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MidWeek ENTERTAINMENT

'YES IT'S ONE BABY': SINGER HALSEY SHOWS OFF HER GROWING BABY BUMP IN NEW VIDEO | 16



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WHY DID AAMIR KHAN & KIRAN RAO ANNOUNCE DIVORCE?



MUMBAI, (IANS) After the recent announcement of Bollywood actor Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao's divorce, 29-year-old Fatima Sana Shaikh has trolled on Twitter, making #FatimaSanaShaikh trending. Social media users speculate an extramarital affair is a reason for the couple's separation. People are making conjectures about a romantic angle between Khan and his Dangal co-star, Fatima Sana Shaikh. Fatima and Khan have shared screen space in Dangal and Thugs of Hindostan. Although there have been rumours regarding their 'growing closeness,' neither ever spoke about it. The two were spotted together at several parties and events, and Kiran was upset with this. Fatima had once also addressed the dating rumours during an interview with Filmfare. She said, "Earlier, I used to get affected. I'd feel bad. Because I've never dealt with anything of this sort at such a big level. A bunch of strangers, whom I've never met, are writing things about me. They don't even know if there's any truth to it. People reading it assume

that I'm 'not a good person'. You feel like telling that person, 'Ask me, I'll give you an answer'. It disturbs me because I don't want people to assume wrong things. But I've learnt to ignore it. Yet, there are some days when I do get affected." Bollywood star Aamir Khan and his wife, filmmaker Kiran Rao, have announced their divorce in a statement issued to the press on Saturday. The statement read: "In these 15 beautiful years together we have shared a lifetime of experiences, joy and laughter, and our relationship has only grown in trust, respect and love. Now we would like to begin a new chapter in our lives -- no longer as husband and wife, but as co-parents and family for each other.

"We began a planned separation some time ago, and now feel comfortable to formalise this arrangement, of living separately yet sharing our lives the way an extended family does. "We remain devoted parents to our son Azad, who we will nurture and raise together.

SAIF ALI KHAN'S LOOK AS VIBHOOTI FROM 'BHOOT POLICE' REVEALED



ON MONDAY, SAIF ALI KHAN'S WIFE AND ACTRESS KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN TOOK TO SOCIAL MEDIA TO DROP HIS FIRST LOOK AS VIBHOOTI FROM THE FILM, BHOOT POLICE.

SAROJ KHAN BIOPIC ANNOUNCED ON HER FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY



THE FILM WILL BRING TO LIFE THE STORY OF THE STRUGGLE AND SUCCESS OF SAROJ KHAN, WIDELY ACKNOWLEDGED AS INDIA'S FIRST FEMALE CHOREOGRAPHER.

MANDIRA BEDI SHARES PHOTOS WITH HUSBAND RAJ KAUSHAL



MANDIRA BEDI POSTED PHOTOS OF GOOD TIMES WITH HER HUSBAND RAJ KAUSHAL AS SHE REMEMBERED HIM. RAJ DIED OF A HEART ATTACK LAST WEEK.

SONU SOOD SAYS THE 'BIGGEST CHARITY' TODAY IS TO GIVE JOBS



MUMBAI, (IANS) Bollywood actor and social worker SonuSood took to Twitter on Sunday to suggest that the biggest charity one can do in the present time is to give jobs to others. "In today's time the biggest charity that you can do is give employment," SonuSood tweeted on Sunday. The actor's tweet comes at a time when the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has left a lot of people jobless since over a year now, who are struggling to make ends meet. Meanwhile, SonuSood has recently started an initiative to provide free CA education through his Sood Charity Foundation. Through this, the actor aims to help talented students get free coaching, internship opportunities and finally employment. Announcing the same, Sonu recently tweeted: "For India's economy to grow, we need bright CA's. A small step." The actor is also ensuring students do not miss online classes in certain places of Kerala having poor internet connectivity. "Recce for the mobile tower in Kerala begins, no student will miss their online classes," Sonu tweeted on Saturday.

'Hungama 2' set for OTT release on July 23



MUMBAI, (IANS) "Hungama 2" is all set for an OTT release on July 23 while the trailer of the Priyadarshan directorial, toplined by Paresh Rawal and Shilpa Shetty, drops on July 1. Shilpa announced the news on Instagram sharing a poster of the film. "Can't keep calm, kyunki ab Hoga Hungama! #DisneyPlusHotstarMultiplex #Hungama2 trailer coming out on July 1st on Disney+ Hotstar VIP! You don't want to miss this!" she wrote. Rawal too confirmed the date on Twitter: tweeted: "Get ready for double the Hungama! #DisneyPlusHotstarMultiplex #Hungama2 Trailer out on July 1st."

