



People look at waves crashing on concrete banks, on a flooded road in Qingdao, Shandong province, China—REUTERS

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State CID starts case against 2 BJP leaders

KOLKATA, JUNE 7 /-/- West Bengal CID has started a case today against two BJP local leaders and their associates at Basirhat in North 24 Parganas district for their alleged involvement in duping locals in the pretext of providing them dwelling units under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Acting on the basis of complaints lodged by locals at Basirhat police station, the CID today started a case against Ranjit Pal and Bikash Singh and their associates for collecting money from villagers from the area in the pretext of providing dwelling units under PMAY, a senior CID official said. "As per the complaint the duo have collected Rs 500 each from around 25,000 people from the area promising them residential homes under the PMAY. This way they managed to siphon off nearly around Rs 1.25 crore," he said. On the modus operandi of the two accused, the CID sleuth said the investigation was still at an early stage. "The probe is still in an early stage. We are gathering information against these two and checking who else were involved with them," he said.

AT A GLANCE

Manhandle bid on Yechury foiled

NEW DELHI: Two persons were held today for allegedly barging into the CPM head office here and trying to manhandle party general secretary Sitaram Yechury in an episode the Left party was quick to blame the RSS for. The CPM said it will not be cowed down by the "Sangh's 'gondagardi' (hooliganism) aimed at silencing the Left party and that it will win the battle for 'the soul of India'". The incident took place when Yechury was about to enter the central committee hall on the first floor of the M office to address the press on conclusion of the party's two-day politburo meeting here. (Details on Page 7)

New Nepal PM takes oath

KATHMANDU: Veteran Nepalese politician Sher Bahadur Deuba was today sworn in as the new prime minister of Nepal by President Bidya Devi Bhandari. The 70-year-old leader, who became Nepal's prime minister for the fourth time, succeeded Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda who had resigned after nine months to honour a power-sharing deal and proposed Deuba's name. Deuba, the president of Nepal's oldest party—the Nepali Congress, was elected the 40th Prime Minister on Tuesday, following a vote in the Parliament.



A boy is evacuated during the attack on the Iranian Parliament in central Tehran—REUTERS

Floodlights installed along borders with Pak, B'desh

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7 /-/- The Union government has floodlit 647 kilometers of the borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh to prevent terrorists and immigrants from infiltrating into Indian territory. The floodlighting of the 647-km-long stretches of the two international borders was completed in last one year, a home ministry official said. It will help border guarding forces keep strict vigil in the forward areas and check attempts of infiltration by terrorists and illegal immigrants. Projects worth Rs 5,188 crore were sanctioned by the central government in the last three years of which Rs 2,138 crore has been released for the Indo-Bangladesh and India-Pakistan border projects. These include erecting a fence in a 200-km area, constructing 430-km-long border roads, 110 composite border outposts and floodlighting the 647-km-long areas. "A major push has been given by the government to border infrastructure and developmental works," the official said. The total length of the Indo-Pak border is 3,323 km, including the Line of Control and the Actual Ground Position Line, while the Indo-Bangladesh border is 4,096 km long. The India-China border is 2,488 km long. As regards to the India-China border, out of 27 border roads sanctioned in 2008, the construction of first eight roads was completed during 2014-16, while another nine roads are due to be completed by the end of the year. The home ministry has also undertaken a new initiative for creation of model villages in border areas. More than Rs 92 crore has been released to seven states for development of 41 model villages, including 24 in Jammu and Kashmir. To facilitate the border trade and passenger movement at land border crossings, the government has been promoting the setting up Integrated Check Posts (ICPs).

Prez poll on July 17; NDA, Oppn yet to open cards on candidate

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7 /-/- Polls to elect the 15th President of India will be held on July 17 for which the nomination process will begin from June 14 with the issuance of a notification, the Election Commission announced today. The counting of votes will take place on July 20 in New Delhi where all the ballot boxes will be brought. Both the ruling NDA and the Opposition are yet open their cards on the Presidential candidate. While the ruling alliance is likely to announce its nominee in the next few days, the Opposition is seeking to unite all non-NDA parties under a common platform to put up a consensus candidate for the Presidential election.

As per the schedule, June 28 is the last day for nominations, while a candidate can withdraw from the electoral battle till July 1. If there is no consensus between the NDA and the Opposition, the number of serious candidates in the fray will be likely to increase. Various opposition parties have already held deliberations and have decided to set up a sub group that is likely to meet within a week to build consensus on a joint candidate. The electorate, comprising elected Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members and members of state assemblies, is tilted in favour of the NDA, but the Opposition is trying to woo some regional parties to support their candidate.

