

Afternoon VOICE



Shiv Sanik goes to Guwahati with placard which reads... PG 04»



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Ekhnath Shinde

To Claim On Shiv Sena's Election Symbol Bow and Arrow?

Ekhnath Shinde won the hearts of ignored Shiv Sainiks

Afternoon Voice Bureau

afternoon_voice

Ekhnath Shinde won the hearts of ignored Shiv Sainiks. However, another battle may break out in the lead up to the Election Commission. That would be the 'bow and arrow' of the Shiv Sena's election symbol to be frozen first and then the Shinde group's demand that we get it. In fact, the BJP will be more interested in Shinde and Kambu becoming BJP supporters in the run up to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. It is not strange that the BJP has some theoretical difficulty in doing so. Now Shinde Sena's claim on Shiv Sena's election symbol Dhanush Baan also seems to be confirmed.

One of the rebel MLS told Afternoon Voice under the condition of anonymity "Ekhnath Shinde is about to stake claim on the party's symbols Bow and arrow. Uddhav Thackeray not only abandoned Hindutva but also Shiv Sainiks. We were never given respect, never allowed to meet CM. Our leader Ekhnath Shinde is about to take the legacy of Balasaheb Thackeray, Shiv Sena and its election symbol."

Another Rebel said "Ekhnath Shinde won the hearts of Shiv Sainiks with his boundless communication and support to us. When we were tired of waiting at Varsha Bungalow to get one glimpse of our leader Uddhav Thackeray, Shinde used to help her in every odd situation. We trust his leadership".

Uddhav Thackeray took the party

and its people for granted by distancing himself as king of the kingdom. He never realized the importance of keeping in touch with grassroot workers or giving them due respect. This baggage of emotions piled up and with time Ekhnath Shinde beautifully handled the situation by turning the tables. Shiv Sena Vs Shinde Sena battle has now become a battle for the ownership of Shiv Sena. With two-thirds of the 55 Shiv Sena MLAs, that is, more than 37, Ekhnath Shinde is now claiming that more than 40 MLAs of the party are with him and more MLAs of the party can join him in the future.



Ekhnath Shinde's revolt has sparked a debate across India

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

The entire prime time debates and news reports are based on the speculations whereas truth is far away from what meets the eyes. Mumbai is Shiv Sena's stronghold but still Ekhnath managed to flee with Shiv Sena MLAs without leaving any hint and ironically his constituency people are strongly supporting him. Ekhnath got people's support just because he made his stand clear that he loves his leaders but refused to accept the unnatural alliance. The 37 rebel Shiv Sena MLAs who are camping in Guwahati sent a second letter to Maharashtra Assembly's Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal, reaffirming that Ekhnath Shinde will remain their group leader in the legislature. The letter stated that Ekhnath Shinde will be the leader of Shiv Sena

Legislature Party, while Bharatshet Gogawale will be the Chief Whip of the Shiv Sena.

In a last-ditch attempt to keep his flock together, Uddhav Thackeray met the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) corporators. While Thackeray has been holding meetings with the district presidents to see where the party cadre stands, with the migration of a majority of the MLAs to the Ekhnath Shinde camp, all eyes are on this meeting with the corporators. After MLAs followed by MPs, the next big split within the party is going to be among corporators of the BMC.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Editoritis

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Here the situation for Thackeray continues to become grimmer with his close aide switching sides and the chief minister himself falling short of numbers. It seems that the legacy of Bal Thackeray, who founded Shiv Sena, has slipped from the hands of Uddhav Thackeray with the rebellion of Eknath Shinde as he claims of being a true Shivsainik, the battle of who holds the true legacy of Balasaheb has started.

There will be an impact on the BMC polls to be held in October-November, which can further damage the party. Since the MLAs who were given notice of suspension by Shiv Sena are supporting Eknath Shinde's revolt without fear of action, they do not find any attempt to plan for the withdrawal of MLAs. Shiv Sena leaders are waiting to find a way out of this. But they did not get it.

On the other hand, by ignoring and sidelining rural Maharashtra, Sena has lost an opportunity to script its own brand. Such a narrative would have helped Sena create a robust institutional network across the state, groom a young band of rural Sainiks from the BC-OBC and Adivasi communities, and bridge the urban-rural divide that threatens to tear the party apart. No wonder Shinde's list of rebels includes many from the dusty plains of Maharashtra, including Dada Bhuse, Shambhuraj Desai and Pradeep Jaiswal, over all he claims to have 38 MLAs with him.

However, the Election Commission may have to face another battle and that would be the 'bow and arrow' of the Shiv Sena's election symbol to be frozen first and then the Shinde group's demand that we get it. In fact, the BJP will be more interested in Shinde and Kamp becoming BJP supporters in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Uddhav Thackeray closed all the MLAs, MPs and corporators; Shinde's army will be the 'real' army. The real problem with this game of chance is if Uddhav Thackeray really tries to stand on his own two feet. No matter how much we think about intellectuals, our politics is based on emotions.

There is no denying that Shiv Sena is a party running on pure emotion. Due to this, Shiv Sena chief Balasaheb Thackeray, who became weak after many rifts, bowed down at the meeting in Shivaji Park and an election was held on that one salutation. So much so that in the last assembly elections, Sharad Pawar, who was in his eighties, held a campaign rally in the pouring rain and changed the winds of the elections. The BJP's specialty is to play this emotional game perfectly without emotion. The left does not care about these sentiments, so they win the debate, but lose the election.

While it is becoming clear that the BJP's intention to overthrow Uddhav Thackeray and the Mahavikas Aghadi government by doing anything before the forthcoming Mumbai Municipal Corporation elections. Although the Eknath Shinde revolt has succeeded in diverting the attention of the masses from the burning issues in India like Agniveer, Hindu killings in Kashmir and so on. There is no doubt that the next battle will be fought on the streets. Shinde is a leader of protestors



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who can accumulate resources. He has so far fulfilled the responsibilities of the leader. Even after this, their condition will not change much. At the same time, the size and shape of the assets to be deposited may change. This is because BJP does not need Shinde for resources. BJP does not need Shinde as much as Shiv Sena needs him. Shinde announced his departure from Guwahati but later on postponed it.

Here the situation for Thackeray continues to become grimmer with his close aide switching sides and the chief minister himself falling short of numbers. It seems that the legacy of Bal Thackeray, who founded Shiv Sena, has slipped from the hands of Uddhav Thackeray with the rebellion of Eknath Shinde as he claims of being a true Shivsainik, the battle of who holds the true legacy of Balasaheb has started. Let us see what time unfolds.

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Voices

Letter's to the Editor

Agnipath Controversy

The youth in our country want to make a career with Armed forces , not a mere job for 4 years and leave. Government should understand the difference between the career and the job.

Out of the vacancies for recruitment of 12th passed, How many for permanent cadre and how many for 4 year Agnipath scheme should be known to public (So far we hear 25 % or 10% of the Agniveers will be permanent out of 46000 recruited. The rest will be temporary). When a person dies in war his family will get compensation in regular posts of armed forces. That is why he comes forward to sacrifice his life for the nation. But if an agniveer dies, his family will not get such compensation, as we understand.