8 ICC EVENTS AND 17 NATIONS BIDDING TO HOST IT: INTERNATIONAL CRICKET COUNCIL REVEALS EVENTS BETWEEN 2024 TO 2031



After the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced events between 2024 to 2031, as many as 17 member nations have put their names forward to host eight major upcoming tournaments. The ICC is set to conduct two ODI World Cups, four T20 World Cups, and two Champions Trophies in the given time frame.

The countries that have put forth their bid are Pakistan, South Africa, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the West Indies, and Zimbabwe. Along with the full members, six associate nations - Malaysia, Namibia, Oman, Scotland, the UAE, and the USA - have also put their names forward as potential hosts. The 10 full ICC members have submitted preliminary technical proposals to host the major events both individually or jointly between 2024-2031. ICC's acting chief executive, Geoff Allardice, was delighted by the response to host major events. He added that the ICC would decide on the same later this year after members provided a more detailed proposal.

TO WATCH ALL THE LATEST GOSSIP IN ENTERTAINMENT, WATCH CHANNEL Y ROGERS 857, BELLFIBE 828, TELUS 2418



- ITALY ADVANCES TO THE FINALS AFTER MORATA'S PENALTY WAS SAVED BY THE ITALIAN KEEPER
- EURO CUP FINAL IS ON SUNDAY, JULY 11 AT 3 P.M.(NEW YORK & TORONTO TIMINGS)
- EURO CUP SEMI-FINALS MATCH BETWEEN DENMARK & ENGLAND TO BEGIN WED, JULY 7 AT 3 P.M. (NEW YORK & TORONTO TIMINGS)
- BEN STOKES TO CAPTAIN ENGLAND AGAINST PAKISTAN AFTER SEVEN MEMBERS IN BIO-BUBBLE TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, ENTIRE TEAM IN ISOLATION
- NHL: MONTREAL CANADIENS DEFEATS TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING BY 3-2, SERIES LEVEL 1-3
- COPA AMERICA: BRAZIL REACHES FINAL BY DEFEATING PERU BY 1-0
- EURO CUP FINAL IS ON SUNDAY, JULY 11 AT 3 P.M.(NEW YORK & TORONTO TIMINGS)
- WIMBLEDON: CENTRE, NO. 1 COURT TO HAVE FULL CAPACITY FROM QUARTER-FINALS



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COVID - 19 FACTS

JULY 4TH 2021

- As of July 4th 2021, Canada has received over **50 MILLION** vaccine doses
- **78.3%** of adults (18+) in Ontario have received at least one dose
- **46.3%** of adults (18+) in Ontario are **fully vaccinated!**
- Anyone ages 12 and up is now eligible to receive their COVID-19 vaccine
- COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective!**
- **Free vaccines** are available to everyone who lives in Canada



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KAMAL KHERA

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MP Kamal Khera volunteering at a vaccine clinic and administrating vaccines in Brampton

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BROKER/ DIRECTOR

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P.K SABHARWAL

BROKER OF RECORD

newgen
 REALTY EXPERTS BROKERAGE

MOVIE REVIEW



VIKRANT MASSEY OUTSHINES TAAPSEE PANNU IN THE NOT-SO-NAIL-BITING WHODUNNIT

With a massive cylinder blast, the mutilated body of the husband, lover on the run, a widow who is the suspect and a local inspector, played by Aditya Srivastava trying to extract a confession from the suspect in the first few minutes into the film, you feel that 'Haseen Dillruba' is all set to offer you a power-packed crime thriller based out of a small town that will keep you at the edge of your seats. Who is the murderer? What transpired before the blast? Will the culprit be found? These are some questions that you will be seeking answers to.

The film cuts between flashbacks where the story of how the blast happened is unfolding and the present where Rani Kashyap is trying to prove her innocence by giving a lie detector test. The film's first 10 minutes will also give you a feeling that there's going to be lots of romance and passionate love-making when Rani Kashyap's character, essayed by Taapsee Pannu, is introduced as a charming young Delhi girl who is apparently susheel (cultured), homely and contradictorily outspoken, boastful of her good-looks and unabashedly sexual. You will later realise that the tease was a 'phooski'.

