prime minister tweeted. He also attached a clip of his 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast made on Sunday in which he had paid rich tributes to Singh.

Brahmos, Akash and Nirbhay: India rolls out its missiles to counter Chinese threat



The 500 km-range Brahmos cruise missile, 800 km-range Nirbhay cruise missiles along with Akash surface-to-air missile (SAM) with a capability to target aerial threats 40 km away are at the core of India's stand-off weapon deterrence to People's Liberation Army (PLA) missile deployment in Xinjiang and Tibet regions.

While the PLA's western theatre command has deployed stand-off weapons up to 2,000 km range and long-range SAMs in Tibet and Xinjiang after the Ladakh stand-off started, people familiar with the matter told Hindustan Times that the supersonic Brahmos, subsonic Nirbhay as well as Akash have been deployed to counter them by India in the worst-case scenario. The Chinese deployment is not limited to occupied Aksai Chin but is located in depth positions from Kashgar, Hotan, Lhasa and Nyingchi along the 3,488 km Line of Actual Control (LAC).

India's main stay in the stand-off weapons is the Brahmos air-to-air and air-to-surface cruise missile with its 300 kilogramme warhead which can take care of airstrips in Tibet and Xinjiang, or a warship in Indian Ocean. The Brahmos missile has been deployed in sufficient numbers in the Ladakh sector with the option to deliver the stand-off weapon from a Su-30 MKI fighter. Besides, the Brahmos can be used to create choke points in the Indian Ocean using the Car Nicobar air base in India's island territories. The IAF's Car Nicobar air base is the advanced landing ground for SU-30 MKI's which can use air-to-air refuellers to protect against any PLA warship threat coming from the Strait of Malacca to Sunda Strait across Indonesia, a senior government official said. While a limited number of Nirbhay subsonic missiles have been produced and deployed, the stand-off weapon system has a range that can reach up to 1,000 km, and has both sea skimming and loitering capability. This means that the missile is capable of flying between 100 metres to four km from ground and pick up the target before engaging it. The Nirbhay missile has only a surface-to-surface version.

Marble, granite to adorn Rs 800cr Kashi Vishwanath Corridor

The Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, an expansion and beautification project for the Kashi Vishwanath temple which will ensure visibility of the temple directly from the ghat, will be embellished with Baleshwar stones, Makrana marble, Kota granite and Mandana stones, officials said Monday. The construction of the corridor is underway across an area of 5 lakh sq ft area. A number of facilities for the devotees are coming up.

The Public Works Department (PWD) is the executing agency of the Rs 800-crore project.

"Construction work of the KV Corridor is in progress. Its structure is being built. Red sandstone of Chunar is being used in making the pillars," said Sanjay Gore, executive engineer of the PWD.

Baleshwar stone will also be used in the Kashi Vishwanath corridor after four or five months, when the wall of the corridor takes shape.

Likewise, Makrana marble will be required for the flooring of the corridor while the designing of the corridor would be done with Kota granite. Mandana stone, which looks like the red sandstone of Chunar, would be used on the stairs to be built at the ghat, said officials. Stones of various sorts will add to the grandeur to the corridor that has started taking shape gradually with work on at full pace.

FIRST COVID-19 VACCINE TO BE AVAILABLE IN INDIA BY EARLY 2021, SAYS HEALTH MINISTRY



DURING MEDIA BRIEFING, UNION HEALTH MINISTER DR HARSH VARDHAN SAID THAT THE FIRST VACCINE WOULD LIKELY BE AVAILABLE BY THE FIRST QUARTER OF NEXT YEAR.

As the world races to develop a potential vaccine against coronavirus (Covid-19), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Monday said that the first vaccine in India will most likely be available by early 2021. The health ministry said the research to develop a Covid-19 vaccine is being "done expeditiously". During a media briefing, Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said, "Research to develop a vaccine is being done expeditiously. There ar at least 3 viable such vaccine candidates that are in the phase of clinical trials right now in the country. We're hopeful that within 1st quarter of 2021 it will be

available", as quoted by ANI. With a spike of 82,170 new coronavirus cases in last 24 hours, India's Covid-19 tally crossed the 60-lakh mark on Monday, according to the data provided by health ministry. The health ministry on Monday also released the 100-year timeline history of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). "Today's a historic day for ICMR. It's an honour for me to release the 100-year timeline of the history of ICMR within its premises today. The contribution of scientists associated with it is commemorated and serves as an inspiration to upcoming scientists," Dr Vardhan told media.

