



**Bombay HC dismissed a plea of
UBT Sena MLA Ravindra Waikar for**

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SC rejects termination of 26-week pregnancy, directs "Govt to bear all medical costs and the delivery to be conducted by AIIMS"



Ruling in favour of pro-life, the Supreme Court on Monday rejected a woman's plea, seeking medical termination of 26 weeks of pregnancy. A bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra passed the order observing that there are no threats to the mother, not a case of foetal abnormality and doctors will face a viable foetus.

The court directed the government to bear all medical costs and the delivery to be conducted by AIIMS at the appropriate time. SC clarified the choice to give the child up for adoption depending on the parents. The court noted that pregnancy has crossed over 24 weeks and termination of a 26-week pregnancy cannot be allowed as it would violate the provisions under the Medical Termination of Preg-

nancy (MTP) Act. All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) on Monday apprised the Supreme Court that no abnormality has been detected in the foetus of a woman who had petitioned to seek the medical termination of her 26-week pregnancy and that with proper care and treatment under appropriate medical supervision, the mother and baby can be managed well during pregnancy and postpartum psychosis.

"It is felt that with proper care and treatment under appropriate medical supervision, the mother and baby can be managed well during pregnancy and postpartum as has been previously evidenced by her response to medications. In case of worsening of symptoms, she may be admitted and treated," AIIMS report said. The hospital's report was filed after the apex court directed it to do so in an order on October 13. ANI

The life of a sanitation worker is pathetic in our country

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Presently, in India, a very vague outline of laws on work-related safety and health rules and regulations are available. Policy influencing institutions like Central Public Health and Environment Organizations and MoEF need to bring out manuals on operation, management and handling of sewerage, its treatment and municipal wastewater. There is a crucial need for periodic health surveillance of sanitary workers to detect early signs of diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, TB, etc. among them and inform them regarding balanced diets and the risk of drug and alcohol abuse – since these are habits, they fester to be able to work in the inhumane conditions of septic tanks and sewers.

There is an urgent need of identifying the figure of sanitation workers across India as no public document states the exact figure yet and no attempt has been made to get realistic statistics on the same. Until we know the space of sanitation workers, it is impossible for policies to be effective without knowing the type and numbers of its direct beneficiaries.

In India sanitation workers are considered to be the lowest stages of a casteist society. They are socially always dominated and disowned, but they are expected to clean your piles of dirt.

| CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

The life of a sanitation worker is pathetic in our country

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There are about five million people employed in sanitation work in our country with nearly two million of them working in 'high risk' conditions.

In the absence of this safety gear, they inhale toxic gases and die. They have to do it for their daily wages. This exposure leads to the spread of various skin diseases which passes onto their family members as well.

If education and other employment opportunities increase, such discrepancies may be corrected. Moreover, we lack infrastructure to improvise the efficiency of these workers.

Government is also not kind to them; crores of rupees were spent on Swachh Bharat like flopped government programs but sanitation workers are deprived of basic facilities and grants.

The life of a sanitation worker is pathetic in our country. There are about five million people employed in sanitation work in our country with nearly two million of them working in 'high risk' conditions. They act as warriors to keep our cities clean and drains unclogged. Since the past month, we have heard news from various parts of the country such as Mumbai, Vadodara, Delhi stating loss of human life due to unavailability of the safety measures such as face masks, hand gloves, etc.

In the absence of this safety gear, they inhale toxic gases and die. They have to do it for their daily wages. This exposure leads to the spread of various skin diseases which passes onto their family members as well. As every single human life is precious to the country, these sanitation workers should be provided with necessary safety measures. Most of the places Sanitation workers are seen working without any safety measures.

They get less remuneration than many others who are educated and employed. The reason being the demand and supply. India is a nation where most of the people are poor, uneducated and unemployed. So, the supply of manual labor exceeds much more than its demand. Labourers are available on low wages. If education and other employment opportunities increase, such discrepancies may be corrected. Moreover, we lack infrastructure to improvise the efficiency of these workers. An average thousands of deaths per year transpire over a cross section of sanitation workers in India.

Due to lack of education and poverty, 90-95% of the government sanitation workers as well as self-employed/private workers had no idea about laws like The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (the 2013 Act) which was meant to protect them. They aren't aware of any schemes or employment benefits like maternity leaves under government employment and even if they are, most are scared to avail them in fear of losing their jobs.