Here age plays important role but not his service 4 years or permanent. Young man killed in war, a person with 45 or 50 years age killed in war there is lot of difference.

50 years man seen life. 20 years young man not yet seen life . The compensation for the loss of this young man is more to his aged parents than the loss to the family when 50 years man dies.

The children will take care of mother along with pension and other Benefits. But when the young man dies without any compensation, the loss to his parents is more. Government should rethink and improve the scheme by sizable and reasonable amount of compensation to the parents of the agniveer, dying on duty. Arson is condemned by all. But an aspirant of armed forces may not involve in such Nasty things.

Those who are doing must be different. Government is not mature enough , even after farmers year long protest. I earnestly suggest Modiji to take parental role for the young aspirants for armed forces career. Let the government not to be hasty in recruiting without improving the compensation for Agni veers.

- KLRao

Viva Sao Joao

While the feast of Sao Joao (St. John the Baptist) was celebrated across the Catholic world on June 23, Goa was the only place where it was marked by revelers leaping into wells. On this day, groups of Goans go around singing traditional Konkani songs accompanied by musical instruments like the ghumat, the mhadalem, the kansallem and the guitar. Sao Joao is also a thanksgiving festival for newly weds and for families with babies born during the preceding year.

- Jubel D'Cruz

Lack of quality

In the last few years, it is really surprising to see the marks obtained by the students in the 10th-12th examinations. Therefore, the number of schools with 100% results has also increased. But is all this virtual world being created ? This begs the question. Is the quality of education declining because of this? This needs to be taken care of. Students will not be formed in this way. Even when getting admission in college, this situation can create a big crisis. Therefore, if this situation does not change, we may face serious consequences in future. The competition is the oldest in the field of medicine and engineering. However, despite the increase in the number of admissions in the subject, it is not easy to get admission in a college which is financially viable.

- Uday waghvankar

'The 56th anniversary of Shiv Sena became a year disastrous for the party'(editoritis)

It gives a glimpse of political saga of Maharashtra facing due to fraction in Shiv Sena. The Rajya Sabha election results showed the disgruntle among MVA at large and Shiv Sena in particular. But the kneejerk reaction of Mr. Sanjat Raut was enough to come together all the dissatisfied MLAs and that was reflected in MLC election. The action of Eknath Shinde to leave Mumbai and head towards Surat then to Guwahati , alongwith MLAs ejo are with him. Still the Shiv Sena head was not in a mood to pacify the disgruntle group, instead yhey gave ultimatum of come before 5pm at Mumbai. All in all MVA is facing turmoil because of internal conflicts and both the parties are sitting on the fence instead of helping ShivSena head and CM.

- Maya Hemant Bhatkar

Drug, Addict Youth and Celebrity – Part 1



Millions of people all over the world and millions of people in India consume intoxicants like gutka, bidi, tobacco etc. They all know very well that there are thousands of harmful chemicals in these substances. People smoke tobacco. Tobacco is obtained from the Nicotia tabacum plant which is a poison. Tobacco, catechu, betel nut, lime and many other intoxicants are mixed in gutkha. Tar is also present in cigarettes. Tar is a black-coloured substance that is used to make roads. Carbon monoxide is also a dangerous element present in cigarettes. The black smoke coming out of the car also contains carbon monoxide.

Apart from this, chemicals like arsenic, ammonia, acetone, talvan, methanol, methylamine and polonium-210 are present in cigarettes. A common potential source of aldehydes is alcohol. When we drink alcohol, our body converts alcohol into acetaldehyde,

which is a type of chemical. Due to the consumption of intoxicants, the teeth leave quickly, the map of the mouth starts deteriorating, the number of glasses starts increasing, the lungs start getting damaged and the nicotine present in tobacco disturbs the blood pressure.

Many internal diseases arise due to this addiction. The body parts stop working properly. More than 70 per cent of crimes are committed by people under the influence of intoxication. Under the influence of drugs, a person's ability to think and understand decreases. In such a situation, a person does much such anti-social work, due to which tension arises in the society. Many workers, workers spend some part of their earnings in drunkenness. Even those who earn on a daily basis spend some part of the day's earnings in intoxication. Due to this poverty increases.

A drug addict is always in his thoughts, he does not care

much about the environment around him. Drug addicts are the most prone to accidents. But still, people ignore their harmful points and consume them. Seeing elders in many families, children also consume them, women start consuming them. Dangerous disease like cancer is the result of this.

According to a recently released report by the World Health Organization, every second person who consumes drugs is a victim of premature death. It is estimated that about 1.5 billion people in the world are addicted to drugs. All over the world, 80 lakh people and in India 30 lakh people are dying every year due to drugs. There are many disadvantages of drug use. That's why we should avoid the consumption of these substances by not playing with our body because life, money, respect all get wasted in it. The more distance you keep from it, the better. These substances destroy the life of a celebrity by becoming the cause of death.



Khemu Parashar

Writer and Columnist

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No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own.)



For the first time in the country, a tribal woman will get the post of President. Through this picture the children of Gurukul congratulates to the NDA government candidate Mrs. Draupadi Murmu for the election.

City

Shiv Sainik goes to Guwahati says "Shiv Sena Zindabad, Eknath Shinde (Bhai) return..."

Amid Uddhav Thackeray camp efforts to defuse the ongoing political crisis in Maharashtra, a Shiv Sena functionary from the state went to Guwahati in Assam to appeal to rebel leader Eknath Shinde to return to Matoshree.



has gone to Guwahati to urge Shinde to get back with Thackeray.

Maharashtra political crisis has entered the fourth day with more MLAs joining Eknath Shinde camp.

Sanjay Bhosale, Shiv Sena's deputy district chief from Satara

Covid-19 case count crosses 1,000, 2 more die



After a gap of several months, the single-day Covid-19 infection count in Thane district of Maharashtra has once again crossed the 1,000-mark with the addition of 1,089 cases, an official said on Friday.

These cases were reported on Thursday, which took the overall tally in the district to 7,22,804. As the virus claimed the lives of two persons during the day, the death toll in the district went up to 11,902, the official said, adding that the mortality rate is 1.67 per cent.

Work on play area for special kids halted as locals complain



Keshavji Baliram Hedgewar garden in JVPD, Juhu, has run into trouble. The BMC which last month granted permissions to an NGO to use a designated space for specific installations in the garden has stopped work temporary following complaints received by a group of locals.

A play park which is being carved out for specially abled children at

The project to install play apparatus for special kids was coordinated by NGO Inner Wheel Club of Bombay Airport.

FIR registered against cop for raping woman



Bhoiwada police have booked a cop for raping a woman multiple times after making false promises of

marrying her. The accused had developed an intimate relationship with the victim under the pretext of helping her file a complaint against her husband.

