

LUbars students from campus on V-Day

LUCKNOW, FEB 13/-/The Lucknow University (LU) has warned of disciplinary action against students found "sitting or roaming" on its campus on the Valentine's Day tomorrow, when the varsity has announced a holiday on account of Mahashivratri festival.

An advisory issued by LU Proctor Vinod Singh also urged the parents to send their wards to the university on February 14.

"It has been seen in the past years that some students, influenced by western culture, celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14," it said.

"We want to inform all students of the university that both the campuses of the university will remain closed on account of Mahashivratri and no extra classes, practicals cultural programme will be held," the advisory said, adding the students should not come to the university campus tomorrow.

"We all appeal the parents of the students not to send their wards to the university. Disciplinary action will be taken against those found sitting or roaming on the campus," Singh said in the advisory dated February 10. (PTI)

Naxals held

RAIPUR, FEB 13/-/Three naxals, one of them carrying a cash reward on his head, were arrested today from insurgency-hit Kondagaon district in Chhattisgarh, police said.

The cadres were nabbed near Bhalkritri forest in under Madarpal police station limits when a joint team of Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and District Force was out on a search operation. Kondagaon Additional Superintendent of Police Maheshwar Nag told PTI.

One of the arrested, Nidhar alias Guddu (25), was active as an LOS (local organisation) squad member, while two other naxals, Gannu (25) and Ghassuram (30), were janmilitia members, he said. "Guddu was carrying a reward of Rs 3 lakh on his head," he added. An 8-kg tiffin bomb, Maoist banners and literature were recovered from the possession of the two janmilitia members, he said. "During their interrogation, they admitted that the explosive was meant to target the security forces during their operation in the region," the ASP said. The trio was allegedly involved in several incidents, including planting of IEDs and attacks on police parties, he added. (PTI)

MP women fight closure of boozing yards

*Lady teachers touse hair to press for job parity

L.S. HERDENIA

BHOPAL: Strange things are happening in Madhya Pradesh. Women generally are against liquor shops, bars and other such outlets. But in Madhya Pradesh just the opposite is happening.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan himself announced closure of 'ahatas' (courtyards adjacent to liquor shops) in the wake of the threat posed to law and order situation, particularly women's security. But a section of women does not agree with the chief minister. They want ahata to stay. In an unusual gesture, hundreds of women assembled at the CM house on 18th January to urge Shivraj Singh Chouhan not to close down 'ahatas' for people to booze, as proposed in the new excise policy for next financial year.

Pragati Gupta, the leader of Jagriti Mahila Sangathan, argues that the closure of 'ahatas' would turn out to be counter-productive and the security of women would be jeopardized further. "More than 2.5 to 3 lakh people booze in the 'ahatas' of Bhopal alone every day. If 'ahatas' are closed, they would be forced to booze by the roadside,

Court frames charges against Yasin Bhatkal

NEW DELHI, FEB 13/-/A Delhi court today framed conspiracy and other terror charges against Indian Mujahideen co-founder Yasin Bhatkal and his associate in a case related to the September 2008 serial blasts in Delhi that claimed 26 lives and left 135 people injured.

Additional Sessions Judge Siddharth Sharma put Bhatkal and his associate Asadullah Akhtar on trial for various offences punishable under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Indian Penal Code

(IPC) and Explosive Substances Act. The present case relates to the twin explosions at Greater Kailash-1 in South Delhi where nine people were injured in the twin blasts at the M-block market.

The charges framed by the court include criminal conspiracy (120B) punishable under Indian Penal Code, various sections UAPA including conspiracy for committing terror act (section 18) and being member of a terror organisation. The court posted the matter for further hearing on

February 28. The accused persons, represented by advocate M S Khan, pleaded not guilty and claimed trial.

The police had said that Bhatkal and Akhtar, along with others, were part of the conspiracy to carry out the blasts at several places in Delhi on September 13, 2008. They had claimed that the accused had waged war against India by carrying out the terror attacks.

Bhatkal was arrested by the National Investigation Agency from Indo-Nepal border on the

night of August 28, 2013. Later, Delhi Police took his custody in blast case at Greater Kailash-1.