The urban local bodies have made no effort in enlightening

these workers their rights and privileges and seem to play an institutionally exploitative role instead of empowering othem. In fact, basic rights like medical cover or receiving a pay slip with their salaries are missing even under permanent employment under MCDs as sanitation workers.

Government has no awareness programmes for them to understand their basic rights. Rather they are kept in the dark and in fear of losing their jobs. The provision of protective gear is almost a fable and no effort to create a safe working space for these people has been made by local bodies. Even if provided with safety gears, sanitation workers don't wear them because they weigh too much and the gum boots gnaw at their toes. They lose grip and control when diving into a septic tank.

Developed countries provide bunny suits to their sanitation workers, our sanitation workers go into the septic tank and manholes wearing nothing but briefs. Most of the time they depend on alcohol consumption to bear with the foul smell around. According to the National Human Rights Commission in October 2002, most permanent workers in Delhi wear 'safety belts. While this is seen as a protection, actually this is a threat to life. These safety belts connect workers in manholes with men standing outside through thick ropes – offering no protection against poisonous gases/ liquids/ sharp or infected objects.

These ropes only help to pull them out when they die in the process or lose consciousness inside the hole. Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) reported that 80% of the manual scavengers die before the age of 60 due to vocation induced health problems. In Mumbai alone, a (conservative) average of 20 sewer workers dies per month due to suffocation, exposure to toxic gases and other accidents. While the government is concentrating so sternly on toilet provision with Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the focus on behavioral change towards sanitation and a moral change towards sanitation workers is what is lagging behind.

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Voices



Medical - IIT competition



- Vijay Garg

A recent survey conducted on the instructions of the district administration in Kota city of Rajasthan, which has developed as a major coaching hub of the country, has confirmed that a large number of students there are suffering from severe depression and other mental health problems. Have been. This survey was conducted between April and September this year. Keep in mind, during the same period there were reports of suicide of 19 students. If these are added, the number of students who committed suicide this year would be 25. She goes. Seeing the increasing number of suicides among students, the district administration started keeping their records from 2015 and since then this is the highest number of suicides in any one year. However, this survey is not just a part of efforts to understand the problem but to solve it as much as possible.

During the survey, 83 such students were found who were victims of severe depression. Two students were found on the verge of suicide. They had begun the process of self-harm. Not only providing immediate counseling to all of them Rather, necessary steps were taken to provide relief to the coaching centers and parents by informing them. Thus, it can be assumed that these cases of possible suicide were stopped in time. But these efforts are

not enough, this is clear from the fact that even when this survey was going on, there were reports of suicides of students and this was when other efforts to stop suicides were also going on simultaneously. Under these, steps were taken like installing spring ceiling fans in the rooms of hostels and PG centers and installing anti-suicide nets in the balconies. Went. As the survey report also indicates, the root of the problem lies elsewhere.

When students come to Kota, they roam around the city for the first one or two months and have fun. Matters get worse when the coaching education comes to its full end. The feeling of not being able to keep pace with daily studies and being left behind in the competition proves to be heavy for these teenagers living alone away from home and family. The problem is definitely seen in its most serious form in Kota, but its nature is national. After all, for 1.25 lakh seats If 20 lakh students each compete, as is seen in NEET, then the fierce nature of the competition can be easily estimated. After all, why is it that even today middle class families in the country see their children's career becoming successful only after they get medical or IIT? Unless effective efforts are made to change this situation, measures like safety net, spring fans and counseling will give us only limited results.

Letters to the Editor

The brutality of Hamas terrorists

US President Joe Biden on Friday said that Palestinian militant group Hamas is worse than al-Qaeda, adding that it has killed more than 1,000 innocent civilians in its attack so far. He said that Hamas militants' actions make look al-Qaeda "pure". Biden said that addressing humanitarian crisis in Gaza is a priority for him. "We're making sure Israel has what it needs to defend itself and respond to these attacks. It's also a priority for me to urgently address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza," he said. The more we learned about the attack, the more horrifying it becomes. More than 1,000 innocent lives lost, including at least 27 Americans," Biden said in Philadelphia. This shows the brutality of Hamas terrorists. All those people who support such cruel terrorists, must be condemned.