Accused police inspector S Jadhav who is currently posted in Nagpur, has been booked for rape and cheating and an FIR has been registered under relevant IPC sections for the same.

'Mission Zero Dropout' to bring kids back to schools

With a rise in students dropping out of formal education during the two years of pandemic-induced shutdown of schools, the state has planned to look for such children and bring them back to learning.



A 'Mission Zero Dropout' will be undertaken by the state school education department from July 5 to 20 to identify dropouts, migrant children

and those not attending schools regularly.

Thane teen injured after falling off train

An 18-year-old boy from Kalwa suffered injuries after falling off a moving train between Kalwa and Thane stations, Thursday morning, the railway police informed.

The victim, a labourer, was headed towards Dadar and was standing on the footboard with his friends when he lost grip and hit a signal pole 200m from Kalwa station.



The 18th annual issue of 'Agnisheela' Hindi magazine was published by Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at his official residence Sagar. Editor Anil Vedavyas Galgali was present on the occasion.

Businesswoman, financial advisor, BEST man get power bill con shock



A 65-year-old businesswoman from Malabar Hill, a 78-year-old financial advisor from Cuffe Parade and a BEST staffer from Ghatkopar are

among the latest to fall prey to cyber fraudsters who on the pretext of pending electricity bills duped them of nearly Rs 2 lakh, Rs 1.1 lakh and Rs 47,000, respectively.

No BJP role in current political crisis in state, claims party leader

Amid allegations of BJP's involvement in Shiv Sena minister Eknath Shinde's revolt against his party that has posed a question mark over the survival of the MVA



government, BJP's Maharashtra unit chief Chandrakant Patil on Friday asserted that his party did not play any role in the ongoing political crisis in the state.

Nation

RAW chief's tenure extended, Tapan Deka appointed as new Intelligence Bureau Director

The Central government on Friday gave one-year extension in service to Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Samant Goel and appointed senior IPS officer Tapan Deka as Director of Intelligence Bureau. Goel, a 1984-batch IPS officer from Punjab cadre, would continue to be the Secretary of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) for a period one-year beyond the present tenure upto June 30, 2023, a Ministry of personnel order said. Goel was given an extension in service last year too.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension in service of Samant Kumar Goel, IPS (PB:84) as Secretary, Research & Analysis Wing for a period of one year beyond his present tenure up to June 30, 2023, in relaxation of All India



Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958," the order said. In a separate order, Special Director Intelligence Bureau Tapan Kumar Deka, a 1988 batch Himachal Pradesh cadre IPS officer, was appointed Director Intelligence Bureau for a tenure of two years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Deka will succeed incumbent Intelligence Bureau Director Arvind Kumar,

whose tenure ends on June 30.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Tapan Kumar Deka, IPS (HP:88), Special Director, Intelligence Bureau as Director, Intelligence Bureau vice Arvinda Kumar, IPS (AM:84), upon completion of his tenure on June 30, 2022, for a tenure of two years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier, by granting extension in service under the provisions of All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958," the order reads. Deka has spent most of his career in the Intelligence Bureau. He was an Additional Director in Intelligence Bureau when he was promoted to the rank of Special Director in the Wing in June last year.

- ANI

Kejriwal asks Centre to review Agnipath scheme

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday termed the new Agnipath recruitment scheme for the Armed Forces "harmful for youth and country" and asked the Centre to review it.

"Agnipath scheme is harmful for our youth and country. After four years of service, they will be called ex-servicemen and will not get any pension... I think the Central government should review it," Kejriwal said while speaking to the media. The Centre had launched the Agnipath Scheme on June 14, following which the protests erupted in parts of the country with agitations turning violent in some places like Bihar, and Telangana among others. Kejriwal had appealed to the Centre to give the youth a chance to "serve the country for the whole life and not only for four years".

A total of 46,000 Agniveers

will be recruited this year but a top military officer said it will go up to 1.25 lakhs in near future. The entry age for all new recruits in the Armed Forces has been fixed as 17.5 to 21 years of age. However, following protests, the Central government announced an increase in the upper age limit for the recruitment of Agniveers from 21 years to 23 years for the recruitment cycle of 2022 as it has not been possible to undertake the recruitment during the last two years. Agniveers will be enrolled for a service duration of 4 years including the training period. After four years, only 25 per cent of the Agniveers will be retained or reenlisted in the regular cadre based on merit, willingness and medical fitness. These 25 per cent Agniveers will then serve for a full term of another 15 years.

- ANI

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- ANI

Himanta Biswa Sarma invites Uddhav Thackeray for 'vacation' in Assam

As rebel Shiv Sena MLAs and some Independents legislators from Maharashtra continue to camp in Assam, state Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday invited his Maharashtra counterpart Uddhav Thackeray to come to Assam for a "vacation". Speaking to ANI on Friday, Sarma said, "If the rebel MLAs stay in Assam for more days, then it is a good thing for me. I invite everyone. He (Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray) should also come to Assam for vacation. I invite all the MLAs of the country to come to Assam." Further, the



Assam Chief Minister brushed off allegations of hosting Maharashtra rebel MLAs in Guwahati saying that he could not stop anyone from visiting his state. Speaking on the opposition's jibe related to violation of federal structure, he

said, "How can I stop people from coming to a hotel? Can I tell you not to come to a hotel in Assam because there is a federal structure in the country? I am happy when anyone comes to Assam, they can stay as long as they want," he added. On Thursday, Sarma denied connection with the Maharashtra political crisis. He said, "There are many good hotels in Assam, anyone can come there and stay...there is no issue with it. I don't know if Maharashtra MLAs are staying in Assam. MLAs of other states can also come and stay in Assam," Sarma told.

Kharge alleged that the BJP-

led Centre is attempting to "destabilize" the "strong" Maha Vikas Aghadi government in view of the forthcoming presidential poll next month as they need numbers to get their presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu victorious in the poll slated to be held on July 18. However, BJP had said the Maharashtra crisis is Shiv Sena's internal matter and the party has nothing to do with it. Nationalist Congress Party leader Jayant Patil had said his party is "firmly standing with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray".

- ANI

Made in India combat vehicles inducted in forward areas in Ladakh

Made In India Infantry Combat Vehicles have been inducted into the forward areas in Ladakh boosting the capabilities of the troops deployed there. Northern Army Commander Lt General Upendra Dwivedi personally drove the new vehicle and said that with these combat vehicles one can easily be driven in harsh terrain of the region.

"One can easily drive the vehicle and the driver can see 1,800 metres away from it. The weapon mounted on it can be

controlled from inside," Northern Army Commander Lt General Upendra Dwivedi told ANI. The vehicles named Infantry Protected Mobility Vehicles (IPMVs) were delivered to the Indian Army in April this year and have been tried and tested in the Ladakh region in mountainous terrain. These Infantry Protected Mobility Vehicles (IPMVs) have been jointly developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization and the Tata group.