We get a glimpse of Rani Kashyap's above-mentioned traits in the first few minutes of the film when the shy engineer Rishabh Saxena aka Rishu (Vikrant Massey) is seen apprehensively speaking with Rani during an arranged marriage set up at the latter's house. "Waise na aapko bahut accha combo mil raha hai, tan mann ka dhan," a forthright Rani Kashyap is heard telling Rishu as he sips on tea and expresses nervousness with a fake cough. However, Rani manages to cast her spell on Rishu and despite his mother's disapproval with an explanation that he won't be able to 'handle' her because of her outgoing nature, Rishu, who falls in love with Rani, at first sight, ties the knot.

Cut to Rani Kashyap travelling to a small town Jwalapur and struggling to fit in. Add to that a timid husband who is nervous to make or express love. And to top it all, Rishu has no social life and a monotonous routine that involves waking up, travelling to and from the office, doing household chores while he pursues his hobby in homoeopathy. BORING! But however timid Rishu may be, when he overhears Rani talk about their sex life (which hasn't even begun) to her mother and aunt, one can see a different avatar of him. A rather rude and angry one. And so the marital life tensions being. With no sex and social life



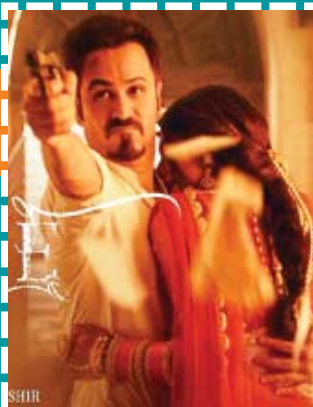
and a husband who wouldn't even care talk, Rani Kashyap falls for the first muscle-flexing brawny fellow that enters her life. Neel Tripathi, essayed by talented Harshvardhan Rane is the ointment to Rani Kashyap's emotional post-martial wound and 'the one' who will satisfy her sexual drive. He is charming, macho, demanding, expressive and does not have a conventional job. To top it, he does drugs. While Rane plays his part well, but he isn't a full-fledged character. He's only a toll with a set of traits used to entice Rani and make her commit a crime (adultery) so that the plot moves on. She cooks for him instead of her husband Rishu for the first time since their wedding and Neel takes her for rafting, giving her a taste of the adventurous life she always desired. The two make love and click pictures together. She loves him. He does not. And so, when Rani decides to confess to her husband about her feeling towards Neel, who happens to be Rishu's cousin, the muscle-flexing lad runs away. And the story only begins from here. Taapsee looks for redemption when she realises how much her 'seedha-saadha' husband loves her despite him punishing her in ways to kill. From intentionally making her fall from a flight of stairs to leaving the gas knob open to let her hand burn, we see another avatar of Vikrant Massey -- that of an obsessive, angry and vengeful lover. She gives it her all and asks for forgiveness. Like a dutiful wife she cooks and bears Rishu's indifference who wants to kill her for the fact, she ruined his life and his reputation. Amid Rishu's attempts to kill, Rani Kashyap falls him. The two finally come together and are leading a happy life when they have an encounter with Neel. And again, get to see Vikrant Massey as the hot-headed, revenge-seeking individual who could go to any length. The story unfolds rather quickly from here on and it's the last bit that will keep you hooked on if you've managed to survive the rest of the film. Massey's good. In fact, he's even great in most parts but has been let down by a script that does not do justice to his talent. Taapsee on the other hand does not bring anything new to the table. From her dialogue delivery to her expressions, it's like watching her in any of her previous films. The supporting characters aren't great either. The hero's best friend, essayed by Ashish Verma, has been wasted. The loudmouth mother-in-law and not-so-funny father-in-law don't have much to do in the film and Rane too deserves better. The only saving grace is Vikrant Massey. Verdict: It's a mystery thriller that lacks pulp. The cast deserves better.