Dr. Jyoti Kale

White weapon black impact

To teach Hamas a lesson, Israel is hitting Hamas hard with white bombs. It

is being hit in Palestinian settlements. This bomb, which ignites immediately when it comes in contact with oxygen and cannot be extinguished by water, has endangered many lives in civilian settlements. This bomb is made from a mixture of phosphorus and rubber. If this bomb is used or hit, the bomb immediately ignites and absorbs the surrounding oxygen. As a result, people are dying due to suffocation. If the white bomb ignites, its delay can go up to 1300 degrees Celsius. It has adverse effects on the body.

The black side effects of this "white bomb" can be seen from burning the skin, breathing problems, organ failure, etc. to the melting of bones. The first time the white bomb was used by the United States was on Germany in the Second World War. After that, according to the Geneva Convention, this bomb was used by 115 countries without any concrete reason. It is prohibited. However, it is being used. It is certain that the lives of many people are going to be blackened due to the use of white bombs.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

India's best chance to win the Cup!

Rohit Sharma is playing the best cricket of his career & he may have missed an deserving ton against Pakistan but his 86 runs was good enough for not just victory but also shattering our arch rivals confidence to win against our side. The man who has 3 double

hundreds in ODI's is the most devastating batsman in world cricket at the moment.

Bumrah's comeback after injury has strengthened our bowling department & the ace bowler is lethal as he chips wickets at will. Kuldeep Yadav adds variety to our attack & our bowling looks the best compared to other teams in the tournament. This is India's best chance to win the Championships & wishing our team the very best to emerge victorious!

S.N.Kabra

Assembly elections

Assembly elections have been announced in five states Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram. With this announcement, the electoral code of conduct came into force in the respective states. The entire country's eyes are on the election results of Hindi speaking states Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Political analysts are considering this as the semi-final of power. There is a possibility of a direct contest between BJP and Congress in Hindi speaking states.

There is Congress government in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, and due to the rebellion of Congress leaders in Madhya Pradesh, BJP government was formed. Voting will be held in all the states in the month of November and the election results will be declared simultaneously on 3 December. The real test

of political will is in the electoral arena. All political parties should stay away from bigoted culture and the general public should choose qualified candidates to strengthen democracy. Only then will democracy become stronger.

Jahangir Shaikh

There can be no dip in Lok Sabha seat allotted for TN

The Congress in Tamil Nadu, as part of the I.N.D.I.A bloc, should get the same number of seats to contest in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as it did in 2019. The TN Congress Committee expressing its view about the number of seats it should get comes against the backdrop of claims on social media that the DMK may contest in more seats in the state than in 2019 to enable it to play a key role in the formation of the next government at the Centre. Nevertheless, Congress MP Manickam Tagore said Sonia Gandhi advised the party leaders to work in tandem towards the goal of winning all 39 LS seats in the state for the alliance.

G Champa

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

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No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

Minister Deepak Kesarkar takes a swipe at Uddhav Thackeray's statement says, "They have given up on Hindutva"



Maharashtra minister Deepak Kesarkar on Monday took a swipe at Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray for reaching out to 21 socialist parties and said the latter now has the right to join hands with the Samajwadi Party as well since he had given up Hindutva. On Sunday, Thackeray, while addressing leaders of 21 socialist parties in the state, had claimed differences with them were mainly ideological which can be settled for the cause of democracy. Thackeray had also said "many of them may be Muslims but they are nationalists who want to pro-

tect the country's democracy".

Claiming that Thackeray had no right to talk about Pakistan or Hindutva, Kesarkar said, "If he (Uddhav Thackeray) cannot say anything when Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin's son Udhayanidhi speaks against Hinduism (Sanatan Dharma), he (Thackeray) has all the right to join hands with any party. He can even join hands with the Samajwadi Party (with a predominant Muslim support base in Maharashtra) because he has already given up Hindutva." "When Rahul Gandhi spoke against (Hindutva ideologue late VD) Savarkar, it could

be understood you (Thackeray) did not saying anything since you were scared. But what is the reason for being scared of Stalin's son? When terrorists stopped the Vaishno Devi pilgrimage (in Jammu and Kashmir), it was Balasaheb Thackeray who stopped flights going to Haj," Kesarkar added.