- ANI

SC confirms death penalty awarded to man convicted of raping

The Supreme Court on Friday confirmed the death penalty awarded to a man convicted of kidnapping, raping and killing a physically and mentally challenged seven-and-a-half-year-old girl, and noted that the crime was brutal and inhuman. A bench of justices AM Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar confirmed the death penalty awarded to convict Manoj Pratap Singh and dismissed his appeal challenging Rajasthan High Court order. The top court noted the fact that the innocent victim was kidnapped on a stolen motorcycle by

misusing the trust gained by the offer of confectionary items and also, and she was brutally and inhumanly raped.

"Accordingly, these appeals are dismissed; conviction of the appellant of offences under Sections 363, 365, 376(2)(f), 302 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 are confirmed; and the sentences awarded to the appellant, including the death sentence for the offence under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, are also confirmed," the top court said.

World

43 pc foreign-funded projects in the country are 'problematic'

Pakistan's Ministry of Economic Affairs on Thursday stated that 43 per cent of the foreign-funded projects were problematic. The Ministry said that 43 per cent of about \$35 billion worth of these projects were problematic -- either not progressing well or unable to deliver the desired outcomes, the Dawn newspaper reported. Addressing the National Coordination Committee's review meeting on foreign-funded projects, the Ministry mentioned that it was

managing an ongoing portfolio of USD 34.8 billion such projects in various economic sectors, of which projects worth over USD 15 billion (43 per cent) are considered problematic. An official statement issued by the Ministry mentioned that the share of federal energy projects is about USD 3.3 billion, of USD \$2.3 billion (or almost 70 per cent) is rated as problematic. No wonder then, the energy sector is emerging as a challenge to the country's stability, an official said, referring to over 17 per cent



losses and 10 per cent short recoveries in the power sector and 10-17pc system losses in the gas sector, the local media reported. Economic Affairs Minister Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

chaired the review meeting which was attended by the heads of implementing agencies, the relevant Ministers and the representatives of provincial governments.

Regular follow-up monthly meetings were proposed by Economic Affairs Secretary Mian Asad Hayauddin for monitoring and prompt resolution of issues. The review meeting comes amid the economic crisis in Pakistan for which the country is seeking the help of the International

Monetary Fund (IMF). Earlier, talks were held between the Pakistan government and the IMF in Doha where the organisation wanted Pakistan to undertake measures for the revival of the stalled USD 6 billion programme to control its fiscal deficit. Against this backdrop, Shehbaz Sharif has increased fuel prices for the third time in recent weeks and removed fuel subsidies to trim the fiscal deficit and secure critical support from the IMF.

- ANI

US Senate passes bipartisan gun safety bill



The US Senate on Thursday night passed a bipartisan bill to address gun violence in the United States, the first major piece of federal gun reform in almost 30 years. The final vote was 65 to 33 with 15 Republicans joining Democrats in support of the measure, marking a significant bipartisan breakthrough on one of the most contentious policy issues in the US. The bill will now go to the House for a vote and it could take up the bill as early as Friday, before it can be sent to President Joe Biden to be signed into law.

The bill comes with a USD 13.2 billion price tag and it includes millions of dollars for mental health, school safety, crisis intervention programs and

incentives for states to include juvenile records in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. The vote on the federal gun safety bill comes on the same day as the Supreme Court struck down a New York gun law regulating concealed handguns in public that mandated residents demonstrate a specific need to carry a handgun outside of the home.

More than 390 million guns are owned by civilians in the US. In 2020 alone, more than 45,000 Americans died from firearms-related injuries including homicides and suicides. This move comes at a time of heightened support for gun control following a string of high-profile mass shootings. The May 24 massacre at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, that killed 19 children and two teachers, was the bloodiest mass shooting in the United States this year, which occurred only 10 days after another shooting that killed 10 people at a supermarket in Buffalo.

- ANI

Four dead in military cargo plane crash in central Russia

Four people have died and five more have been hospitalized as a result of a military plane crash near the Russian city of Ryazan, the regional authorities said on Friday. "The response group of the regional government says that, according to preliminary information, four people have died as a result of the plane crash near the Mikhailovskoye Roadway of Ryazan," the

government was quoted as saying by Sputnik. "Five more people are in the medical facilities of Ryazan with various injuries. They are receiving the necessary medical assistance," the authorities added.

All of the injured people are in stable condition. Earlier, the Russian Defense Ministry said an Il-76 military-transport plane crash landed in Ryazan due to an engine problem.

PM, Rwandan counterpart to inaugurate 5 MW hydroelectric plant in Rwanda on Sunday

Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth and his Rwandan counterpart, Dr Edouard Ngirente will jointly inaugurate a first-of-its-kind 5 MW hydroelectric plant on Sunday that will help reduce carbon emissions of the East African nation. Omnihydro plant is 98.1 per cent owned by a Mauritius-based company Omnicane, built by its subsidiary Omnihydro (Rwanda) Ltd. This plant in Rwanda has become operational and is named Mushishito-Rukarara Hydroelectric Plant, LeMatinal newspaper reported. This is a clean and renewable bio-energy production project in sync with the energy transition goals of Rwanda as discussed at the 26th Commonwealth Heads of State Summit, the report added. It is in line with

the Mauritian government's ambition to achieve 60 per cent renewable energy production by 2030. "We have no doubt that the experience acquired together will be a plus in the future to position Mauritius in pole position for similar projects, and this in the perspective of the energy transition and the preference given to clean and renewable energy production for the economic, social and technological development of the continent thanks to Mauritian know-how and financing," said Jacques d'Unienville, CEO of Omnicane, already in Rwanda.

This 5MW production is estimated to reduce carbon emissions by about 14,500 metric tons per year, comparable to planting 1,000 hectares of trees per year. It is



expected to power, on average, 175,000 households in Rwanda. According to the LeMatinal, this 5 MW production will be connected to Rwanda's national grid. Rwanda's energy mix is made up of 55 per cent renewable energy sources, of which 78 per cent is hydro. In total, the country has 37 hydropower plants connected to its national grid. This green strategy was developed by Omnihydro and incorporated in Rwanda in 2010, the report added.

- ANI

Opposition accuses Pakistan PM Sharif

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan-led opposition party on Thursday accused the Shehbaz Sharif government of plunging the country into a quagmire of crisis. Farrukh Habib, the central secretary-general of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), slammed the incumbent government and said that all claims about PM Shehbaz Sharif being a good administrator have been exposed as he has plunged the country into a quagmire of crisis in only a few months of his rule, the Dawn newspaper reported. Addressing a press conference at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House on Thursday, Habib called the government "anti-people and anti-poor" and said that the



betterment of the country was not on their agenda.

The Pakistani prime minister on Tuesday had hinted at taking "difficult" decisions to bring Pakistan out of the tough economic situation. He blamed the previous PTI government led by Imran Khan for the poor

performance of the deteriorating economic conditions. A large number of workers and supporters of Imran Khan's party on Sunday staged protests across the country against rising inflation on the call of party chairman. Imran Khan said that his party will continue protests against Pakistan's 'imported' government till the announcement of fresh elections. The former PM rejected the allegations levelled by the current rulers that the PTI government's policies and agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were the reasons for the skyrocketing inflation.

