



A boy rides his bike along a flooded road in Nagoda village, in Kalutara, Sri Lanka — REUTERS



German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Prime Minister Narendra Modi review the guard of honour during a welcome ceremony ahead of the 4th round of German-Indian government consultation at the Chancellery in Berlin — REUTERS

AT A GLANCE

6 killed as Morahits Bangladesh

DHAKA: At least six persons were killed as Cyclone Mora made landfall in Bangladesh today, packing winds of up to 150 kilometres per hour and damaging several houses, with authorities scrambling to evacuate over half a million people from the coastal areas. In a special bulletin, Bangladesh Meteorological Department said the severe cyclonic storm 'Mora' moved northward over North Bay and started crossing Cox's Bazar-Chittagong coast at 6 am (local time). It is likely to move in a northerly direction further, it said. One of the six persons died of a heart attack during the storm while others were killed by falling trees and houses in Cox's Bazar and Rangamati, local media reported.

Hooghly boy HS topper

KOLKATA: Archisman panigrahi, student of Hooghly Collegiate School came first in this year's Higher Secondary examination. Archisman attained 99.2 per cent marks. His performance was followed by Mayank of Mahesh and Upamanyu of Narendrapur, who shared the gold of second place. Shubham of Arambagh and Surojit of Bankura came fourth. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee greeted the successful candidates on Twitter.

India, Germany vow to take strong measures against terror sponsors

PM seeks 'quantum jump' in economic ties with Berlin

BERLIN, MAY 30 /-/- India and Germany today vowed to take "strong measures" against those who encourage, support and finance terrorism, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on a host of key issues like trade, skill development and climate change.

"Pace of development of our relations is fast, direction positive and destination clear. Germany will always find India as powerful, prepared and capable partner," Modi said at a joint press interaction after holding talks with Merkel. Following their talks, the two sides also signed 12 MOUs/agreements in fields like cyber policy, development initiatives, sustainable urban development, continued development of cluster managers and skill development, digitalisation, railway security and promoting vocational training. The two sides also issued a joint statement after Modi and Merkel held the fourth India-Germany Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC).

"The two leaders underlined their common concern about the threat and global reach of terrorism and extremism while condemning terrorist violence in all its forms and manifestations, the joint statement said. "They agreed on the need to take strong measures against all those who encourage, support and fi-

nance terrorism, provide sanctuary and safe havens that sustain and support terrorist groups and organisations," it said. India and Germany hailed their closer collaboration in countering these challenges through regular meetings of the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism.

They also called for finalisation and adoption of Comprehensive Con-

vention on International Terrorism, it said. Making a reference to terrorism, the Prime Minister said it was a big problem that faces future generations and all forces of humanity must come together to fight the menace. "Both our countries will work together to tackle this problem together and cyber security and intelligence sharing is a very important aspect of this cooperation," he said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to-

"Both our countries will work together to tackle this problem together and cyber security and intelligence sharing is a very important aspect of this cooperation," — Narendra Modi

on International Terrorism, it said.

their talks, the two sides also signed a joint declaration of intent on cyber politics, development initiatives, sustainable urban development, continued development of cluster managers and skill development, cooperation in the field of digitalisation, cooperation in the field of railway security, promoting vocational training and continued cooperation on an Indo-Germany 'centre for sustainability.

day sought "outcome-oriented" momentum in Indo-German ties and a "quantum jump" in economic relations. "Pace of development of our relations is fast, direction positive and destination clear. Germany will always find India as powerful, prepared and capable partner," Modi said at a joint press interaction after holding talks with Merkel. Following

COURT HALTS GOVT'S CATTLE SALE BAN

Madras HC stays restriction on buying and selling of animals for slaughter for 4 weeks

Centre examining issues raised by states: Minister

MADURAI, MAY 30 /-/- The Madras High Court today stayed for four weeks the Centre's notification banning sale and purchase of cattle for slaughter, and sought its response to PILs which contended that the rules should have been approved by Parliament first.

A Madurai bench comprising Justices M V Muralidharan and C V Karthikeyan issued the interim order on the two pleas which said that the rules should be quashed as they were against the Constitution, breached the principle of federalism and were contrary to the parent legislation - Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960. Referring to the contention of the petitioners that the notification was related to food and hence ought to have been approved by Parliament, the judges asked the Centre to respond to the point also in its counter to be filed in four weeks. The order has come amid a raging row on the ban, with non-BJP parties and state governments of Kerala, West Bengal and Puducherry stridently opposing the Centre's recent notification.