The tenure of the present incumbent, Pranab Mukherjee, comes to an end on July 24. The electoral college which elects the President through the system of proportional representation, comprises MPs and members of state legislative assemblies. A total of 4866 voters — 4120 MLAs and 776 elected MPs — are eligible to cast their ballot. MLAs of states with legislative councils are not part of the electoral college. While the Lok Sabha Speaker, an elected member, can vote, the two nominated members in the Lower House from the Anglo-Indian community cannot. 12 nominated members in Rajya Sabha are also ineligible.



Iran Parliament, shrine attacked by bombers; gunmen, 12 killed

IS claims responsibility, Sushma condemns act

TEHRAN, JUNE 7 /-/- Gunmen and suicide bombers attacked Iran's parliament and the shrine of its revolutionary leader today, killing at least 12 people, wounding dozens and igniting hours-long siege at the legislature that ended with four attackers dead. The Islamic State group claimed the attacks, marking the first time the Sunni extremists have taken responsibility for an assault in Shiite-majority Iran. The militants are at war with Iranian-backed forces in Syria and Iraq, and view Shites as apostates. The attacks began in midmorning when assailants armed with Kalashnikov rifles stormed the parliament building. One of the attackers later blew himself up inside, where a session had been in progress, according to a statement carried by Iran's state TV.

Deputy Interior Minister Mohammad Hossein Zolfaghari told Iran's state TV the apparently male attackers wore women's attire. The semi-official Tasnim news agency later reported the siege had ended with four of the attackers killed. Mizan Online, an Iranian state-run news website, said 12 people were killed and 42 wounded in the two attacks. The semi-official Tasnim news agency later reported the siege had ended with four of the attackers killed. Mizan Online, an Iranian state-run news website, said 12 people were killed and 42 wounded in the two attacks. The semi-official Tasnim news agency later reported the siege had ended with four of the attackers killed. Mizan Online, an Iranian state-run news website, said 12 people were killed and 42 wounded in the two attacks.

No relief for Karnan

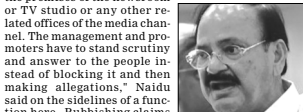
NEW DELHI, JUNE 7 /-/- Calcutta High Court judge C S Karnan, evading arrest since May 9, on Wednesday failed to get relief from the Supreme Court, which refused to hear his plea seeking a stay on his order awarding him a six-month jail term for contempt of court. Justice Karnan's counsel mentioned the matter before a vacation bench comprising Justices Ashok

No raids on NDTV, promoters have to stand scrutiny, says Venkaiah

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7 /-/- There were no raids on NDTV with the CBI not entering any office of the channel. Union information and broadcasting minister M Venkaiah Naidu said today while dismissing allegations that the searches were an infringement on press freedom. The CBI's raids on the properties of NDTV founder Prannoy Roy on June 5 on allegations of bank fraud had drawn criticism from several political parties as well as journalist groups such as the Editors' Guild of India, Press Club of India and All India Newspaper Editors' Conference. "There is no raid on NDTV. The CBI has not entered the premises of the newsroom or TV studio or any other related offices of the media channel. The management and promoters have to stand scrutiny and answer to the people instead of blocking it and then making allegations," Naidu said on the sidelines of a function here. Rubbishing claims



of a vendetta against the channel, Naidu said the promoters of NDTV, Prannoy and Radhika Roy, should submit to due process of the law as there were questions on their operations that needed disclosures. "Those disclosures will be required into," the minister said, indicating that the troubles for the channel are unlikely to end soon. Naidu said the media house cannot presume itself to be above the law. "This is especially true when ownership of most media today is defined by a vertiginous web of cross-holding involving corporate and entities for whom media is not a primary business," he said. CBI had in a statement earlier cited a Supreme Court order of 2016 to assert that the agency has jurisdiction to take up investigation of cases of corruption concerning private banks as well.



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Over 500 fake doctors identified in state

KOLKATA, JUNE 7 /-/- The CID has identified over 500 fake doctors practising in government hospitals and private clinics in West Bengal.

A highly placed official of the agency said that around seven to eight fake institutes were involved in the racket.

"Fake doctors are present in sizable numbers in government and private hospitals all over the state. We have information that around seven to eight fake institutes in the state are involved in the business apart from other such establish-



Ajay Tiwari, who was arrested last week for using fake MBBS degree

State Medical Council president Nirmal Maji said that they had a list which would be handed over to the police.