- ANI

Business

RBI will not allow 'jerky movements' of Rupee: Dy Governor Patra

Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Michael D Patra on Friday said the Central Bank will not allow "jerky movements" of the Rupee and stressed that the Indian currency has witnessed the least depreciation in recent times.

Addressing an interactive session on 'Geo-Political Spillovers and Indian Economy', he attributed the lesser depreciation of the Rupee to high foreign exchange reserves of around USD 600 billion.

"We will stand for its stability, and we're doing it on an



ongoing basis even as I speak. We are there in the market. We will not allow disorderly movements. We have no level in our mind, but we will not allow jerky movements that is for certain, and let it be widely

known that we are in the market defending the rupee against volatility," he said during the session organized by an industry body PHDCCI.

Patra further said if one looks at the depreciation of the Rupee, it is one of the least in the world and that is the power of USD 600 billion-dollar reserves.

On Thursday, Rupee had closed at its all-time low of 78.32 against the US dollar. However, in the morning session on Friday, it opened 12 paise up at 78.20 against the US dollar.

IIFL Finance gets the board's approval to raise Rs 5,000 crore

IIFL Finance is planning to raise debt capital worth Rs 5,000 crore by issuing bonds on a private placement basis, the company said on Thursday.

The bonds will be offered through public issue, subject to regulatory and statutory approvals, IIFL Finance said in a regulatory filing. "The board of directors of the company at their meeting held today, June 23, 2022, approved the raising of funds by way of issuance of secured redeemable non-convertible debentures with the shelf limit of Rs 50,000 million, in one or more tranches," it added.

IIFL Finance is a non-banking finance company, offering



products such as home loans, gold loans, and business loans, loans against property and medium & small enterprise financing, microfinance, developer and construction finance.

It also offers capital market finance; catering to both retail and corporate clients. Its subsidiaries IIFL Home Finance Ltd and Samasta Microfinance Ltd - are engaged in providing a diverse range of loans and mortgages.

Pakistan announces 10 per cent 'super tax' on large-scale industries

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday announced a 10 per cent "super tax" on large-scale industries like cement, steel and automobile, a move he said was aimed at tackling spiralling inflation and saving the cash-strapped country from going "bankrupt." High net worth individuals will also be subject to a "poverty alleviation tax," Sharif announced after chairing a

meeting of his economic team on the federal budget for the next fiscal year 2022-23.

"Our first motive is to provide relief to the masses and to reduce the burden of inflation on the people and facilitate them," Sharif said, a local news channel reported.

"Our second motive is to protect the country from going bankrupt," he said, adding that it has been devastated due to the "incompetency and



corruption" of the previous Imran Khan-led government. The sectors on which this "super tax" will be levied include cement, steel, sugar, oil and gas, fertilisers, LNG terminals, textile, banking, automobile, cigarettes, beverages and chemicals, according to a local newspaper.

Sharif explained that other motives included stabilisation of the economy. "These aren't

just words, this is the voice of my heart and InshaAllah we will be able to achieve all these targets," he said. He said history had witnessed that in difficult times, it was the poor people who always made sacrifices.

"Today, it is time for the affluent citizens to do their part. It is their turn to show selflessness. And I am confident that they will contribute fully to play their part," Sharif said.

Rouble stays near 7-yr peaks, OFZ bonds climb higher

The Russian rouble stabilized near seven-year peaks on Friday, supported by capital controls and high prices for Russian exports, such as oil and gas, while OFZ government bond prices climbed higher.

At 0715 GMT, the rouble was 0.1% weaker against the dollar at 53.50, near its strongest level since mid-2015 of 52.80 it touched earlier this week. Against the euro, the rouble was flat at 56.18, close to the level of 55.01 it hit on the Moscow Exchange for the first time since late May 2015.

Bank unions defer June 27 strike as IBA agrees to initiate talks



The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), an umbrella body of several bank unions, has deferred its June 27 strike call, said a top leader of the All-India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA).

The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has informed the UFBU that it has decided to commence the negotiations on all residual issues on July 1, 2022, in Mumbai, said C.H. Venkatachalam, and General Secretary, AIBEA.

In view of the negotiations starting on July 1, the proposed All India strike on June 27 has been deferred, he said.

The residual issues are like five-day week for bankers, hike in conveyance allowance to physically challenged employees, uniform banking hours in branches, improvement in medical insurance and staff welfare schemes, fitment to ex-servicemen employees, improvement in the pension rules as given to the Central government staff, special allowance in Northeastern states and others, Venkatachalam said.

ESIC scheme adds 12.67 lakh, new members, in April

Around 12.67 lakh new members joined the ESIC-run social security scheme in April 2022, according to official data released on Friday.

The latest data is part of a report -- Payroll Reporting in India: An Employment Perspective - April 2022 -- released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

It showed that the gross new enrolments with Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) rose to 1.49 crore in 2021-22 from 1.15 crore in 2020-21. It was 1.51 crore in 2019-20 and 1.49 crore in 2018-19.

BSE Sensex
52727.98
(0.88%) ▲

Currency exchange

1 USD	78.8875 (INR)
1 GBP	96.5950 (INR)
1 EUR	82.8850 (INR)

Nifty **NSE**
National Stock Exchange of India Ltd

15699.30 (0.92%) ▲

Top Gainers

Scrip Name	Price	%Gain
M&M	1,072.05	4.32
Hero Motocorp	2,759.95	3.21
IndusInd Bank	806.50	2.75
Bajaj Finance	5,587.75	2.56
HUL	2,303.90	2.28

Top Losers

Scrip Name	Price	%Loss
Tech Mahindra	981.20	-1.00
Infosys	1,441.10	-0.78
TCS	3,293.10	-0.47
HCL Tech	966.70	-0.47
Coal India	176.55	-0.34

Sports

105-year-old woman creates new record in 100-meter race

45.40 seconds that's what it took for the 105-year-old Rambai to beat all odds and set a new record in 100m at the inaugural National Open Masters Athletics Championships -- conducted by the Athletics Federation of India -- that concluded in Vadodara. The inspirational Rambai had participated in the above-100 category but finished up running the race alone, due to a lack of candidates in the category. While winning in the competition she broke the record of 101-year-old Maan Kaur who garnered fame after winning gold in 100m in 74 seconds at the World Masters meet. With 45.40 seconds, a Haryana woman has now set a new record in the 100m.

"Before this race, my grandmother has won 4 gold medals in a competition. After that, she participated in a competition in Maharashtra in



which she won 5 gold medals. She was honoured with two trophies in Badlapur, Maharashtra," Rambai's granddaughter told ANI. Rambai's granddaughter Sharmila said that the centurion is quite careful about what she eats. She mentioned that Rambai is a consume lot of ghee and curd daily. "She also drinks pure milk twice a day

and consumes a lot of ghee. She doesn't eat much rice," Sharmila added. "She started his athletic career in 2021. Before that we did not even know that there is a senior citizens race category," she further added. "It's a great feeling and I want to race again," said a delighted Rambai.