Five cases were lodged in connection with the blasts at Ghaffar Market in Karol Bagh, Barakhamba Road near Connaught Place, besides the one at Greater Kailash and the recovery of a bomb near India Gate. All the five cases were clubbed by the trial court for the purpose of framing of charges and trial on the ground they arose from the series of the same transaction. (PTI)



Railway Traffic blocked by DYFI activists in protest against price hike of petroleum products and ban on new appointments in railways jobs, in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday.

Cops crack Hyderabad case Two women, one paramour and a brutal killing

HYDERABAD, FEB 13/-/A sourced extra-marital affair with a common paramour led to the brutal killing of a pregnant woman whose body parts were found stuffed in two gunny bags near the Botanical Garden here last month, according to police who unravelled the mystery by arresting three persons.

The 32-year-old victim, identified as Bingsu alias Pinkoo from Bihar, was eight months pregnant when she was killed. Police identified the accused, including a woman, after analysing several CCTV footages and nabbed them yesterday from different locations in Hyderabad and Bihar, Cyberabad Police Commissioner Sandeep Shandilya told reporters.

The accused are identified as Mamatha Jha (37), her husband Anil Jha (75), their son Amarkanth Jha (21)—all natives of Mohana Malti village in Banka district in Bihar; he said, adding that another accused Vikas Kashyap (35) is absconding. "All the accused were staying at a rented house in Sherlingampally here for the past several months and the victim woman had joined them around 45 days ago," the commissioner said.

He said the woman's identity was established after a police team went to Mohana Malti village yesterday with her photo and enquired with villagers and subsequently her family members. The deceased Pinkoo belonged to a Scheduled Tribe.

As per investigation, she married one Dinesh in Chandausi town of Sambhal district in Uttar Pradesh around 13 years ago and the couple had three children. "However, she later developed intimacy with Kashyap and left her husband. In January 2017, she returned to Mohana Malti village along with her paramour," the police commissioner said.

Meanwhile, Kashyap developed intimacy with Mamatha Jha, one of the accused. Shandilya said Jha wanted to get rid of the woman and sent Kashyap to Hyderabad to her son Amarkanth,

who was already been working there. "Later, Mamatha Jha, along with her husband, came to Hyderabad and started living with Kashyap in a rented house of her son," the Cyberabad police chief said.

Meanwhile, Pinkoo traced them in Hyderabad and started living with them. However, Jha felt that the woman was a threat to her extra-marital affair with Kashyap and also thought that she was a financial liability for them, the top officer said. "Jha and Kashyap then planned to kill the woman and get her husband Anil and son Amarkanth involved," Shandilya said explaining a sequence of events.

As per the plan, Mamtha Jha and Kashyap picked up a fight with the woman and the latter pushed her to the wall of the house, he said. "Being pregnant, the woman collapsed instantly."

Subsequently, all the accused kicked her and showered blows on her vital parts, leading to her death," Shandilya said, adding that the accused kept the woman's body in their house for one day.

Oppn accuses Yogi govt

LUCKNOW, FEB 13/-/Accusing the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh of not being serious on the issue of education, Opposition parties staged a walkout from the state Assembly today. During the Question Hour, Samajwadi Party member Nitin Agarwal sought to know whether the Kanva Vidya Dhan scheme had been discontinued.

UP's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna replied that as there was no provision in the budget, the scheme was not being run. Not satisfied with the answer, the SP member alleged that the government was not serious on the issue as a scheme for the welfare of girl students had been discontinued.

Leader of Opposition Ram Govind Choudhury said the government was not giving a satisfactory reply following which the SP members walked out.

Oppn accuses Yogi govt

LUCKNOW, FEB 13/-/Accusing the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh of not being serious on the issue of education, Opposition parties staged a walkout from the state Assembly today. During the Question Hour, Samajwadi Party member Nitin Agarwal sought to know whether the Kanva Vidya Dhan scheme had been discontinued.

UP's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna replied that as there was no provision in the budget, the scheme was not being run. Not satisfied with the answer, the SP member alleged that the government was not serious on the issue as a scheme for the welfare of girl students had been discontinued.

Leader of Opposition Ram Govind Choudhury said the government was not giving a satisfactory reply following which the SP members walked out.

