

Girl dies after being given iron-boosting pills in BMC school

MUMBAI, AUG 10 /- A girl student of a civic body-run school here died today while over 160 other students were hospitalised due to suspected poisoning after they took iron-boosting medicines given by the school. The 12-year-old girl was administered iron and folic acid tablets on Monday at the Municipal Urdu School Number 2 at Bainganwadi in suburban Govandi, a statement from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said. It added that she skipped school on Tuesday but attended classes on Wednesday and Thursday and died at her home last night after a "history of vomiting blood". The statement said the students of BMC-run schools were given iron, folic acid and deworming tablets as part of a Central government scheme aimed at fighting anaemia among children. The civic body claimed that "there were no reports of any untoward incident" during this national programme. Officials today said tuberculosis might be a cause behind the girl's death, though the BMC statement maintained that the "details of her previous illness are not known". A BMC official said the parents of 161 other students of the school "panicked" and brought them to the city's body-run Rajawadi Hospital at Ghatkopar and Shatabdi Hospital at Govandi. "A few children complained of nausea and giddiness. However, no one had major signs or symptoms," a senior BMC official said. He added that all the children were examined by paediatricians and advised discharge from the hospitals. Padmaja Keskar, executive health officer, BMC said the tablets given to the students were "tried and tested", adding that the cause of the girl's death would only be known once the post-mortem report came in. A police official said the incident was being probed. (PTI)

Retired govt employees' meet in Mangaluru

DEEPAK SHARMA

MANGALURU, AUG 10 /- Government Retired Employees Welfare Association (GREWA) North district held a meeting at Mangaluru District office on Friday. The meeting was presided by convener, GREWA, Penchanga. Several issues were raised at the special general meeting. The convener said he had received complaints from members of difficulties while drawing pension from the State Bank of Sikkim Mangaluru Branch. Many members said they were faced with a financial crunch.



Jayarajan all set to return to CPM-led LDF ministry

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUG 10 /- The CPM in Kerala today gave the go-ahead for re-inducting its strongman E P Jayarajan, who resigned as minister in 2016 over nepotism charges. Jayarajan landed in trouble after appointment of his nephew, P K Sudheer Nambiar and son of Kannur MP P K Sreemathi as the managing director of Kerala Industrial Enterprises Ltd. However, the vigilance and anti-corruption bureau, which probed the case, gave a clean chit to Jayarajan, stating that no criminal offence was detected.

the Industries portfolio which he held earlier. Jayarajan, a party strongman from Kannur, holding the Industries and Sports portfolio, had resigned in October 2016 over nepotism charges. Jayarajan landed in trouble after appointment of his nephew, P K Sudheer Nambiar and son of Kannur MP P K Sreemathi as the managing director of Kerala Industrial Enterprises Ltd. However, the vigilance and anti-corruption bureau, which probed the case, gave a clean chit to Jayarajan, stating that no criminal offence was detected.

185 people held in Pune for vandalism, violence during Maratha bandh

PUNE, AUG 10 /- At least 185 people, including five women, were arrested in connection with incidents of vandalism and violence in Pune city during the bandh called by Maratha groups over their demand for reservation for the community in government jobs and education, police said today.

It added that some of the protesters hurled stones at the police personnel in the Chandani Chowk area of the city during the stir on Thursday.

In another incident, some miscreants went on a rampage after the conveners of the Maratha Kranti Morcha (MKM) submitted a memorandum of demands to district collector Naval Kishor Ram. They damaged the main gate of the administrative building at the collector's office, broke the security cabin's glass and some bulbs.

According to the police, the miscreants did not leave the building premises till late evening and were detained after a mild lathi-charge.

While 83 people were arrested in connection with the Chandani Chowk stone-pelting incident, 81 others, including five women, were arrested for the vandalism at the collector's office. Besides, 21 others were arrested for sporadic incidents. Joint Commissioner of Police (law and order) Shivaji Bodkhe said. Bodkhe added that those arrested were "outside elements" who had sneaked into the agitation and resorted to violence.