- ANI

India clubbed with Brazil



Hosts India have been clubbed alongside football powerhouse Brazil, Morocco and the USA in a tough Group A for the upcoming U-17 FIFA Women's World Cup, the draw for which took place on Friday.

The country is slated to host the tournament from October 11 to 30 across three venues. A total of 16 teams across four groups will be participating in the tournament. Matches of the quadrennial event will take place in Bhubaneswar, Goa and Navi Mumbai. India will begin their campaign against the USA on October 11 (Tuesday) at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. Their second match will be against Morocco on October 14 (Friday) at the same venue. The home team's last group stage match against Brazil will be on October 17 (Monday).

- PTI

ATK Mohun Bagan Sign Australian Defender Brendan Hamill

ATK Mohun Bagan have signed Australian A-League star defender Brendan Hamill ahead of the upcoming Indian Super League (ISL) 2022-23 season.

The Sydney-born, 29-year-old defender started his career by playing in youth academies and lower division clubs in Australia and made his professional debut at Melbourne Heart FC (now rebranded as Melbourne City FC) in 2010.

After staying two years at Melbourne City FC, the defender moved to South Korea's top division football K-League 1 side Seongnam FC in 2012. The defender played for two years in K-League 1 but couldn't get the desired results there.

Then he returned down under and signed for the A-League club Western Sydney Wanderers in 2014. He started to flourish in the Western Sydney Wanderers club. Which later on got

rewarded in form of captaincy. The defender stayed five years at WSW, he made 79 appearances and scored 4 goals.

"Hamill is a player who helps in the build-up of the game and who, using his experience, helps the team in difficult defensive moments. He will be an asset to the team," said ATK Mohun Bagan head coach Juan Ferrando in a statement.

- ANI



Henry Nicholls gets dismissed in unluckiest way

During his side's third and final Test against England, New Zealand batter Henry Nicholls was dismissed in the unluckiest way possible. During the first day of the match, when he was batting at 19 in the 56th over of the match, a shot hit on spinner Jack Leach's second delivery hit the bat of Daryl Mitchell,



present at the non-striker hand. The ball hit Mitchell's bat while he was trying to get away from the ball, but the ball found the middle of his bat and went straight to Alex Lees's hands at the mid-off.

Even the umpire Richard Kettleborough could not stop the ball from going towards mid-off as he tried to get away from the ball. In this way, concluded a really unfortunate dismissal of Nicholls for 19 off 99, sinking New Zealand to 123/5.

The entire English team was all smiles, but the dismissal was extremely shocking and unfortunate for the Kiwis, who were already struggling

against English bowlers. Later, Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), took to social media to inform that the dismissal is completely within the laws of the sport. "An unfortunate dismissal? Yes. But wholly within the Laws. Law 33.2.2.3 states it will be out if a fielder catches the ball after it has touched the wicket, an

umpire, another fielder, a runner or the other batter.

Coming to the match, New Zealand were 225/5 in 90 overs at the end of the first day, with Mitchell (78*) and wicketkeeper-batter Tom Blundell (45*).

Choosing to bat first, New Zealand did not have a very good start as they kept losing wickets at regular intervals. Kane Williamson (31) and Devon Conway (26) made notable contributions for the Kiwis before Kiwis sunk to 123/5. Then, Mitchell and Blundell stitched an unbeaten 102-run stand to put their side in a better position. England currently leads the Test series 2-0.

- ANI

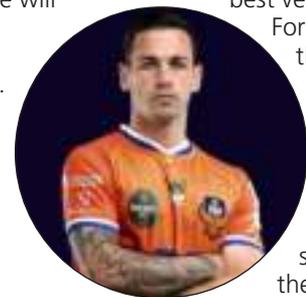
FC Goa sign striker Alvaro Vazquez for two-year deal

FC Goa have completed the signing of Alvaro Vazquez, and the Club has officially confirmed. The player has penned a two-year contract with the Gaurs, as a result of which he will wear their iconic Orange till the summer of 2024.

In his first season in the Indian Super League in 2021/22, the striker finished with 8 games and 2 assists to his name as he propelled Kerala Blasters to their first final appearance since 2016. "I'm extremely happy to

join FC Goa. The club has an ambitious project and a playing style that I love. Having spoken to the Club officials and Edu (Bedia), I was convinced that I can be the best version of myself here.

For me, Goa is one of the biggest clubs in the Indian Super League. Last season might not have been the best for the Club, but I believe we will surely move back to the top this coming season. I have heard and seen the fans of Goa, who love football. I want to experience playing at Fatorda. Honestly, I can't wait to play my first game in the club's colours."



Opinion

National Cadet Corps (NCC)

our old enemies Pakistan and China constantly giving trouble through infiltration. We as a neighbouring country are trying hard to maintain friendly relationships but we face frequent shelling across our border and we need to have a better and safe security system to save our motherland.

It is notable that A, B and C certificates are awarded to cadets passing the written and parade examination by the National Cadet Corps of India. Each of them is awarded the grading A, B and C grade. The highest one can attain is a C certificate with Alpha 'A' grading. The NCC at the state level is divided into 17 Directorates, in which each state or group of states forms a Directorate. The smaller states and union territories are attached to the Directorates of the bigger states. Each Directorate is under the command of an Officer equivalent to the rank of a Brigadier or its equivalent from the other two Services.

Since NCC is a part of the educational programme, the primary responsibility rests with the Principal/ Headmaster. Their close association with all the activities of the sub-unit in their institution will facilitate the former doing well. Periodic visit to parades, a formal inspection of the sub-unit once a month on a fixed day, visits to training camps in which his/her sub-unit is participating and so on will significantly contribute to achieving the Aims of the NCC programme. It is indeed a treat to watch cadets in full uniform making swift moves.



The National Cadet Corps (NCC) is a youth development movement. It has enormous potential for nation-building. The NCC provides opportunities to the youth of the country for their all-around development with a sense of Duty, Commitment, Dedication, Discipline and Moral Values so that they become able leaders and useful citizens. The NCC provides exposure to the cadets in a wide range of activities., with a distinct emphasis on Social Services, Discipline and Adventure Training. The NCC is open to all regular students of schools and colleges on a voluntary basis. The students have no liability for active military service.

The main aim of NCC is:-

- ◆ To develop character, comradeship, discipline, leadership, secular outlook, the spirit of adventure and the ideals of selfless service amongst the youth of the country.
- ◆ To create a human resource of organized, trained and motivated youth to provide leadership in all walks of life and always be available for the service of the nation.
- ◆ To provide a suitable environment to motivate the youth to take up a career in the Armed Forces.

As a college student, I had the opportunity to serve the unit from North Madras. On leaving my college, I received a certificate from an NCC officer stating that ' I am irregular in attendance because I was attending cricket matches on Sundays.' Thus, I had the chance to serve NCC and also nurture my cricketing career from my college days.