Delhi airport's T2 to resume flight operations from October 1



Flight operations are set to be resume from the Delhi Airport's Terminal 2, or T2, from October 1 after its six-month closure, the airport operator said on Monday.

Only Terminal 3, or T3, of the airport, has been functional given the low frequency of flights since they resumed in May two months after their suspension on March 25 as part of sweeping measures to enforce social distancing to check the Covid-19 pandemic. Terminal 1 is undergoing expansion and remains closed.

The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), the operator, said the resumption of flight operations from T2 will be with 96 air traffic movements--48 departures and 48 arrivals--daily. The movements are expected to increase to 180 by October end.

"The terminal [T2] will resume operations with IndiGo's 2000 series flights and entire operations of GoAir in the initial phase. About 27 counters--11 for GoAir and 16 for IndiGo--have been created to cater to the passengers... The first flight scheduled from T2 after reopening of this terminal would be Srinagar bound Indigo flight, which will depart at 6:25 AM," the airport operator said in a statement.

It said added to start with, IndiGo will cater to 20 destinations from T2. The destinations include Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bhubaneswar, Bhopal, Bengaluru, Cochin, Guwahati, Indore, Jammu, Lucknow, Chennai, Patna, Srinagar, Thiruvananthapuram, and Visakhapatnam. "In the next phase, from October 8, [flights to] at least 12 more destinations, including Mumbai, Kolkata, Coimbatore, Dehradun, Goa, Hyderabad, Madurai, Jaipur, and Nagpur, will start operating from T2," the statement said.

DIAL CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuriar assured the passengers of a safe and healthy environment. "We have implemented several measures at the airport to ensure passenger safety without compromising their comfort and experience. Our teams have worked round-the-clock to sanitise the vast terminal. DIAL will continue its awareness drive by educating and encouraging passengers to maintain social distance while at the airport." An airport official said measures like adequate seating arrangements with social distancing markings, sanitisation of high contact surfaces, and contact-less retail outlets have been made to ensure the safety of passengers.

With BJP's new team in place, all eyes now on Narendra **Modi-led NDA government's Cabinet expansion**

After the announcement of a new team to run the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), there is an eager anticipation of an upcoming Cabinet expansion in the Narendra Modi-led NDA government.

Sources believe that after clearing the role of the party leaders, it has become easier to decide on the inclusion of probable faces in the government. While some leaders say that the Cabinet expansion will happen soon, other leaders believe it would take place after Bihar Assembly polls in October-November.

In case, the Cabinet is expanded post the Bihar polls, it would happen after November 10.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was sworn-in for a second term on May 30, 2019. Sixteen months have passed since then but the Cabinet has not been expanded yet. However, in his first stint, Modi had expanded his Cabinet on November -- just six months after forming the government in May 2014. After the announcement of the new 70-member BJP team on Saturday, speculations of the Cabinet expansion have intensified. "After the resignation of two ministers, and the death of one minister, a total of three posts have become vacant within a year. In such a situation, the expansion of the Council of Ministers is necessary," a BJP leader, who did not want to be identified, told IANS. "It cannot be said clearly as of now when the Cabinet would be extended but would happen soon," the party leader added.

Those outside the organisation may get a chance. Many big faces have been left out of the party organisation. They include Vinay Sahastrabuddhe, who was national Vice President, and Anil Jain, Saroj Pandey, Ram Madhav, and P. Muralidhar Rao, all national General Secretaries. There is speculation that party leaders, who are Rajya Sabha members, may get a place in the Modi-led Cabinet in the upcoming expansion. Since Sahastrabuddhe, Jain and Pandey are Rajya Sabha members, it could be easier for the party to accommodate them in the Cabinet. However, Ram Madhav and Rao are not MPs, and they can be made ministers only if the party arranges Rajya Sabha seats for them. A total of 10 Rajya Sabha seats are getting vacant in Uttar Pradesh in November. Since the formation of the Modi government for the second time in May 2019, three ministerial positions are lying vacant. Shiv Sena leader Arvind Sawant resigned from the post of Heavy Industries Minister in the Modi government after his party quit the NDA in November 2019.