State Notes

American found dead in Uttarakhand hotel room

NAINITAL, AUG 10 /- An elderly American was found dead in his hotel room at Bhimtal in the district, police said today. Stephen Daniel (66) was found dead in his room at Greenwood Hotel on Thursday. Nainital SP Harish Chandra Sati said. The hotel staff learned about his death when a foul smell began to emanate from his room, the official said, adding that it suggested he died a couple of days earlier. They broke open the door as it was bolted from inside and they found Daniel lying dead on his bed, he said. The US embassy was informed about the incident, Sati said. Daniel, who hailed from Pennsylvania and was a divorcee, came to India via Nepal on May 30 on a valid visa and passport, the official said. He was last seen by the hotel staff on Sunday when they delivered soup to his room, the SP said.

Surat civic squad attacked for impounding stray cow

SURAT, AUG 10 /- A team of Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) in Gujarat had to stay put in a vehicle for over an hour when it was allegedly attacked by a mob for impounding a stray cow in the city, police said today. The incident took place in Amroli area of Surat on Monday. But a police complaint in this regard was lodged by an SMC official on Thursday. According to the complaint given by SMC sanitary sub inspector Harshad Kerode, after the civic body was informed about a cow running amok, he and his team reached Vatsalya residency in Amroli area and impounded the animal. But soon, over a 50-member group of Rabari community, led by Puka Rabari, reached the spot and started assaulting the SMC team for impounding their cow, police said quoting the complaint.

Crackdown begins against drunk driving in Goa

PANAJI, AUG 10 /- Goa Police today launched a crackdown against drunken driving to curb road accidents in the state. Around 200 teams of policemen will be on the streets across Goa as part of the drive that begins today, deputy superintendent of police (traffic) Dharmesh Angad told newsmen. "If a motorist is caught driving under the influence of liquor beyond permissible limit, his vehicle would be confiscated by the police and a chargesheet would be filed against him in the court," Angad said. The SP said checks would be conducted on all the highways as well as internal roads across the state.

Rahul inaugurates new office of Chhattisgarh Congress

RAIPUR, AUG 10 /- Congress president Rahul Gandhi inaugurated today a new office of the Chhattisgarh unit of the party here. The two-storey office, named 'Rajiv Bhawan', is located in posh Shankar Nagar locality of the state capital. Congress treasurer Motilal Vora, AICC Chhattisgarh in-charge P. Uka Rabari, party chief Bhupesh Baghel and Leader of Opposition T S Singhdeo, among others, were present on the occasion. Rahul had laid the foundation stone of this office building in June 2015 when he was the Congress vice-president. The new office is expected to function as the main opposition party's base for the Assembly elections slated to be held by the year-end.

Naxals torch 5 empty trucks in Chhattisgarh

RAIPUR, AUG 10 /- A group of Naxals allegedly set ablaze five empty trucks in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh early today, police said. With this, Maoists have so far torched at least nine vehicles, including two passenger buses, in the last three days in separate incidents in Dantewada, police said. The assault is being viewed as a reaction to the death of 15 Naxals in an encounter with security forces in neighbouring Sukma district on August 6. "As per the information, a group of armed Naxals reached near the office of Truck Owners' Association in Rachehli town, where several trucks were parked, in the wee hours," Dantewada additional superintendent of police Gorakhnath Baghel told news agency PTI.

Kerala floods: Red alert issued in Idukki, Army deployed in northern districts

Centre assures all help, CM reviews situation

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUG 10 /- In rain battered Kerala, a red alert was issued for Idukki and its adjoining districts in view of the possibility of release of more water from the Idukki reservoir, while entry of tourists to the highland area was stopped after roads caved in at many places.

Five columns of Army has been deployed in the state's northern districts since Thursday night, and small bridges have been constructed to evacuate people stranded at various places in Kozhikode and Wayanad. The Indian Navy has sent its Southern Naval Command in view of the rising water level in the Periyar river and a possible inundation of parts of Wellington Island surrounded by the backwaters of Kochi. Twenty-six people have lost their lives since August 8 in landslides and floods caused due to the heavy rains as the South-west monsoon remains vigorous over Kerala. The Idukki district administration has restricted tourists from visiting hilly areas and movement of heavy goods carriers also has been restricted.