Bal Thackeray did not oppose any religion but was clear that if Hindu pilgrimages are stopped then those of others would also be halted. "The very next day, the Vaishno Devi yatra resumed. That was Balasaheb. That was Hindutva," Kesarkar asserted. On Uddhav Thackeray's statement on Sunday that "if the BJP can shower flowers on Pakistani cricketers at the Narendra Modi stadium, I can also talk to socialist parties", Kesarkar said, "When Khalistanis attacked the Indian Embassy in Canada, Modi snapped ties with that country. If Pakistani players are being welcomed, they are being welcomed as players and not as Pakistanis." PTI

Amid ongoing case of the 'auctioned police land', NCP MLA Rohit Pawar says, "Conducting probe against people in power shouldn't be a problem"

In light of former Pune police commissioner Meeran Chadha Borwankar's allegation in her book against the then "district minister" over an auctioned police land, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MLA Rohit Pawar on Monday said there shouldn't be a problem in conducting a probe against people who are in power. In her book, 'Madam Commissioner', Borwankar has claimed that the then "district minister" had insisted in 2010 that she complete the process of handing over an auctioned plot belonging to her department to the winning bidder, who was later cited as an accused by the CBI in the 2G scam.

Though the name of the district minister is not mentioned in the book, the retired IPS officer apparently points to Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP leader Ajit Pawar, who had held

the post of "guardian minister" of Pune district when a Congress-NCP government was in power in the state. Rohit Pawar spoke to reporters in Pune on Monday regarding his Yuva Sangharsh Yatra, scheduled to begin on October 25 and culminate on December 7. "I am in the opposition, and agencies, including the state pollution board and the income tax department, are carrying out a probe against me. There shouldn't be any objection about conducting an inquiry against people who are in power (Ajit Pawar) in connection with the allegations," he said. The NCP leader further said though he was not privy to the details of the allegations, the person who has levelled the charges is a well-known and respected government officer and if the state government wants, it can verify her claims. PTI

A passenger train gets engulfed in fire at Ahmednagar district



Five coaches of a diesel-electric multiple unit (DEMU) passenger train were gutted in a fire that broke out near Narayandoh station in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district on Monday afternoon, but no casualties were reported, Railway officials said.

The fire incident took place when the train (No. 01402) was heading to Ahmednagar in western Maharashtra from Ashti station in Beed district in the central region of the state, but its cause

was not immediately known, they said. Dr Shivraj Manaspure, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO), Central Railway, told PTI that no passenger was injured in the blaze, which started at around 3 pm, as all of them alighted safely from the train before the fire spread. "All train passengers got down safely before the fire spread," he stated.

The flames engulfed the guard-side brake van and four coaches adjacent to it, said the CPRO. Manaspure said fire engines from Ahmednagar, located around 250km from Mumbai, were immediately called and the flames doused by around 4.10 pm. An Accident Relief Train (ART) was also sent to the site from Daund station in Pune district, he said. The section where the incident occurred is part of the Ahmednagar-Parali line of the Central Railway. PTI

Navaratri: Police nabs four people for fake passes from several places

Graphic designer and three others were arrested for allegedly making fake passes for two dandiya events in Mumbai and equipment worth Rs 35 lakh was seized from them, police said on Monday.

The police on Sunday nabbed Karan Ajay Shah (29), a graphic designer, Darshan Pravin Gohil (24), Paresh Suresh Nevrekar (35) and Kavish Bhalchandra Patil (24), an official said. The accused were nabbed from Virar, Kandivali, Malad and Manori localities, he said.

A man held for attacking policeman in Vashi

A 26-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly attacking a policeman and biting him during a brawl in Navi Mumbai, an official said on Monday. The incident occurred behind a mall in the Vashi area of Navi Mumbai on Saturday, the official said. The police on Sun-



The accused allegedly distributed entry passes for Durgadevi Navratri Utsav Samiti's dandiya event and BJP MLA Sunil Rane's Rangratri Dandiya, the official said.

The police formed a special team and raided prime accused Shah's residence in the western

suburb of Virar, he said, adding that 1,000 entry passes, a laptop, printer and other materials worth Rs 35 lakh were recovered. The accused have been arrested under sections 420 (cheating), 465 (forgery) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code, the official said. PTI

day arrested Kapil Jogendrasingh Rana under section 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code, sub-inspector Nilesh Borse of the Vashi Police station said.

The police constable received

a call about a public brawl behind a mall in the area around 11.40 pm on Saturday, and on reaching the spot, he tried pacifying the persons involved but was attacked and bitten by the accused, he said. The constable sustained injuries to his face and fingers and was administered first aid, the official said. PTI

Nation

Delhi: A PIL has been moved to HC against non completion of school building

A PIL (Public Interest Litigation IPIL) has been moved in the Delhi High Court against the non-completion of a school building affecting the education and health of 8,000 students studying in Delhi Government Girls Senior Secondary School situated in Mukundpur Village, Delhi. The plea alleged that crores of rupees have been spent on the construction of additional school building in premises of Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Mukundpur Village and Government Boys Senior Secondary School, Mukundpur Village, but a few lakhs of rupees which is required to make it functional have not been spent keeping the school building out of reach of the 8,000 students for the last more than two and half year.