BJP's Uma Bharti, Covid-19 positive, admitted to AIIMS Rishikesh. She gives 3 reasons



Two days after testing positive for Covid-19, senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Uma Bharti was shifted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh.

The BJP leader took to Twitter and informed that she had been shifted to AIIMS on Monday morning from Vande Mataram Kunj in Pauri Garhwal district where she was under home-isolation. Bharti tweeted, "I have been admitted to AIIMS Rishikesh. There are three reasons for this; firstly Harsh Vardhan (Union health minister) was worried about my health condition. Secondly my fever spiked last night and if I get good response from doctors at AllMS after observation then I want to appear in the CBI court in Lucknow day after tomorrow." Bharti is supposed to appear in court in connection with the Babri Masjid demolition case. Harish Mohan Thapliyal, public relations officer of AIIMS Rishikesh

said that Bharti was admitted to the hospital around 11 am on Monday. "She has been admitted to our hospital and has been kept under observation. As per protocol, we have sent her sample for an RT-PCR test. Till then, the doctors are taking care of her and she is being treated. The further course of action will be decided after we get her test results," Thapliyal said. Bharti tested Covid-19 positive on Saturday night after which she had isolated herself at an ashram in Pauri Garhwal district. She tested positive after visiting the Kedarnath shrine on September 21, where she offered prayers following all safety norms. She had visited the Badrinath shrine in Chamoli district on September 24.

Indian population still far from reaching herd immunity from COVID-19: Harsh Vardhan

The Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said on Sunday that the Indian population is still far from reaching herd immunity against COVID-19 as shown by the Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) second Sero Survey While interacting with social media users during Sunday Samvaad-3, Dr. Vardhan said: "The findings of the second sero survey are going to be released soon. But second sero survey indications are that we are far from having achieved any kind of herd immunity which necessitates that all of us should continue following COVID appropriate behaviour. The first sero-survey of May 2020 revealed that the nationwide prevalence of novel coronavirus infection was only 0.73 percent." "ICMR is also actively investigating and researching reports of reinfection and although the number of reinfection cases is negligible at this moment, the government is fully seized of the importance of the matter," added the health minister. Further, Dr Vardhan discouraged the wide usage of investigational therapies such as remdesivir and plasma therapies. "Government has issued regular advisories regarding the rational use of investigational therapies. The private hospitals have also been advised against routine use of these investigational therapies. The doctors in the States/UTs are being made aware of this through webinars and during the tele-consultation session of AIIMS," he said. With a single-day spike of 88,600 new coronavirus cases, India's total case count neared the 60-lakh mark, according to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Sunday.

Unlock 4: Mamata govt allows cinema halls, plays to reopen from Oct 1 in West Bengal

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday announced that certain entertainment avenues can reopen from October 1. Terming it as a step towards a return to normalcy, Banerjee said these activities will be allowed in compliance with COVID-19 prevention measures. The activities will be allowed to operate include jatras, plays, OATs, cinemas and all musical, dance, recital and magic shows with 50 participants or less. "To return to normalcy, jatras, plays, OATs, cinemas and all musical, dance, recital and magic shows shall be allowed to function with 50 participants or less from 1 Oct, subject to adherence to physical distancing norms, wearing of masks and compliance with precautionary protocols," Banerjee said in a tweet.

Madhya Pradesh CM launches scheme on lines of PM-Kisan

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday inaugurated `Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojna` on the lines of the Centre`s Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) Scheme. The Chief Minister announced that Rs 4,000 will be transferred to accounts of 1,75,000 farmers in the state every year in two instalments under the scheme. Speaking on occasion, Chouhan raised questions over opposition`s protest against farm bills saying that farmers will be benefited. He said the Centre has Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme under which Rs 6,000 will be transferred to farmers annually. "My government thought to increase Rs 4,000 further so that farmers can get Rs 10, 000 annually," he said. He said a farmer has the right to sell his crops according to his choice."No question of stopping the Minimum Support Price (MSP). If a buyer tells a farmer that he will buy soybean and both sides enter into an agreement, where is the problem" he asked.