"The CID already arrested six fake doctors from various parts of the state including Ajay Tiwari and Naren Pandey who were attached to two renowned private hospitals in the metropolis. It has also seized a large number of documents comprising fake marksheets, fake records of students of MBBS courses after raiding the office of Alternative Medical Council of Calcutta at Barasat in

North 24-Parganas district. During the raid they also seized the soft copy of fake MBBS record of another such doctor Kushanath Halder which was detected in the hard disc of the office.

CID sleuths said that fake certificates and registration numbers were given by those institutes at a hefty price.

Maji said that the fake doctors had links with senior officials of the health department besides political leaders and civil and police officers. "The fake doctors have been practising

since the days of the Left Front government. Their contacts had helped them practice as doctors," he said. On the insistence of CID, the Council had issued a directive to doctors to register themselves afresh, and renew and update their credentials with them.

The medical council also directed hospitals to provide it with names of registered doctors which would help the council screen the list of doctors practising in the state. The Medical Council had lodged complaints with the police based on which the arrests were

made. The Council also appealed to the people to inform it if they suspected anybody to be a fake doctor. Police sources said that old registration numbers, used by doctors who were not in the profession now or had expired, were being provided to such persons.

Maji said that the state Medical Council would accept complaints from the people from today. "If a complaint is found genuine, we will get an FIR lodged," he said adding that the state government was trying to formulate a mechanism to stop the practice.

Govt cattle order challenged in SC

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7 /-/- The controversial Central notification banning sale and purchase of cattle at animal markets for slaughter was today challenged in the Supreme Court which said it would hear the matter on June 15.

The matter was mentioned before a vacation bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan and Deepak Gupta for an early hearing. The petitioner contended that the provisions in the notification were unconstitutional as they violated the fundamental rights including freedom of conscience and religion and right to livelihood. The plea claimed that the government notification issued last month was "against the freedom of religious practice to sacrifice the animals" and imposing a ban on slaughter of animals for food violates the right to food, privacy and personal liberty guaranteed to a citizen under the Constitution.

It claimed that states like Kerala, West Bengal, Tripura and Karnataka have said that they would not implement the Centre's ban as it would impact the livelihood of those involved in this business. "It is also to be noted that slaughtering of animals for food, the foods and culinary made out of such animal flesh and offering sacrifice of animals is a part of cultural identity of such communities, which is protected from any legislative or executive encroachment under Article 29 of the Constitution of India which is not been subjected to any restriction by the framers of the Constitution..." the petitioner, Hyderabad-based Mohammed Abdul Faheem Qureshi, said in his plea.

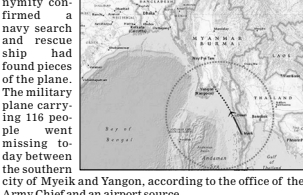
Complete ban of sale or purchase or re-sale of animals would cast a huge economic burden on the farmers, cattle traders who find it difficult to feed their children today, it said.

They would be also required to feed the cattle as it was an offence under Act of 1960 (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act) to starve an animal or failure to maintain it and would also "give way for cow vigilantism to harass farmers and cattle traders under the blessing of the impugned regulations", said the petition filed through advocate Sanobar Ali Qureshi. The plea further said the 1960 Act was not enacted by Parliament to prohibit or restrict any act of slaughter of animals for food or for religious sacrifice or the sale of animals for it. It has sought the apex court's direction to declare these rules of Prevention Of Cruelty To Animal (Regulation Of Live Stocks, Markets) Rules and Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals (Care And Maintenance Of Case Property Animals) as ultra vires and unconstitutional.

Debris from missing Myanmar military plane found in sea

YANGON, JUNE 7 /-/- Debris from a missing Myanmar military plane was found in the Andaman Sea today, an official and an air force source said.

"Now they have found pieces of the damaged plane in the sea 136 miles (218 km) away from Dawei city," Naing Lin Zaw, a tourism official in Myeik city, told AFP adding that the navy was still searching the sea. An air force source requesting anonymity confirmed a



navy search and rescue ship had found pieces of the plane. The military plane carrying 116 people went missing today between the southern city of Myeik and Yangon, according to the office of the Army Chief and an airport source. "Communication was lost suddenly at about 1:35 pm (07:05 GMT) when it reached about 20 miles west of Dawei town," the commander-in-chief's office said in a statement, adding search and rescue was ongoing. An airport source, who asked not to be named, said the plane was carrying 105 passengers and 11 crew members.