The plea further submitted that impugned action on the part of the Delhi Government's Director of Education in not providing an adequate number of classrooms and sitting facilities to students is arbitrary, unjust, malafide, discriminatory, unethical, anti-child, violates the fundamental right to education

as guaranteed to them under Articles 14, 21 and 21-A of Constitution of India. Social Jurist, a Civil Rights Group through Advocates Ashok Agarwal and Kumar Utkarsh stated that school premises of Government Girls Senior Secondary School have a total enrolment of 4290 students of classes VI to XII runs in the

morning shift and Government Boys Senior Secondary School has a total enrolment of 3804 students of classes VI to XII runs in the evening shift.

Plea submitted that the premises have two operational school buildings having a total of 40 classrooms and a school building under construction having 28

classrooms. It was informed to him that 80 per cent of the work has been completed in an under-construction school building but for the past 2.5 years no work at all has been done. It was also informed to him that due to a shortage of classrooms, students of two sections are forced to sit in one classroom. The plea further submitted that in one of the circulars issued by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) schools have been asked to rationalize student numbers for each class and maintain the strength in all sections up to 40, so that the student ratio is followed in letter and spirit. Therefore, it is an alarming situation to teach more than 100 students in one classroom when the classroom is constructed keeping in mind the strength of 48 students. ANI

Chanda Kochhar videocon case: SC issues notice on the plea of CBI challenging interim bail



The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice on the plea of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) challenging the interim bail granted by the Bombay High Court to former ICICI Bank CEO-cum-MD Chanda Kochhar in the Videocon loan fraud case. A bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi sought a response from Chanda Kochhar on the plea of CBI and posted the matter for hearing after three weeks.

Last week, the Supreme Court asked CBI why it was not objecting to the repeated extension of interim bail granted to former Chanda Kochhar and her businessman husband Deepak Kochhar. It had told Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the CBI, that the accused was granted interim bail in January for two weeks and asked him why the agency not objecting to the repeated extension. The Bombay High Court on Janu-

ary 9 granted interim bail to Kochhars. It had pulled up the CBI for arresting the couple in a "casual and mechanical" manner and "clearly without application of mind" in the loan fraud case and granted them interim bail. The CBI arrested the Kochhar couple on December 23, 2022, in connection with the Videocon-ICICI Bank loan fraud case.

The apex court was hearing the appeal of CBI against the interim bail order of the High Court order. Kochhars had approached the High Court challenging their arrest and said it was illegal and arbitrary. They had sought their release from jail on bail by way of an interim order. The High Court had said the Kochhars' arrest was not in accordance with the provisions of law and they were entitled to be released on bail. Apart from the Kochhar couple, the CBI has also arrested Videocon group founder Venugopal Dhoot in the case. The CBI had registered a case against the Kochhar couple, Videocon Group promoter Venugopal Dhoot, and others for allegedly causing loss to the ICICI Bank by sanctioning loans to the Videocon Group of companies in contravention of the bank's policies. ANI

Amid ongoing clash between BJP leader and TMC TMC MP Mahua Moitra, Adani reacts to the matter

The Adani Group has reacted to the alleged 'cash for question' in the Parliament about the Group raised by a BJP parliamentarian against TMC MP Mahua Moitra, saying this development corroborates the conglomerate's recent statement where it said that "some groups and individuals have been working overtime to harm our name, goodwill and market standing." Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Nishikant Dubey on Sunday wrote a letter to the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and another letter on Monday to Union Minister for Communications Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union Minister of State (MoS) IT Rajeew Chandrashekhar making "cash for query" allegations against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra and demanding an inquiry committee against her. Dubey alleged Moitra took bribes to ask questions on the Adani Group in the Parliament.

Dubey, through his letter, claimed that a lawyer had provided him proof of alleged bribe exchanges between the TMC



MP and businessman Darshan Hiranandani of the Hiranandani Group. Dubey wrote that these allegations must be looked into with the utmost seriousness and an investigation must be initiated to ascertain the IP address of all login credentials of Mahua Moitra's Lok Sabha account and to determine whether there are any instances in which her Lok Sabha account was accessed at a location where she was not present. In its statement the Adani Group said these charges reveal an arrange-

ment to hurt the groups reputation.