IN A FIRST, G20 SUMMIT TO TAKE PLACE VIRTUALLY THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC



or the first time in its over ten-year history, the G20 summit this The theme of this year's virtual summit will be 'Realizing opportuniyear will take place virtually amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual summit will take place on November 21 and 22 and will be chaired by Saudi King, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also take part in the virtual summit. On September 9, PM Modi and Saudi Arabia's king spoke to each other and discussed the main priorities on the agenda of the G20 summit. No major global meeting is happening physically due to the COVID crisis and for the first time in its 75-year-old history, the United Nations General Assembly also met virtually.

ties of the 21st Century for all'. Earlier this year, the G20 leaders met in even as the pandemic raged and took a number of coordinated actions including contributing \$ 21 Billion to support production, distribution, and access to diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccine.

A statement from G20 Secretariat, "The upcoming G20 Leaders' Summit will focus on protecting lives and restoring growth, by addressing vulnerabilities uncovered during the pandemic and by laying down the foundations for a better future. The Summit will also focus on fostering international action to realize opportunities of the 21st cenharnessing the potential of innovation to shape new frontiers." The world's biggest 20 economies also decided to inject \$ 11 trillion to safeguard the global economy and, launched a debt suspension initiative for the least d--eveloped countries. Debt suspension defers-- debt worth \$14 billion due this year for LDCs so that they can deal with the pandemic. G20, as a grouping at leaders' level, emerged in 2008 when the global financial crisis was underway. Since then the summit has been happening in various G20 countries. India will hold

tury for all, by empowering people and protecting our planet, whilst

TRUMP AND HIS FIRMS PAID MORE TAXES FOR INDIA IN 2017 THAN IN US: REPORT

With little over a month left for the presidential elections in the US, President Donald Trump is embroiled in a tax controversy and according to a latest finding, he has paid more taxes in 2017 in India as compared to the US. A New York Times report claimed that in 2017 Trump paid \$750 in federal income taxes in the US, while he/ his companies paid \$1,45,400 taxes in India.

Even though Trump immediately junked the report as "fake news" and added that the true figures would be "revealed", this can cause a major blow to his chances of becoming US president for another term. Trump has already faced a lot of criticism over his response to the COVID-19 pandemic that has worst-impacted the US and for his inability to resolve racial tensions across the country.

The report has also said the US president has not paid any federal income taxes in 10 of the previous 15 years before he came to power over the claims that he lost more money than he profiteered.

Trump also used deductions aircraft, residences, that includes \$70,000 in hairstyling for TV appearances, the report said.



Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi tests COVID-19 positive again

Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has tested positive for coronavirus again, Italy's Corriere della Sera newspaper reported on Saturday. He was hospitalised in Milan with early phase bilateral pneumonia after testing positive for COVID-19 on September 3. He underwent treatment for 10 days and was released from the San Raffaele hospital on September 14. A repeat hospitalization is off the table at the moment, according to the report.

Berlusconi is currently quarantined in his villa outside Milan with his girlfriend, Marta Fascina, who also tested positive for COVID-19. He is currently bedridden, struggling with the consequences of the disease ranging from fatigue and physical exhaustion.

Following Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

Russian President Vladimir Putin has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The nomination was submitted by a group of Russian public figures, including the famous writer Sergey Komkov. The nomination was sent to Oslo on September 10.

"It was sent on 9 September, and on 10 September, the Nobel Committee headquarters in Oslo received it," Sergey Komkov was quoted as saying. Many still suspect that Kremlin was behind the nomination, however, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov has said that Kremlin was in no way involved in the President's nomination. "You all know that completely different people are nominated for this award, this is an initiative of those submitting the nomination. In this case, [the nomination was submitted by] the aforementioned writer," Peskov said.

"If this decision is made (to award Putin the prize - TASS) - great, if not, it's no problem as well," he said.

The decision comes at a time when Alexei Navalny, a staunch critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was poisoned using a nerve agent Novichok, confirmed by laboratories in Germany, France, and Sweden.

Earlier, United States President Donald Trump had also been nominated for the Nobel Prize for brokering a peace deal between Israel and the United States.