Several places in Kerala and Tamil Nadu have been witnessing protests during the past few days

against the ban on sale of cattle for slaughter. Protesters have alleged that it infringed upon the food habits of people. The PILs sought quashing of the provisions of Rule 22(b) (II) and Rule 22(c) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Regulations of Live stock Markets) Rules 2017 on the grounds that they were contrary to the parent act of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 and the country's Constitution. Petitioner Selvaganesh and Asik Ilahi Bhava contended that the "provisions breached the cardinal principle of federalism" as it amounted to legislation in the fields earmarked for state legislature. The new rules notified by the Union environment ministry banned the sale or purchase of bulls, cows, camels for slaughter houses or for sacrifice for religious purpose.

The petitioners said the provisions were notified on May 23 last when courts were on vacation. Such rules should be discussed in parliament and approved by it. Rules pro-

hibiting sale and purchase of animals offended the right to freedom of religion guaranteed under Constitution, they submitted. "The slaughtering of animals for food, the foods and culinary made out of such animal flesh and offering sacrifice of animals are part of cultural identity of most communities in India, protected under constitution," the PILs said.

Meanwhile, Union minister Venkaiah Naidu today said that the Centre is examining "issues" raised by states and some organisations on the recent ban imposed by it on sale and purchase of cattle at animal markets for slaughter. "However, subsequently some issues were raised by some state governments and other trade organisations. These issues are being examined by the government," Naidu said. The environment ministry, which had notified the rules last week, received 13 representations on them. The ministry had notified the stringent Prevention of

Cruelty to Animals (Regulation of Livestock Markets) Rules, 2017 under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, banning the sale and purchase of cattle from animal markets for slaughter. The decision is expected to hit export and trade of meat and leather.

It deserves mention here that Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday shot off letters to his counterparts in other states asking them to "stand together" and "oppose" the ban on sale of cattle for slaughter and urge the Prime Minister to withdraw the new regulations. "Unless we stand together and oppose this anti-federal, anti-democratic and anti-secular move, it may mark the beginning of a series of similar measures aimed at destroying the federal democratic fabric and secular culture of our country," Vijayan said in his letter.

"I would therefore fervently appeal to you to convey your objection to the 2017 Rules under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to the Prime Minister, and to request him to withdraw the rules introduced without any consultation with the states," he said in the letter to various chief ministers.

Charges framed against Advani, others in Babri demolition case

Our leaders will come out unscathed, says Naidu

Lucknow, May 30 /-/- Senior BJP leaders L K Advani, M M Joshi and Uma Bharti were today charged with criminal conspiracy in the 1992 Babri mosque demolition case by a special CBI court here.

The court, which earlier rejected their discharge petition, framed charges against Advani (89), Joshi (83), Union minister Bharti (58) and three others under Section 120 (B) of the IPC (criminal conspiracy). The three others are the BJP's Vinay Katiyar (62), VHP's Vishnu Hari Dalmiya, who is in his late eighties, and one-time Hindutva firebrand Sadhvi Rithambara (53). The accused had argued against the framing of charges against them, asserting that they had no role in the razing of the mosque and had tried to stop it. Their discharge petitions were rejected by the judge. The court is hearing two separate cases relating to the demolition of the 16th-century mosque. Six others accused in the second case - Ramvilas Vedanti, Baikunth Lal Sharma, Champat Rai Bansal, Mahant Nriya Gopaldas, Dharam Das and Satish Pradhan - were also charged with conspiracy and promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, etc. and defiling a place of worship with the intent to insult a religion. Vedanti and the other five were, under various IPC sections, also charged with imputations prejudicial to national integration, committing deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings, making statements leading to public mischief, rioting and unlawful assembly.

Coming out in defence of the senior BJP leaders, Union minister M Venkaiah Naidu today said they are innocent and will come out unscathed. "Our leaders are innocent. They will come out unscathed," Naidu, a former BJP president, told reporters, adding that he would not comment beyond that as the matter is in the court. He also noted that the INDIA government did not move to withdraw the case against the top saffron leaders.

Surya Kanta Mishra party state secretary told said the situation at present did not warrant an agitation. "We will do it when situation demands. However our programmes on this issue will be announced tomorrow by M Selim (party MP)," Mishra told Echo of India.

No need to follow Centre's order banning cattle sale, Mamata tells officials

BARRACKPORE, MAY 30 /-/- West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee today told officials in her administration that there was no need to follow the Centre's notification banning the sale of cattle for slaughter at animal markets. She said that the state government issued a direction to that effect.