"This development corroborates our statement of 9 Oct 2023 that some groups and individuals have been working overtime to harm our name, goodwill and market standing. In this particular case, the lawyer's complaint reveals that this arrangement to besmirch the reputation and interests of the Adani Group and our Chairman Mr. Gautam Adani has been in place since 2018," an Adani Group spokesperson said on Monday. ANI

World

US: Israel- Hamas conflict, a minor boy was stabbed in a horrifying manner in Chicago



US President Joe Biden expressed shock and condemned the "horrific act of hate" that occurred in Chicago where a man allegedly stabbed and killed a 6-year-old boy and seriously wounded his mother, allegedly because they are Muslim tenants, CNN reported. A Chicago-based man, Joseph M Czuba, aged 71, has been arrested and charged with murder and hate crimes after allegedly stabbing and killing a 6-year-old boy and seriously wounding his mother, CNN reported.

The victims, a Palestinian family, were targeted due to their religion and amid the ongoing Hamas-Israel war. The sheriff's

office said Czuba did not make a statement to detectives but investigators determined the victims were "targeted by the suspect due to them being Muslim and the ongoing Middle Eastern conflict involving Hamas and the Israelis," CNN reported. The family is Palestinian and "came to America seeking what we all seek--a refuge to live, learn, and pray in peace," according to the White House. Czuba faces charges of first-degree murder, attempted first-degree murder, two counts of a hate crime, and aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. The US Justice Department has initiated a federal hate crime investigation into the attack, US

Attorney General Merric Garland announced on Sunday The sheriff's office said Czuba did not make a statement to detectives but investigators determined the victims were "targeted by the suspect due to them being Muslim and the ongoing Middle Eastern conflict involving Hamas and the Israelis," according to CNN.

The family is Palestinian and "came to America seeking what we all seek--a refuge to live, learn, and pray in peace," according to the White House. The 6-year-old victim, Wadea Al-Fayoume, was fatally stabbed 26 times, while his 32-year-old mother, Hanaan Shahin, sustained over a dozen stab wounds but is expected to recover. President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden expressed their shock and condolences for the family, condemning the "horrific act of hate." They emphasised that such acts have no place in America and go against the nation's fundamental values of religious freedom and tolerance. "Our condolences and prayers are with the family. This act of hate against a Palestinian Muslim family has no place in America," posted Biden on X. ANI

Israel: Amid ongoing conflict, PM's office denies the reports of ceasefire in Gaza

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office on Monday denied reports that it has agreed to halt fire in southern Gaza to allow humanitarian aid to enter through the Rafah border crossing, The Times of Israel reported. A terse statement from Netanyahu's office stated, "At the moment there is no ceasefire for humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip and the exit of foreigners," according to The Times of Israel report.

Taking to X, Israel's Prime Minister's office stated, "The Prime Minister's Office, this morning: There is no ceasefire." The statement comes after Reuters news agency, citing two Egyptian security officials, reported that Israel agreed to halt fire from 9 am, according to The Times of Israel report. In a statement, Hamas said that it did not receive confirmation from Egypt regarding the possible opening of the Rafah border crossing, CNN reported. US Embassy in Jerusalem citing media reports issued a security alert that the Rafah



crossing will open at 9 am (local time) on Monday, CNN reported.

The US Embassy in Jerusalem said, "We anticipate that the situation at the Rafah crossing will remain fluid and unpredictable and it is unclear whether, or for how long, travellers will be permitted to transit the crossing," CNN reported. The Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt is the only remaining outlet to move people out of Gaza and send supplies into it. Notably, Israel has closed two border sites and the Rafah crossing has remained shut for much of the past week, according to NBC News report. ANI

Afghanistan see's an explosion in Takhar Province



An explosion rocked Takhar Province in Afghanistan on Sunday evening, according to Khaama Press. With the rise in blasts and the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan since the Taliban took control, the details of the explosion that occurred in Taleqan city of Takhar remain unclear. However, an investigation is underway.

According to reports, the incident happened close to the Takhar police command centre and the governor's office. There are still many unanswered questions regarding this occurrence, like how

many people were hurt and what caused the explosion, according to Khaama Press. Additionally, domestic media outlets have reported hearing ambulances in the area, although more details are awaited about the explosion.