RIP DILIP KUMAR: AMITABH BACHCHAN, KAREENA KAPOOR, ALIA BHATT, JANHVI KAPOOR, SHAHID KAPOOR, OTHERS MOURN ACTOR'S DEMISE

The world lost another bright star today. Legendary Bollywood actor Dilip Kumar breathed his last today at 98. Dilip Kumar had been suffering from breathing problems for some time now and was admitted to Mumbai's Hinduja Hospital on June 30. The news of Kumar's demise was shared by his family friend, Faizal Farooqui via his Twitter handle. "With a heavy heart and profound grief, I announce the passing away of our beloved Dilip Saab, few minutes ago. We are from God and to Him we return," Farooqi tweeted. Known as the tragedy king of Bollywood, Dilip Kumar has been an inspiration to many. The news of his passing away has saddened the entire film fraternity, who took to their social media handles to extend their condolences. "An institution has gone .. whenever the history of Indian Cinema will be written , it shall always be 'before Dilip Kumar, and after Dilip Kumar' .. My duas for peace of his soul and the strength to the family to bear this loss .. Deeply saddened," Amitabh Bachchan wrote for hi 'idol' late actor Dilip Kumar. Originally in Hindi, singer Lata Mangeshkar tweeted, "Yusuf Bhai left his younger sister today. An era has ended with Yusuf bhai. I don't understand anything. I am very sad, don't have words to say anymore. He left us with many memories." Alia Bhatt also paid her condolences after Dilip Kumar's demise. She tweeted, "He will always be the gold standard for actors to imbibe from... the cultural world just lost its shine but the legacy of his light lives on forever. Rest in peace Dilip Saab." Kareena Kapoor Khan shared a photo of Dilip Kumar with her late grandfather Raj Kapoor on her Instagram story. "RIP," she captioned the post with a heart emoji. Bollywood legend Jeetendra also extended condolences to the late actor. He said, "What can I say about this legend, Dilip Kumar Sahab, who showed us the way. Who showed us how it's done, with so much grace and elan. He has been an inspiration to people like me who have aspired to be like him in every possible way. His love and warmth is unmatched and there will never be another like him. He was not just a genius on screen but also a great friend and a gem of a person. His contribution to cinema and our lives is huge. I will miss him dearly. May he rest in peace. Condolences to the entire family and Sairaji."



top 10 songs



1 LUT GAYE
JUBIN NAUTIYAL

SONG	ARTIST
BAARISH KI JAYE	B PRAAK
IS QADAR	TULSI KUMAR
THODA THODA PYAR	STEBIN BEN
NADIYON PAAR	SACHIN- JIGAR
TERA SUIT	TONY KAKKAR
MAIN JIS DIN BHULA DU	ROCHAK KOHLI
OH SANAM	TONY KAKKAR
BEWafa Tera Masoom	JUBIN NAUTIYAL
TUJHE BHOOLNA TOH CHAHA	ROCHAK KOHLI
SAIYAAN JI	YOYO HONEY SINGH

MIDWEEK BOX OFFICE

SAINA	1.25 CR
GODZILLA VS. KONG	46.58 CR
MUMBAI SAGA	17.00 CR
ROOHI	25.87 CR
COOLIE NO 1	30 LAKH
WONDER WOMAN 1984	10.5 CR

MIDWEEK HIT OR FLOP

MASTER (ALL LANGUAGES)	HIT
COOLIE NO 1	SUCCESS
WONDER WOMAN 1984	SUPER HIT
LAXMII	SUCCESS
DIL BECHARA	SUCCESS

SAIF ALI KHAN'S LOOK AS VIBHOOTI FROM 'BHOOT POLICE' REVEALED



MUMBAI, (IANS) Actor Saif Ali Khan's look in the upcoming film "Bhoot Police" was revealed on Monday. Saif plays a character called Vibhooti in the horror-comedy. In the photograph, Saif Ali Khan looks like an exorcist carrying a trident with four prongs in his right hand. He is wearing a black shirt, a black leather jacket and a pendant. The actor flaunts beard, moustache back brushed hair and kohl in his eyes and wears a "don't mess with me" expression on his face. Sharing the photo on Instagram, Saif's wife and actress Kareena Kapoor Khan wrote: "Don't fear the paranormal and feel 'Saif' with VIBHOOTI. #BhootPolice Coming soon on @disneyplushotstarvip." The Pavan Kirpalani directorial also features actors Yami Gautam, Jacqueline Fernandez and Arjun Kapoor in the lead. Produced by Ramesh Taurani, Akshai Puri and co-produced by Jaya Taurani, "Bhoot Police" is slated to release on Disney+ Hotstar.