We in India are proud of NCC, as we have to serve the institution at some time or other during our school and college days. The National Cadet Corps

is an Indian military cadet corps with its Headquarters in New Delhi, Delhi, India. It is

open to school and college students on a voluntary basis. The National Cadet Corps is an Indian military cadet corps with its Headquarters at New Delhi, Delhi, India. It is open to school and college students on a voluntary basis.

It is open to school and college students on a voluntary basis. National Cadet Corps is a Tri-Services Organization, comprising the Army, Navy and Air Force, engaged in grooming the youth of the country into disciplined and patriotic citizens. India requires NCC as we have



Photo Credit: Sejal Marchande - Senior under office, NCC



- C K Subramaniam

Columnist and Writer

Different Strokes

What return should India's Mamata Banerjee provide to Bangladesh against the PM' Sheikh Hasina's 'Mango Diplomacy'?

Most Bangladeshi and India media report read that the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has received 600 kg of mangoes from Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as part of her "mango-hilsa diplomacy."

Hasina delivered mangoes to President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week, according to the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in this country.

According to a Bangladesh's deputy high commission official in Kolkata, a few more chief ministers in the eastern region will likely receive similar gifts. President Kovind, Prime Minister Modi, and the chief ministers of West Bengal, Tripura, and Assam received mangoes from Prime Minister Hasina last year as well. Hasina delivered

mangoes from Rajshahi, including kinds like Golapkhas and Amrapali, as it is the peak season for the delectable fruit in Bangladesh.

India is a longtime friend of Bangladesh. Keeping that friendship intact, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sent mangoes for her friend Indian President Ramnath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, just like last year. On Friday afternoon, 1,200 kg of Amrapali mangoes were delivered to the residences of the President and Prime Minister of India.



The mango was delivered as a gift to the respective diplomatic channels by the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, India. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's gift of mango and hilsa is further strengthening the diplomatic relations and friendship between the two countries.

Last year too, during the mango season, Sheikh Hasina sent 'Amrapali' and Haribhanga mangoes as gifts to the President of India, Prime Minister, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Bishwa Sharma.

Since last year, Sheikh Hasina has started mango diplomacy. A day before the meeting of the Joint Working Group (JCC) between Bangladesh and India last week, Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina sent mangoes. Foreign Minister attended the JCC meeting. Abdul Momen has completed his visit successfully. The JCC meeting was held in Delhi on June 19. The JCC discussed the overall issues of bilateral relations, including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's upcoming visit to India. Incidentally, Prime Minister Modi and President Kovind visited Bangladesh last year to attend the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence and the birth centenary of Sheikh Mujibur. And Narendra Modi has recently invited Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to visit India through External Affairs Minister S Jayashankar.

According to media reports, On September 6

The mango was delivered as a gift to the respective diplomatic channels by the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, India. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's gift of mango and hilsa is further strengthening the diplomatic relations and friendship between the two countries.

and 7, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will travel to India to meet with her Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi. The schedule has been set by Delhi and Dhaka, and the Prime Minister verbally approved.

The Joint Consultative Commission meeting between Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Bangladeshi Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on

June 19 included discussion of the Prime Minister-level meeting's itinerary.

According to a representative of the foreign ministry, the two nations will hold a Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) meeting before the PM-level summit in New Delhi. The JRC has not met at the ministerial level in the past ten years, despite the fact that the sharing of water from transboundary rivers is a major concern for the two

nations. In October of this year, Prime Minister Hasina last traveled to India.

The PM's visit is vital for the two nations' bilateral ties, which have significantly improved over the past 15 years, particularly in light of Bangladesh's role as India's gateway to its northeastern states. India has also praised Bangladesh's involvement for upholding a zero-tolerance attitude toward the insurgents who had previously caused unrest in the northeastern states of India.

India and Bangladesh are attempting to improve regional collaboration, particularly in connecting South and Southeast Asia, in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak and the Russia-Ukraine war, which severely interrupted the global supply chain.

In order to ensure early preparation for any natural catastrophes like floods and storms, Bangladesh also requests India's assistance in managing the transboundary river basin as a whole and in exchanging weather data.

Since the Sylhet region is experiencing severe flooding mostly as a result of high rainfall in the Indian hill states of Meghalaya and Assam, the issue has become more crucial than ever.

PM Hasina has made an admirable gesture Both last year and this year, we had a good crop of mangoes. They are more than welcome if they assist to deepen bonds and improve the harmony between the two nations. It should assist in resolving any bilateral difficulties.

Continued on Page 11

- Samina Akhter

Writer and Columnist

Different Strokes

Continuation from Page 10

The Teesta water-sharing agreement is one of the many persistent disagreements between Bangladesh and India. Since a few years ago, there has been talk over the Teesta water-sharing deal between Bangladesh and India. However, there is no longer a Teesta problem. The sharing of Teesta River water became the most crucial topic of dispute following the Ganges Treaty in 1996. At the two nations' ministerial-level conference in August 1983, the Teesta water-sharing issue between Bangladesh and India was first raised.

Manmohan Singh, who was India's prime minister at the time, traveled to Dhaka in September 2011. A Teesta water-sharing deal was scheduled to be inked at that time. The temporary agreement had a 15-year term. The agreement

establishes Bangladesh's entitlement to 37.5% of the Teesta's water and India's right to 42.5% of it. However, Mamata Banerjee, the chief minister of West Bengal, blocked the treaty from being finalized.

Prime Minister Sheikh

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina traveled to India later in 2014. The Teesta Treaty was anticipated to be signed following this trip to India. The PM met with Mamata Banerjee, the chief minister of West Bengal, during the trip. Even so, the West Bengal Chief Minister was not on board.

Hasina traveled to India later in 2014. The Teesta Treaty was anticipated to be signed following this trip to India. The PM met with Mamata Banerjee, the chief minister of West Bengal, during the trip. Even so, the West Bengal Chief Minister was not on board.

She claimed that the primary factor influencing her disapproval was her

unwillingness to provide water to Bangladesh at the expense of North Bengal's residents. Even in 2015, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi traveled to Dhaka alongside West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Despite the Teesta Treaty receiving great press at the time,

A successful resolution to the Teesta issue will boost bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh while also helping Bangladesh's economy. India will gain a lot from the Teesta Treaty. If this bilateral agreement is implemented, it will be able to satisfy all Bangladeshi stakeholders. India will undoubtedly be able to fortify its position as Bangladesh's staunch ally and develop a solid diplomatic and economic alliance.

nothing came of it. There are 54 rivers that cross the boundary between Bangladesh and India. In 43 of these, India controls the majority of the seas, which is essentially unjust to its neighbors.

In essence, refusing to sign the Teesta River accord is a denigration of the good neighborly relations between India and Bangladesh. India had to keep in mind that Bangladesh is a reliable ally in the area. It is frequently claimed that the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India are at

their peak right now. Bangladesh has however made it clear that it still views India as its most crucial neighbor and ally.

