

Riot police officers are seen as a bus burns during clashes between demonstrators and riot police in a protest against President Michel Temer's proposed reform of Brazil's social security system, in Rio de Janeiro

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Model killed, actor injured in car mishap

KOLKATA, APRIL 29 /- Popular model and TV prime time host, Sonika Chauhan was killed while actor Vikram Chatterjee was injured when the SUV in which they were travelling met with an accident in south Kolkata today. Police said the SUV mounted the pavement while trying to avoid an approaching car from a nearby lane and partially tilted on one side at around 4:30 am near Rashbehari Avenue cross-



Sonika Chauhan



Vikram Chatterjee

ing. Vikram and Sonika, who were on the driver's seat and front seat respectively, were brought out from the mangled car by locals and rushed to a private hospital, police said. While Sonika was declared dead, Vikram was admitted to a hospital, police said. A pall of gloom descended as the news of the mishap spread and many Bengali film actors including Dev rushed to the hospital on EM Bypass. A hospital doctor said Vikram was stable now and shifted to general bed from ICU after CT scan. He had injuries on head, leg, and other parts of body, the doctor said. Sonika, a popular face in city and Mumbai modelling circuits, had also been hosting a prime time show on a national channel. Vikram, whose last film *Khoj* (The Lost) had been screened in several film festivals, had also acted in 'Elar Char Adhyay' and 'Ami Ar Amar Girlfriends' (PTT)



Mangled car with inflated wheel of actor Vikram Chatterjee and model Sonika Chohan, who died after the car they were travelling in met with an accident at Rashbehari. Blood stains are also seen on the seat — Arijit Ganguly

EC to soon call all party meeting on EVM issue : Zaidi

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 29 /- The Election Commission of India (EC) will soon call a meeting of all political parties to discuss them the electronic voting machines (EVMs) were tampering proof and secured. Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi said today. He also said that the commission intends to use Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) in all coming elections to bring in more transparency and boosting the confidence of people in the electoral process. "We will soon hold an all party meeting in which they will be told how our EVMs are non-tamperable and secured as per our administrative and technical safeguard system," the CEC told reporters here. He was responding to questions about allegations levelled by various political parties against EVMs. Recently sixteen opposition parties had urged the EC to revert to ballot system, claiming the faith of the people in EVMs had been "eroded". Zaidi also said that the EC is planning to "take a challenge" for which time frame is being worked out. The electoral body is planning to throw an open challenge, asking anyone to try hacking its EVMs to dispel doubts of any misuse, it is learnt. The CEC also said that the EC had placed an order for the supply of VVPAT

machines for use in elections. "For VVPAT, we have got all the funds. We have placed an order for the supply of 15 lakh VVPAT with two PSUs Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Electronic Corporation of India (ECI)," informed Zaidi. He said it is expected that by September 2018, around 15 lakh VVPAT machines will be ready. The Commission's objective is to use VVPATs in all the coming elections, he said. India will "perhaps" be the first country where VVPAT will be used 100 per cent at all the polling stations. It will boost voters' confidence and will bring more transparency in the election process, he added. Zaidi said that an awareness campaign will be launched to create awareness about the benefits of VVPAT. VVPAT generates a receipt allowing voters to verify that the vote went in favour of the candidate against whose name the button was pressed on the EVM. After the Assembly elections earlier this year in five states — Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur, many political parties raised their voice against the use of EVMs. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was vociferous alleging probable misuse of EVMs while BJP leader Mayawati, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav had also raised question about the polling machines. (PTT)

AT A GLANCE

Pak army rejects Sharif's decision on aide

ISLAMABAD—In an unusual move, Pakistan's powerful army today "rejected" Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's decision to sack his trusted aide Tarig Fatemi for "leaking" information to the media, saying his action is "incomplete". Sharif appointed an inquiry committee's recommendation to remove Fatemi, the special assistant on foreign affairs, from his post after he was found guilty of "leaking" information to the media about a rift between Pakistan's civilian and military leaderships during a high-level security meet.