'I CAN STAND UP TO IT': SONAM KAPOOR OPENS UP ABOUT PAY GAP IN BOLLYWOOD, CALLS IT 'RIDICULOUS'

Sonam Kapoor Ahuja has voiced her opinion on the difference in pay which comes with working in Bollywood. In an interview with Vogue, she said, "The pay gap is ridiculous. I can stand up to it, but then I don't get those roles, and I'm okay with that. I can afford to do that. She also talked about her tuning with her husband Anand Ahuja, she said, I'm really fortunate to have met somebody who is like-minded and a feminist," she says with a grin. "Thank god I didn't meet somebody who is from the same industry as me because their worldview can be very limited. It's all about what's happening in Bollywood." Has anything surprised her? "This is the first year that we've spent every night together," she replies. "Usually, we travel so much. I've realised that we're obsessed with each other and we have a lot of fun together." Her comments come shortly after actor Taapsee Pannu said the male actors who started their careers with her make 3-5 times more money than her. Speaking to The National Bulletin, Taapsee said, "If a female actor asks more, she is termed difficult and problematic and if a man asks more, it's a mark of his success."

Mandira Bedi shares photos with husband Raj Kaushal

MUMBAI, (IANS) Actress Mandira Bedi took to social media on Monday to share photographs with her husband, filmmaker Raj Kaushal, who passed away last week.

Mandira, who has been keeping away from social media for a while, on Monday shared a few photographs on Instagram where she can be seen happily posing with glasses of red and white wine with her husband, both of them smiling at the camera.

The actress did not caption her photos but only used a heartbroken emoji instead.

Mandira's husband, filmmaker Raj Kaushal reportedly succumbed to a heart attack on June 30.

Friends, followers and industry colleagues mourned his untimely demise on social media and expressed condolences.

Mandira has also been a victim of trolling and hatred on social media after photographs surfaced showing her breaking stereotypes by performing her husband's last rites, which male members of a family are traditionally expected to perform.



Harbhajan Singh to star in 'Friendship', film announced on his birthday



MUMBAI, (IANS) On Harbhajan Singh's birthday on Saturday, it was announced that the cricketer is all set to make his big screen debut with a film titled "Friendship".

The makers shared a poster featuring the cricketer and his friends in a "rapchik" mood, along with a lyrical video.

Harbhajan, popularly known as Bhajji, has earlier done guest appearances in films "Friendship" will be his first major role. The film deals rolls in friendship, action, sports and emotions.

In the film, Bhajji, a mechanical engineering student along with friends in first year, manages a clever escape from ragging by the seniors. Slated to open later this year, the film will have a simultaneous release in Hindi, Telugu and Tamil.

"Friendship" is directed by John Paul Raj and Sham Surya, produced by Kiran Reddy Mandadi, and co-produced by Ram Maddukuri.

Title of Kartik Aaryan's 'Satyanarayan Ki Katha' to be changed

MUMBAI, (IANS) Director Sameer Vidwans, who is set to direct 'Satyanarayan Ki Katha' starring Kartik Aaryan, has released an official statement about the change in the film's title on Saturday night.

The director claims the decision to change the name aims to avoid hurting sentiments.

Vidwans shared the statement on Twitter and Kartik re-tweeted it on his verified Twitter handle.

The statement read: "A title of the film is something that emerges organically through the creative process. We have taken a decision to change the title of our recently announced film 'Satyanarayan Ki Katha' to avoid hurting sentiments, even if that's purely unintentional. Producers of the film and the creative team also are in complete support of this decision. We will be announcing a new title for our love story in the due course of our journey. Sincerely, Sameer Vidwans."

Details about the new title are still under wraps.



Co-produced by Namah Pictures and Sajid Nadiadwala's banner Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment, the film will mark the first collaboration between Kartik and Sajid Nadiadwala.

The film is all set to go on floors towards the end of this year.

ERA OF THE SHOWRUNNER, BACKBONE OF OTT CONTENT

NEW DELHI, (IANS) OTT is booming, and like any boom has ushered its work culture. In turn, it has created new job profiles, too. A new role that assumes supreme importance in the digital space is the showrunner.

Put simply, he or she is the bridge between various creative heads, because OTT shows are sometimes handled by multiple directors (particularly in the case of anthology pieces), writers, as well as producers.