Reportedly, Trump's name has been put forward by Norwegian politician Christian Tybring-Gjedde

Pakistan's proposal for SAARC Leaders Summit in Islamabad falls flat

Pakistan's proposal to host the 19th SAARC summit in Islamabad falls again due to lack of consensus at the SAARC FMs virtual meet on Thursday. Sources say, "Most countries felt it's not an opportune time for the event considering due to the COVID pandemic and most member

countries were preoccupied with it". The summit was to happen in 2016 in Islamabad but India along with most SAARC countries boycotted it due to Uri Terror attack

perpetrated by Pak based terrorist.

The SAARC FMs meet is an annual gathering which has been taking place since 1997 on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly. Due to COVID, the meet happened virtually for the first time this year.

In Thursday meeting, Secretary-General of SAARC gave a report on the status of regional cooperation since the last informal meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers took place in New York on 26th September 2019. Last year, Pakistan had claimed consensus has been achieved for the summit, but no other country made a public pronouncement on it.

North Korean leader Kim Jongun apologises for 'unsavoury' killing of South Korean national

the 17th summit in 2022.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has offered an apology for the "unsavoury" killing of a South Korean official, the presidential palace in Seoul said on Friday.

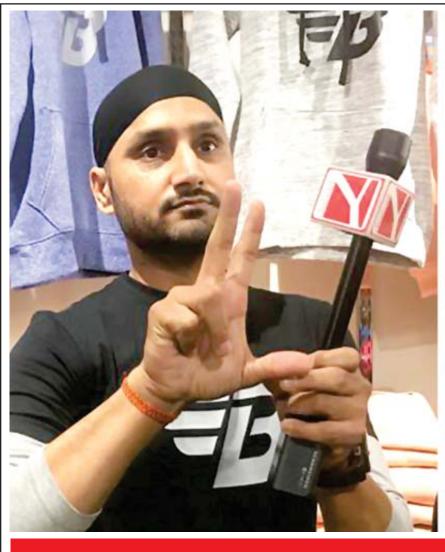
In a formal notice sent to the South, the North conveyed Kim's message that he feels "very sorry" for greatly "disappointing" President Moon Jae-in and other South Koreans with the occurrence of the "unsavoury" case in its waters, instead of helping them amid their suffering from the coronavirus, Yonhap News Agency quoted Suh Hoon, director of national security at the presidential palace, as saying. The North said the "unidentified" man, who crossed the western sea border without authorization, did not respond sincerely to its verbal security checks aboard a floating material about 80 metres away.

The North's troops shot two blanks, and he was seen as attempting to flee. They then fired more than 10 gunshots at the distance of 40-50 meters under the related rules of engagement for maritime border security, according to the North's account. While the North said that they did not find the official's body, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said that the North had set it on fire.

Despite mistreatment of Uighur Muslims, Chinese President Xi Jinping says 'Happiness' in Xinjiang on the rise

Despite the mistreatment of Uighur Muslims and alleged forced-labor abuses, Chinese President Xi Jinping has claimed that the level of happiness among all ethnic groups in the western region of Xinjiang is on the rise.

"The sense of gain, happiness, and security among the people of all ethnic groups (in Xinjiang) has continued to increase," Xi told a ruling Communist Party conference on Xinjiang held on Friday and Saturday, China plans to keep teaching its residents a "correct" outlook on China, the news agency quoted him saying on Saturday. He further said that it was necessary to 'educate Xinjiang's population' and guide "all ethnic groups on establishing a correct perspective on the country, history and nationality". "Practice has shown that the party's strateov for governing Xinjiang in the new era is completely correct" and it should be a long-term approach, he added. China has repeatedly denied mistreating Uighurs, and said that the camps are 'vocational training centre' to 'tackle extremism'. The issue was raised even in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) where credible reports were cited as saying one million Muslims held in camps have been put to work. United Nations has always expressed grave concerns that there were credible reports that China is holding a million Uighur Muslims in mass detention camps in Xinjiang province. Many international human rights organisations have accused China of cracking down on the Uighurs by sending them to mass detention camps, interfering in their religious activities and sending the minority community to undergo some form of forceful re-education or indoctrination.









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