Mamata, however, asked the police to take steps to stop cow smuggling in the border district of North 24 Parganas "at any cost". Speaking at an administrative review meeting, she said: "Cow smuggling has to be stopped at any cost. The police should take stern action to put an end to it." Cattle smuggling in North 24 Parganas district bordering Bangladesh is a sensitive issue with the BJP accusing the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government in the state of not doing enough to put an end to the illegal trade. The chief minister asked the police to "deal sternly with communal flare-ups", while accusing the BJP of "making efforts to incite communal violence" in the state.

"The police should keep its eyes and ears open. If someone tries to incite communal violence, beat up both the parties. Do not spare anybody, irrespective of the person's political affiliations. The BJP is trying to incite communal violence in the state," she said. Speaking on the ban on sale and purchase of cattle at animal markets for the purpose of slaughter, she asked the district administration to take steps to stop cow smuggling in the state that no one followed the Centre's notification in that regard. "The holy month of Ramadan is on. Everybody has the right to observe religious festivals. Just like Durga Puja, Kali Puja and Christmas, Eid is also observed in our state. "Who has the right to observe religious festivals. No one has the right to dictate it. Do not follow that (Centre's) order; the state has not issued any such order," she said.

The administration should ensure that there was "no confusion" regarding the issue, the TMC supremo told the officials at the meeting, adding that till the state government issued an order to that effect, there was no need to follow the Centre's notification.

Jadhav providing 'crucial intelligence' on recent terrorist attacks, claims Pak

ISLAMABAD, MAY 30 /-/- Pakistan has claimed that Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav, who has been sentenced to death by a military court, was providing "crucial intelligence" about the recent terrorist attacks in the country. Jadhav continues to provide crucial intelligence with regard to recent terrorist attacks in Pakistan, "foreign office spokesperson Nafees Zakaria told Dawn News in an interview. However, Zakaria did not elaborate on the details of the intelligence being provided by Jadhav. The Hague-based International Court of Justice stayed Jadhav's execution on May 18 but it has to decide the issue of jurisdiction in the case, Pakistani officials said. Meanwhile, Pakistan's Attorney General Ashtar Ahsan told Dawn News that Pakistan had enough evidence to prove that Jadhav was a "spy". Ahsan said Pakistan has information on Jadhav that could not be disclosed due to security reasons. "The evidence would only be presented before the ICJ once it resumes the hearing," he said. Ahsan said the ICJ's "procedural order" of May 18 was neither Pakistan's defeat nor India's success and emphasised that when the case re-starts, "Pakistan would be on solid ground to win". Responding to a question regarding the constitution of a new legal team, Ahsan said that there were no plans to change the team. However, he said it would be "expanded". When asked why he did not represent Pakistan at the May 15 hearing at the ICJ, Ahsan claimed that he "knew prior to the judgement that the ICJ is going to announce the provisional order".

No agitation by Bengal CPM against cattle slaughter ban: Vote bank politics?

SARYASAGHI BANDOPADHYAY

KOLKATA, MAY 30 /-/- Vote bank politics and the widespread opprobrium that followed public consumption of beef by its leaders like Bikas Ranjan Bhattacharya in Kolkata seem to have stood in the way of the CPM hitting the streets with any agitation or demonstration against the ban on sale of cattle for slaughter by the Union gov-

ernment. It may be mentioned here that in Left Front ruled states like Kerala and Tripura the CPM and its student wing Student Federation of India (SFI) and the youth wing Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) have hit the streets with the SFI even organising Beef Festivals in Kerala. But in West Bengal, which earlier saw demonstrations by the left on issues like US aggression on foreign soil,

except for some stray comments by Marxist leaders against the ban, there has been no agitation nor has there been any demonstration by the CPM or any of its wings on this issue.

"No political party can deny that there had been a surge in the support base for BJP in West Bengal, there has been a rise in their vote bank. Look at Mamata, how she has restrained herself. Also on an earlier occasion CPM leader Bikash Ranjan



—File Pix

Bhattacharya took part in a beef fest in Kolkata and he faced flak not only from general public but inside the party too. Perhaps those were the reasons that prevented the CPM from taking to the streets, "a party veteran told Echo of India. The Left party admitted that what they did in Kerala could not be done in West Bengal. "The situation in the two states are different. So what can be done there cannot be done here. But we

will do something and we will announce that soon," Madhuja Sen Roy, state SFI president told Echo of India. Surya Kanta Mishra party state secretary told said the situation at present did not warrant an agitation. "We will do it when situation demands. However our programmes on this issue will be announced tomorrow by M Selim (party MP)," Mishra told Echo of India.