Explaining the role of a showrunner, Suparn Verma, co-director of popular web series "The Family Man 2", explains: "The creation of shows on OTT platforms is a bit different from films and television. You have showrunners because multiple directors sometimes come on a show and direct various episodes. Sometimes two directors, including a showrunner, direct episodes with another director. A showrunner maintains a cohesive vision across the season. Sometimes a showrunner may never direct but he maintains the consistency of vision across seasons because shows are not limited in seasons."

For instance, the recent Anthology "Ray" has Sayantan Mukherjee as the showrunner.

Director Srijit Mukherjee, who directed two of the four stories in the film, defines the role of a showrunner as: "A showrunner is like a creative producer. He takes creative calls and he is the unifying factor of the anthology in this case. He has the bird's eye view of the anthology, bringing the four shorts together and deciding with the platform how each short should be."

Various storytellers are credited as showrunners in digital content.

For instance, Alankrita Srivastava is the showrunner for "Bombay Begums", while filmmaker Imtiaz Ali is the showrunner for "She".

For Raveena Tandon's upcoming digital debut "Aranyak", has Rohan Sippy as showrunner.

How does having a showrunner make things easier?

"Having a showrunner is a great asset to the platform and team because there is one guy responsible for everything and he maintains the quality control and consistency across seasons," says Verma.

The filmmaker adds: "A show for a platform is like making four feature films in one go. It's about writing for four feature films and shooting four feature films, which is why platforms like Netflix, Amazon or Hotstar sometimes prefer more than one director for a show. Sometimes, the showrunner is also the director of the show but that again depends on their timelines and workload."



hollywood

'YES IT'S ONE BABY': SINGER HALSEY SHOWS OFF HER GROWING BABY BUMP IN NEW VIDEO



American singer Halsey treated her fans to an adorable picture of herself showcasing her growing baby bump while telling fans she has "been ready" to become a first-time parent any day now.

Taking to her Instagram Stories, the two-time Grammy Award nominee shared a picture in which she can be seen donning a black bikini while soaking in the sun. "Too hot outside. Beeeene ready. (Yes it's ONE baby lol)," Halsey wrote alongside the picture, joking about the size of her bump.

Back in January, Halsey announced that she is expecting her first child with screenwriter boyfriend Alev Aydin. " Surprise!" she wrote on Instagram, posting a photo of her baby bump at that time. A source told People magazine in February that "Halsey is very excited about the baby" and after the pregnancy announcement, "she now wears clothes that show off her cute bump."

"The 26-year-old star has been open about her struggles to get pregnant in the past. On a related note, she revealed in a 2016 interview that she suffered a miscarriage before a performance a year earlier, but she still went onstage."

'AQUAMAN' ACTRESS AMBER HEARD WELCOMES BABY GIRL OONAGH VIA SURROGACY, SAYS SHE'S 'BEGINNING OF THE REST OF HER LIFE'



Actress Amber Heard surprised fans by announcing the birth of her daughter Oonagh Paige Heard through surrogacy. She welcomed her secretly in April this year.

Amber kept 'Paige' as her daughter's middle name in memory of her late mother.

She took to Instagram and Twitter on Thursday and revealed that she welcomed her first child.

In the photo, the actress is holding Oonagh on her chest and laying on a bed. She also penned a heartfelt note on the post. 'I'm so excited to share this news with you. Four years ago, I decided I wanted to have a child. I wanted to do it on my own terms. I now appreciate how radical it is for us as women to think about one of the most fundamental parts of our destinies in this way. I hope we arrive at a point in which it's normalized to not want a ring in order to have a crib. A part of me wants to uphold that my private life is none of anyone's business. I also get that the nature of my job compels me to take control of this. My daughter was born on April 8, 2021. Her name is Oonagh Paige Heard. She's the beginning of the rest of my life.' Her post was filled with love and blessings for the baby. One wrote 'Congratulations it's absolutely the best part of life', 'We LOVE her so much already' wrote another. For the unversed, Amber and Johnny Depp went through a divorce because that was publicised. Johnny was expected to return as Gellert Grindelwald in 'Fantastic Beasts 3' but he came under scrutiny because of domestic abuse allegations. Because of this Warner Bros. had asked him to step back from the role. Depp also lost his role as Captain Jack Sparrow in Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean franchise.