Moreover, the Taliban officials in Takhar have also refrained from making any statements or comments regarding this incident. In the Baghlan province's Pul-e Khumri city's second district, a suicide attack took place on Friday. According to reports, the explosion occurred inside the "Imam Zaman" mosque during Friday prayers. ANI

PoK: Several women of muzaffarabad protested seeking timely payment of salaries

A group of protesters, mostly women, in the Muzaffarabad city of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) are demanding their rights as they accused the government of leaving them in the dark. Working as health workers under the Maternal Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) Programme these women are surviving on merely a monthly remuneration of 8,000 Pakistani Rupees. On several occasions, they are not receiving their salaries on time.

The protesting healthcare workers raised slogans against the government and demanded justice from the so-called Prime Minister of PoK and other senior officials.

A protester said, "I want to demand the Prime Minister, Chief Secretary and Chief Justice of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to fulfil all demands of our sisters and give them justice. If not, the



PoK will face a tsunami similar to 2005. We will stop the supply of electricity and other essential resources to Pakistan". As many as 1,218 employees were inducted into the MNCH programme in 2007 against the positions of managers, doctors, lady health visitors, community midwives, clerks and drivers. Facing insecurity for the past several years, they are now demanding the government to fulfil its commitment to regularise their services and bring them on a normal budget. A female protester

said, "They have totally banned us. We are not able to attend to our duties. This is injustice. The government must awaken and we request them to issue a notification to regularize us. Those who are still on contract need to be given permanent letter".

Pakistan has failed to generate jobs for a larger number of unemployed men and women in occupied territories of PoK and Gilgit Baltistan. Those who were given temporary employment are now facing job insecurity. ANI

Expression

Transforming crop-stubbles into an asset



Er. Rajesh Pathak

Columnist

For its plant in Britain, Tata steel has planned to completely replace in the next 3 years its blast furnace by the electric arc furnace to reduce the carbon emission. Obviously, world is heading towards renewal energy, and so is India. And to make its strong presence felt globally India has been organising for the last 16 years the Renewal Energy India Expo; and this year it was recently organised in the month of September.

The production of one unit of electricity consumes 875 gm. coal. The nature takes about one lakh years to produce the coal, the studies in geography says. If together we each save even one unit of electricity we contribute in the conservation of climate. Second way is that which is shown from the government side. Checking the import and pollution is a part of economic nationalism, says Nitin Gadkari. Waste is nothing - only



what is needed is to apply a technology and transform it into an asset. Farmer can also provide the electricity and fuel to the country. For the stubble (crop residue) or parali left in his farm may become a good source of them both, besides organic manure. And now the biggest refinery in the world Reliance industry has moved forward in that direction. It has installed stubble based Compressed Biogas production plant in Barabanki, UP.

In the technology, Methane is produced by the stubble decomposed inside the bio-digester, which is later

purified into Bio-CNG (compressed natural gas). The target of the company is to install 100 plants all over the country in first phase. In which 55 lakh tons of farm wastes with organic residues would be consumed. Apart from the production of fuel, about 25 lakh tons of organic manure we will get from this. And, 20 lakh tons of carbon emission from the stubble burning could be avoided.

Yet, this is not all. For the first time it was Atal Bihari Vajpayee as Prime Minister of the country who put forth the idea of ethanol blended petrol before the nation. And now the limit of blending

the petrol with ethanol is allowed to have been 10% on the national level. Ethanol is extracted from sugarcane, as also from the surplus grains lying rotten in the warehouses (with the government permission recently granted). So also, to discourage import, government has increased the custom duty on the ethanol to protect the interest of country's farmers. In wake of favorable conditions that now companies are demanding to increase the limit to 15%. However, Government itself wants to take the limit to 20% as soon as possible.

Twin tower tale - Talk of the town



Jayanthi Subramaniam

Columnist

The iconic twin towers of downtown Manhattan's World Trade Center were a triumph of human imagination and will. Completed in 1973, the towers stood at 110 stories each, accommodating 50,000 workers and 200,000 daily visitors in 10 million square feet of space. They were the hub of the bustling Financial District, a top tourist attraction and a symbol of New York City's—and America's—steadfast



devotion to progress and the future. On September 11, 2001, the World Trade Center became the target of a massive terrorist attack that took the lives of nearly 3,000 people.