YC leader 'hacked to death' by CPM workers

*Congress condemns killing

KANNUR (KERALA), FEB 13/-/A 29-year-old Youth Congress leader was hacked to death allegedly by CPI(M) workers at Mattanur in Kannur district, police said today.

The incident occurred late last night when four assailants came in a car and hurled crude bombs and attacked S P Shubhaib and two other party members with machetes, they said.

Shubhaib, the Mattanur block Youth Congress secretary, was at a roadside tea shop at Therur with Riaz and Nausahad when the attack happened.

The critically injured Shubhaib was rushed to the Indira Gandhi Co-Operative Hospital at Thalassery where he succumbed, police said adding that the injured persons were stable. Police suspect it could be related to the incidents of violence in the area last week. Cases under sections 307 (attempt to murder), 324 voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons, 341 (punishment for wrongful restraint), 302 (read with 34) of the IPC and sections 3 and 5 of the Explosive

Justice Khanwilkar recuses from hearing Bofors case in SC

NEW DELHI, FEB 13/-/Justice A M Khanwilkar of the Supreme Court today recused himself from hearing the politically sensitive Rs 64 crore Bofors pay-off case. Justice Khanwilkar, who was the part of a bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, did not give any reason for opting out of hearing the matter. The bench, which also comprised Justice D Y Chandrachud, said a new bench would be constituted for hearing the matter on March 28.

The apex court was to hear the petition filed by BJP leader Ajay Agrawal challenging the May 31, 2005 decision of the Delhi High Court quashing all charges against all the accused persons in the case. The CBI informed the court that it has also filed an appeal against the high court order on February 2.

Today, the apex court was to hear the petition of Agrawal on his locus of filing the appeal as a third party in the matter.

Agrawal, who had contested the 2014 Lok Sabha election from Rae Bareilly against then Congress president Sonia Gandhi, has been pursuing the case for over a decade in the apex court. He had filed the appeal after the CBI had failed to challenge the high court verdict within the mandatory 90-day period.

Justice R S Sodhi (since retired), had delivered the May 31, 2005 judgement in which the charges were quashed against Europe-based industrialists Hinduja brothers.

Before the 2005 verdict of Justice Sodhi, another judge of the Delhi High Court, retired Justice J D Kapoor, had on February 4, 2004, exonerated the late prime minister in the case and directed the framing of charge of forgery under section 465 of the IPC against Bofors company.

The Rs 1,437-crore deal between India and Swedish arms manufacturer AB Bofors for the supply of 400 155mm Howitzer guns for the Indian Army was entered into on March 24, 1986.

Swedish Radio on April 16, 1987, had claimed that the company had paid bribes to top Indian politicians and defence personnel.

The CBI on January 22, 1990 had registered the FIR for alleged offences of criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery under the Indian Penal Code and other sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act against Martin Arbo, the then president of AB Bofors, alleged middleman Win Chadda and the Hinduja brothers.

It had alleged that certain public servants and private persons in India and abroad had entered into a criminal conspiracy between 1982 and 1987 in pursuance of which the offences of bribery, forgery, cheating and forgery were committed.

The first charge sheet in the case was filed on October 22, 1999, against Chadda, Ottavio Quattrocchi, the then defence secretary S K Bhatnagar, Arbo and the Bhatnagar company.

A supplementary charge sheet was filed against the Hinduja brothers - S P Hinduja, G P Hinduja and P P Hinduja - on October 9, 2000.

A special CBI court in Delhi on March 4, 2011, had discharged Quattrocchi from the case saying the country could not afford to spend hard-earned money on his extradition which had already cost Rs 250 crore.

Quattrocchi, who had fled from here on July 29, 30, 1993, never appeared before any court in India to face prosecution. He passed away on July 13, 2013. The other accused persons who died are Bhatnagar, Arbo and Chadda. (PTI)

Devotees offering worship to Lord Shiva at a temple on the occasion of Mahashivratri festival at Keesara Gutta in Medchal District on Tuesday.



Devotees offering worship to Lord Shiva at a temple on the occasion of Mahashivratri festival at Keesara Gutta in Medchal District on Tuesday.