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IF THERE IS NO PRESSURE, THERE IS NO FUN: SURYAKUMAR YADAV ON LANKA SERIES |P18



MY JOB AS VICE-CAPTAIN IN SL TOUR IS TO HELP OTHERS' SKILLS AND MENTAL HEALTH: BHUVNESHWAR KUMAR |P18



RASHID KHAN APPOINTED NEW CAPTAIN OF AFGHANISTAN'S T20 TEAM |P18



MidWeek Sports

ENGLAND NAME ENTIRE NEW SQUAD FOR PAKISTAN ODI SERIES AFTER SUDDEN COVID-19 OUTBREAK

ECB ANNOUNCED ON TUESDAY THAT THREE PLAYERS AND FOUR MEMBERS OF SUPPORT STAFF TESTED POSITIVE AND THE ENTIRE SQUAD WILL GO INTO ISOLATION



England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) have named an entirely new squad for the upcoming one-day international series against Pakistan starting Thursday, July 8 after a sudden COVID-19 outbreak. Three players and four members of the support staff tested positive for COVID-19 and will go into isolation. After which, the entire squad was deemed as close contacts and will go into isolation. However, the board confirmed that the ODIs and the subsequent T20Is against Pakistan will go ahead as per scheduled with an entirely new squad led by star all-rounder Ben Stokes, who returns to national duties after a long gap due to finger injury he sustained during the IPL. ECB CEO Tom Harrison talking about the same in a statement said, "We have been mindful that the emergence of the Delta variant, along with our move away from the stringent enforcement of bio secure environments, could increase the chances of an outbreak. We made a strategic choice to try to adapt protocols, in order to support the overall wellbeing of our players and management staff who have spent much of the last 14 months living in very restricted conditions. "Over-

night we have worked swiftly to identify a new squad, and we are grateful to Ben Stokes who will return to England duties to Captain. We also recognise the impact this news will have on our First Class Counties and their Men's playing squads and thank them, along with our partners Sky and Royal London, for their ongoing support in dealing with this pandemic," he added. After which England Cricket Team Managing Director Ashley Giles spoke about the selection of the 18-men squad for the series out of whom nine are uncapped, saying, "We're in unprecedented territory, in terms of replacing an entire squad and management team, and I'm very proud of how everyone has come together in order to get it done - both those within the ECB and from the county game. "Ben hasn't captained our ODI side before so it's a huge honour for him. We all wish him well and it's a role I'm sure he'll thrive in." **England Squad for Pakistan ODI series** - Ben Stokes(c), Ben Duckett, James Vince, Phil Salt, Dawid Malan, Zak Crawley, Will Jacks, Dan Lawrence, Danny Briggs, Brydon Carse, Jake Ball, Lewis Gregory, Tom Helm, Saqib Mahmood, Craig Overton, Matt Parkinson, John Simpson, David Payne

'OUT OF 20, 14 PLAYERS HAVE REPRESENTED INDIA': SLC RESPONDS TO RANATUNGA'S 'INSULT' COMMENT



Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on Friday issued a statement, saying the current India team which is there in the Island Nation to play three ODIs and three T20Is is a "strong squad". This clarification from SLC comes on the very day when former Sri Lanka skipper Arjuna Ranatunga criticised the board for letting India send their `second-string` team while the main team stayed back in England to play the Test series which commences in August. "Sri Lanka Cricket wishes to announce that despite claims by various parties as reported in the Media, the National White-Ball team of India currently touring Sri Lanka is a strong squad. Out of the 20-member India squad, 14 players have represented India across all formats or in some form. (Test, ODI, or T20I), and not a `second-string team,` as claimed," SLC said in an official statement. "It also should be mentioned that this tour is taking place, whilst the National Test Team of India is touring England to play a five-match Test series, versus England. This is the latest norm in the cricketing world, especially the full ICC Member countries, as they maintain specialist squads and players for each format of the game," it added.

IF THERE IS NO PRESSURE, THERE IS NO FUN: SURYAKUMAR YADAV ON LANKA SERIES

Suryakumar Yadav knows all about pressure but after making his long-awaited debut for India earlier this year, the talented Mumbai batsman is enjoying every opportunity he is getting at the highest level. Currently, Suryakumar is a part of the Indian team which is touring Sri Lanka for a three-match ODI series and as many T20Is starting from July 13. And after his debut (in the England series earlier this year), the right-hander wants to perform despite the burden of expectations. "I think, that the series against England was a completely different challenge, and every time you come, you start from scratch. Here also I have to start from zero."