As Bangladesh PM has been practicing and showing her liberal neighborhood mindset towards India

particularly through 'Hilsa-Mango' diplomacy, it is India's especially West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee should show such kind of proactive reactions. India's central government always maintained a narrative that West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee's continuous opposition has

been the key obstacle in signing the Teesta deal. So, there was a subtle hint that only Mamata could be a welcome relief to break the stalemate. As per her quotation, I love Bangladesh but Bengal is my priority. But Mamata must be understood and agreed the reality. Bangladeshi people

deserve the right on the river. Not signing the treaty is belittling the unneighborly spirit between India - Bangladesh. As crucial as collaborative cooperation is for the two countries; effective river water management, it's also

India had to keep in mind that Bangladesh is a reliable ally in the area. It is frequently claimed that the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India are at their peak right now. Bangladesh has however made it clear that it still views India as its most crucial neighbor and ally.

necessary for Indian counterparts to assess Bangladesh's shared rivers. Making one's life simpler shouldn't come at the expense of others. As Bangladesh PM is set to visit to India this year, Mamata Banerjee should give green signal to the center to sign the long-pending treaty because this is

the long pending promise of India to Bangladesh.

A successful resolution to the Teesta issue will boost bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh while also helping Bangladesh's economy. India will gain a lot from the Teesta Treaty. If this bilateral agreement is implemented, it will be able to satisfy all Bangladeshi stakeholders. India will undoubtedly be able to fortify its position as Bangladesh's staunch ally and develop a solid diplomatic and economic alliance. The bondage between the two Bengalis from two countries would be further strengthened. Thus, we can understand easily what the return should India's Mamata Banerjee provide to Bangladesh against the PM' Sheikh Hasina's 'Mango Diplomacy. Only the answer is 'the sign of Teesta water' agreement between two brotherly neighbours.



- Samina Akhter

Writer and Columnist

Entertainment

'Bandon Mein Tha Dum' captures India's resilience in a historic triumph

Test cricket, no doubt, is the absolute pinnacle of the sport. Though the introduction of T20 has seen the popularity of the game soar to new levels, players universally regard Test cricket as the toughest format to succeed in.

There are series that live long in the memory of the cricket fanatics. And to relive one such moment, Neeraj Pandey, who had previously made 'M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story', has delivered yet another cracker of production, the docu-series 'Bandon Mein Tha Dum' on the Indian cricket team's memorable Test series against Australia in 2020/21, when they showed real resilience and courage to overcome odds and win the series, despite being short of resources.

The series succeeds in reliving the historic moments with the help of archival footage and recollections of some of the key players and cricket journalists. It takes the audience inside the pavilion via candid interviews with Ajinkya Rahane, Ravichandran Ashwin, Cheteshwar Pujara, Mohammad Siraj, Rishabh Pant, and others.

Among the cricketers, Ashwin stood out because of his articulation, spontaneity and sense of humour. In Episode 3, which is all about the Sydney Test and there is a dialogue -- "If it meant dying, I would rather die" -- in which the off-spinner modulates his tone according to the unfolding situation, where he was battling severe back pain.

On the other hand,



Documentary Series:
Bandon Mein Tha Dum
(Streaming on Voot Select)

Director:
Neeraj Pandey

Cast:
Cricketers, Journalists

Rating:

Cheteshwar Pujara, like his batting, narrates his side of the story without much fuss. There is a sequence in the final episode, which features Pujara taking brutal blows on his body. The shots and angles, depicted in that particular moment in the series, are so real that one can almost feel the ball colliding with his chest.

There are various sequences of Ajinkya Rahane, who was the protagonist-in-chief during

that series in the absence of regular skipper Virat Kohli, in which he reveals about his game plans and thought processes behind making certain decisions. But the frame of the run-out involving Rahane and Virat, when both were batting smoothly in Adelaide, comes as a painful flashback.

"The moment it happened, I somehow got the feeling that it would cost us the game," says an emotional Rahane. That run-

out moment also appears immediately after Rahane's redemption hundred in Melbourne following the Adelaide debacle. At the end of the final episode, he is shown wiping a tear.

The rest of the Indian players -- Mohammed Siraj, Washington Sundar and Rishabh Pant -- try to be earnest. Pant makes an honest admission that he was quite sad that India drew the Sydney Test. "A draw is a draw and win is a

win," he says philosophically. "A draw is never the same as a win."

There is a teary Siraj when India's national anthem is being played and he remembers his late father. Another scene shows the pacer looking heavenward after picking his first five-for in Test cricket. On the other hand, Hanuma Vihari is shown saying that his mother told him that the "purpose of his life has been served" after the grit and determination he showed in Sydney to save the Test for India.

The docu-series has maintained a fine balance between events and characters and is not too melodramatic. One can argue whether a cricket-based documentary should be more dramatic or not, especially when the sport itself comes laden with so much emotion.

The four-episode series could have been a bit more engaging as sometimes it gives the feeling of repeating what has been said and read multiple times. Neeraj Pandey has had the experience of directing a sports biopic, so the audience could justifiably expect a bit more engagement from his side. Actor Jimmy Shergill has done a brilliant job as the narrator for the series.

Overall, "Bandon Mein Tha Dum" is worth a watch for people who are suckers for good sports-based entertainment and want to relive the moments from the Ultimate Test Series Down Under.

5 enthralling reasons to watch Rashtra Kavach Om

The action avatar of the nation's hearthrob Aditya Roy Kapur and stunning Sanjana Sanghi in Rashtra Kavach OM has been creating a massive buzz all around and the audience is impatiently waiting for its theatrical release.

Helmed by Kapil Verma, the film revolves around Aditya playing the role of Om- an undefeatable soldier fighting to prove his father's innocence along with protecting the nation.

Here are 5 enthralling reasons to watch this high-octane action entertainer.

1) Aditya Roy Kapur's physical transformation

-Aditya Roy Kapur's body transformation is the hot-talk of the industry since his look was revealed. His professional



training in martial arts, various forms of fighting and his strict diet regime made this toned and rugged hunk avatar possible.

2) Power-packed action stunts

-The film has some wait-worthy action stunts that has left everyone in awe, already. The trailer amused the audience to no extent from their high-action packed fights and heavy guns firing, the trailer has left the audience intrigued to see what the film holds in for them.

3) Aditya and Sanjana's sizzling chemistry

The leading-duo will be seen sharing the silver screen for the first time. The hot and sizzling chemistry between Aditya Roy Kapur and Sanjana Sanghi has

been quite prominent in the trailer as well as their recently released romantic track-Saasein Dene Aana depicted.

4) Sanjana Sanghi's debut action avatar.

From her romantic role in Dil Bechara to being an actioner in Om her career is experiencing a paradigm shift in an early stage. The film will notify Sanjana's first ever action-avatar for which she underwent gun training and hand-to-hand combat training.

5) A movie that upholds every emotion

-The film takes you on a roller coaster ride of every emotion, it evokes a feeling of patriotism along with abundance of family emotion, you will be weeping one moment and smiling with pride the next.