At least 30 tourists, including foreigners stranded at the Plum July resort at Munnar since Wednesday as roads are blocked due to landslips, are safe and the Army's help has been sought, state Tourism minister Kadakampally Surendran said, adding they will be shifted to the KTDC. People living downstream of Periyar and Cheruthoni rivers have been warned that there is a possibility of inundation of banks as torrential rain pounded the state for the second day in a row. Gates of 24 dams in the state have been opened so far due to rising water level. Three shutters of the Idukki reservoir have already been



Southern Naval Command launched operation 'MADAD' for the rescue of marooned people and undertaking disaster relief operation, in Kochi on Friday.

opened. Two more shutters of the Cheruthoni dam, part of the Idukki reservoir, the biggest arch dam in Asia, were lifted around 7 am today as the water level continued to rise following continuing rains. One shutter was opened on Thursday after a gap of 26 years. The water level in Idukki at 10 am stood at 2,401.34 feet against the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 2,403 feet. This morning, Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan reviewed the flood situation and relief works being undertaken by the Army.

Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and the NDRF Informing newsmen that there is a need to release more water from the Idukki dam in the wake of increase in the water level, he said, "It is essential to release water three times than what was being released now." In view of this, the water level in the Periyar river and its tributaries will rise. People have to be vigilant, Vijayan said. The Centre today assured the Kerala government of all possible help in rescue and relief operations in the wake of rains and floods, which so

far have claimed 26 lives in the state. The assurance was given by Union home minister Rajnath Singh to Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan during a telephonic conversation.

"Spoke to Kerala CM Shri Pinarayi Vijayan and discussed the prevailing flood situation in the state. I have assured all possible assistance from the Centre to the state government. The relief and rescue ops are going on. MHA is closely monitoring the flood situation," Singh tweeted. (PTI)

Himalayan FC, Gangtok, entered semis of I-Day football tournament, Rangpo

SANJAY AGARWAL

RANGPO, AUG 10 /- The third quarter final match of the 72nd Independence Day Celebration Open Football Tournament held at Rangpo Bazar playground between Himalayan Football Club, Gangtok, and Jaiswal Brothers, Rangpo. In the presence of a large number of spectators, Himalayan FC won 3-0 and booked a semi-final berth. The last quarter final match of the tournament would be played between Temi FC and ACE Bangalore on Saturday, publicity-in-charge Mani Kumar Pradhan informed.



Tibetan Spiritual leader Dalai Lama, gives blessings to people during 'Thank You Karnataka', an event to commemorate 60 years in exile in Bengaluru on Friday.

Idol theft case: TN Police give undertaking to Madras HC not to arrest TVS Motor chairman

CHENNAI, AUG 10 /- Tamil Nadu Police today gave an undertaking to the Madras High Court that it would not arrest TVS Motor Company's chairman Venu Srinivasan, for a period of six weeks in connection with an idol theft case.

The matter came up for hearing before a Division Bench, comprising Justices R Mahadevan and P D Audikesavulu, constituted to hear cases regarding idol theft. Before senior counsel B Kumar could start his arguments on behalf of Srinivasan, personnel of the Idol Wing's special investigation team (SIT), who were in the court, gave the undertaking. After recording the undertaking, the bench posted the matter for hearing after six weeks. Srinivasan had moved the court

yesterday seeking anticipatory bail in connection with an idol theft case. In his bail application, Srinivasan cited a writ plea filed by advocate 'Elephant' G Rajendran which refers to the FIR against him. The TVS Motor chairman said he understood that an FIR was registered by the Mysore police and it was later transferred to the CB-CID Idol Wing. The FIR against the industrialist relates to alleged replacement of an antique peacock idol with a new one at the Sri Kapaleswara temple here and it was registered following a complaint from a devotee, Rangarajan Narasimhan.

Asserting that he was innocent, Srinivasan submitted before the court that he had spent around Rs 70 lakh in 2004 from his personal fund for painting and flooring work at Sri Kapaleswara temple.