MY JOB AS VICE-CAPTAIN IN SL TOUR IS TO HELP OTHERS' SKILLS AND MENTAL HEALTH: BHUVNESHWAR KUMAR

Senior India speedster and vice-captain for the ongoing tour of Sri Lanka, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, says his role as Shikhar Dhawan's deputy would be to help other players in "improving their skills and mental health" during the upcoming limited-overs series. In the absence of regular skipper Virat Kohli and the main side, who are currently touring England, Dhawan will lead the Indian team in the ODI and T20I series starting July 13. "Yes, on paper, it is my role (vice-captain), but I don't think things will change. I think being a senior player my role is to do things that help other players in improving their skills and mental health," Bhuvneshwar, who has 138 wickets from 117 ODIs, told Star Sports show 'Cricket Connected'.

MANPREET SINGH SECOND INDIAN HOCKEY CAPT FROM MITHAPUR TO BECOME FLAG BEARER IN OLYMPICS

MITHAPUR LAD and captain of the Indian hockey team Manpreet Singh (29) has been named India's flag bearer alongwith London Olympics bronze medallist boxer Mary Kom for the opening ceremony of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, to be held later this month. Singh, who has become the first Indian hockey player to be the flag bearer at the Olympics after former Indian hockey captain Pargat Singh (1996 Atlanta Olympics), incidentally belongs to the same village as Pargat — Mithapur in Jalandhar. "From growing up and playing hockey in Mithapur village to being named the flag bearer for the Indian contingent is a big honour for a player like me. It is a matter of pride as well as motivation for the whole Indian hockey team as well as fans and I hope we return with a medal from Tokyo," an elated Manpreet told media.

RASHID KHAN APPOINTED NEW CAPTAIN OF AFGHANISTAN'S T20 TEAM

The Number 2 ranked T20I bowler in the world, Rashid Khan has been appointed the new captain of the Afghanistan cricket team for the T20s. The globetrotter, Rashid, who has played 252 games in the format, taking 350 wickets, featuring in possibly every franchise league around the world including the IPL, BBL, PSL, CPL and many others. The left-handed batsman Najibullah Zadran, has been appointed as his deputy. Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) in a statement said, "Rashid, one of the well-known global faces of the game, was selected by senior ACB leadership led by ACB Chairman Farhan Yousafzai, for the role considering his experience, brilliant performance as well as leadership skills with the National team over the years." Rashid will be leading the Afghan side, who are in Group B of the ICC T20 World Cup 2021 alongside India, England and South Africa, which will be played in the UAE and Oman from October 17 to November 14. Talking about the appointment, Rashid took to Twitter to share his excitement for the new job and wrote, "I'm a great believer that a captain is as good as his team. It is Afghanistan that gave me the name RASHID KHAN & it is my duty now to serve my country & my team. Thank you @ACBofficials for the trust & believing in me. It is a dream journey & my fans support will be the key.

INDIA TOUR OF SRI LANKA 2021			
MATCH	DATE	TIME	VENUE
		ODI's	
1ST ODI	JULY 13	9:00 AM	R.PREMADASA STADIUM, COLOMBO
2ND ODI	JULY 16	9:00 AM	R.PREMADASA STADIUM, COLOMBO
3RD ODI	JULY 18	9:00 AM	R.PREMADASA STADIUM, COLOMBO
		T20's	
MATCH	DATE	TIME	VENUE
1ST T20I	JULY 21	1:30 PM	R.PREMADASA STADIUM, COLOMBO
2ND T20I	JULY 23	1:30 PM	R.PREMADASA STADIUM, COLOMBO
3RD T20I	JULY 25	1:30 PM	R.PREMADASA STADIUM, COLOMBO
SQUADS			
Indian Squad: Shikhar Dhawan (Captain), Prithvi Shaw, Devdutt Padikkal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Suryakumar Yadav, Manish Pandey, Hardik Pandya, Nitish Rana, Ishan Kishan (Wicketkeeper), Sanju Samson (Wicketkeeper), Yuzvendra Chahal, Rahul Chahar, K Gowtham, Krunal Pandya, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakravarthy, Bhuvneshwar Kumar (Vice-captain), Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini, Chetan Sakariya			
Net bowlers: Ishan Porel, Sandeep Warrier, Arshdeep Singh, Sai Kishore, Simarjeet Singh			
Sri Lanka Squad: Not announced yet.			



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