The disaster also radically altered the skyline of New York City,

destroying the twin columns of glass and steel that over the years had come to embody the city itself. Mumbai is lauded as the commercial capital of India. We praise Mumbai's resilience; it's never say die attitude and the famous Mumbai spirit. A

cluster of 7 islands deemed to be throwaway dowry, chosen by East India Company to be developed for logistical reasons, causing hundreds to migrate to the city.

While some may argue that Manhattan was a victim of 9/11, I point out that Mumbai has been a soft target since times immemorial. Terror has sneaked up on us not once, like our US counterpart, but thrice...1992 riots, 2006 blasts and 2008 attacks; all caught Mumbai unawares. In short, for Mumbai to truly become India's commercial hub, the quality of life, quality of infrastructure, quality of security and attitude—all need improvement

Entertainment

Rani Mukerji recalls memories of 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' and reveals importance of this film in her life



Actors Shah Rukh Khan and Rani Mukerji along with director Karan Johar on Sunday night surprised the fans as they visited a theatre during the screening of their 1998 romantic drama film 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' in Mumbai. The makers of 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' re-released the film to celebrate 25 years of SRK-Kajol-Rani starrer.

Several pictures and videos from their visit went viral on social media in which the trio could be seen interacting with the audience. During the interaction, Rani thanked director Karan Johar for making this film and said "because of 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' I am a star today." In a post on X (formerly known as Twitter), SRK's fan club shared a clip from the event in which the 'Mardaani' actor could be seen expressing gratitude towards KJo. She said, "... Rahul to fall in love with Tina over Anjali. So, that's only because of Karan. So, thank you Karan for that. I was 17 when I did this movie and today, my daughter's turning 8, just like Sana (Saeed) on-screen, just like my daughter. So, because of KKHH, I'm a star today. Thank you all of you for loving us for so many years and please continue this love for the next 25 years."

However, the other lead cast of the film Kajol and Salman Khan were missing from the event. Talking about 'KKHH', released on October 16, 1998, the film starred Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol, and Rani Mukherjee in the lead roles. The movie bagged several awards and received an overwhelming response from the audience and critics alike. **ANI**



Check out how did Kareena Kapoor Khan wished her hubby on their 11th wedding anniversary

Actors Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan are one of the most loved celebrity couples. On Monday, Bebo and Saif marked 11 years of their marriage. On the occasion, Kareena took to her social media and sent warm wishes to her hubby Saif. Taking to Instagram, the 'Heroine' actor shared a picture with her husband and captioned it, "This is US. You, Me and Pizza...Forever Kinda Love Happy Anniversary husband..."

In the picture, Kareena can be seen enjoying a pizza slice while Saif is seen posing with a finger pointing towards his wife. Soon after she shared the picture, her friends and fans swamped down the comment section and dropped red hearts and fire emoticons. Malaika Arora commented, "Happy anniversary," followed by two red heart emoticons. Actor Sanjay Kapoor wrote, "Happy anniversary guys." A user commented, "Happy Anniversary to you both My favourite couple." **ANI**

Actor Kangana Ranaut on Monday said the release of her film "Emergency" has been postponed to next year due to changes in her schedule. The movie, also written and directed by Ranaut, was previously set to be released in theatres on November 24. Ranaut shared the update on her official X page.

"We have announced Emergency release date as 24th November 2023 but because of all the changes in my back to back releasing films calendar and over packed last quarter of 2024 we have decided to shift Emergency to next year (2024) (sic)" she wrote.

The new release date will be announced soon, she added in the post. "Emergency" film is billed as the story of a watershed moment in the political history of India. Ranaut plays the role of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the film. **PTI**



Kangana Ranaut-starrer 'Emergency' movie changes its release date

Tiger franchise release its thriller trailer



Makers of the upcoming action thriller film 'Tiger 3' on Monday unveiled the film's official trailer. Taking to Instagram, Salman Khan shared a glimpse of the trailer which he captioned, "Tiger se dushmani sabko bhaari padti hai. This time it's personal! Watch #Tiger3Trailer now. #Tiger3 arriving in cinemas on 12th November. Releasing in Hindi, Tamil & Telugu."

Directed by Maneesh Sharma, 'Tiger 3' stars Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi in lead roles. The 2-minute-50-second-long trailer featured Salman as India's best agent, Tiger, trying to save his family and the country from an enemy (played by Emraan Hashmi) trying to take personal revenge for his family's loss. **ANI**