BJP's strategy meet on 2019 polls at Jodhpur

JAIPUR—Preparations for the Rajasthan Assembly elections due next year and the 2019 Lok Sabha polls will be the key agendas of the BJP's two-day state executive meeting beginning in Jodhpur tomorrow. Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje will inaugurate the meeting at a hotel in Jodhpur in the presence of senior party leaders including V Satish, Avinash Rai Khanna and Om Mathur. (PTT)

All roads of the state to be metalled at end of the year

DURGADASBANDOPADHYAY
KOLKATA, APRIL 29 /- With ostensibly panchayat votes scheduled early next year in mind, the state government has decided to concretise the entire 3500 kms of unmetalled road lying in the panchayat areas of the state. For this, the state has prepared an estimate of Rs 3376 crore that will be spent on the project aimed at making all the roads of the state metalled. The job will have

to be finished in a year's time, the government has instructed the panchayat department and the PWD. "Of the Rs 3376 crore that will be spent Rs 1661 crore will be given by the Centre and the rest will be borne by the state government. These will be eco-friendly roads as materials useful to protect environment will be used. Trees will also be planted on either sides of the roads. After the project is over we can claim that all roads in the

Don't allow triple talaq to be politicised: PM to Muslims

NEW DELHI, APRIL 29 /- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today urged Muslims not to view the triple talaq issue from a political perspective and expressed the confidence that efforts to end the practice would be led by "enlightened" members of the community. At a function to mark the Basava Jayanti celebrations in honour of Kannada philosopher Basaveswara, Modi referred to the 12th century reformer's movement against regressive practices to speak about triple talaq. "Appeal to you not to view the triple talaq issue from a political perspective. Come out and find a solution. That solution will have its own majesty and generations will remember you," he said. Modi said he hoped that "powerful people" would emerge from society and help "eradicate outdated practices and evolve modern systems". He called upon Indian Muslims to lead not just those from the community in the country, but to show the "path of modernity" to Muslims worldwide. "That is the kind of power and energy this land gives to all of us," he said to thunderous applause. The prime minister spoke about women empowerment, equality and good governance, as preached and practised by Basaveswara. Referring to triple talaq, Modi said, "I am sure enlightened people will also emerge from among Muslims and some forward to end this practice, liberating our Muslim daughters and mothers from the scourge. I am sure enlightened Muslims will take this responsibility upon themselves." Modi also released a message of "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas" (Development for all) and said people had to progress without discrimination. "People should get homes, access to power without discrimination. Farmers should get fertilisers and insurance benefits without any distinction. That is the meaning of our government's message of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'," he said. Interspersing his 40-minute address with the sayings of the poet-philosopher, he said today's youth were



Prime Minister Narendra Modi paying tributes to Bhagavan Basavanna during the International Basava Convention on the occasion of Basava Jayanthi, in New Delhi on Saturday.

Lingayats are a formidable community. Basaveswara, also known as Basavanna, is their most powerful icon. The prime minister used the platform, hosted by the Basava Society to repeat his government's message of "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas" (Development for all) and said people had to progress without discrimination. "People should get homes, access to power without discrimination. Farmers should get fertilisers and insurance benefits without any distinction. That is the meaning of our government's message of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'," he said. Interspersing his 40-minute address with the sayings of the poet-philosopher, he said today's youth were

Muslims choose triple talaq to satisfy lust: UP minister

BASTI (UP) APRIL 29 /- UP cabinet minister Swami Prasad Maurya has charged that Muslims use triple talaq to change wives and satisfy their "lust", remarks that are likely to spur a controversy. The BJP minister's comments come at a time when there is a raging debate over the issue of triple talaq. Maurya said triple



Swami Prasad Maurya

talaqs have no basis. "BJP stands with Muslim women who have been given talaq unreasonably and arbitrarily," Maurya, who was here to participate in a function at the house of a local businessman, told news persons last night. "These talaqs have no basis... If someone only for satisfying his lust keeps changing his wives and forces his own wife and children on the streets to beg... no one will call this as right," he said. Maurya said BJP stands with such victims to help them get respect. (PTT)

Positive about SC ruling on triple talaq : Justice Ganguly

"I wonder for how long women would be considered as commodity in this society. I think the Muslim women don't feel free under the present triple talaq system"

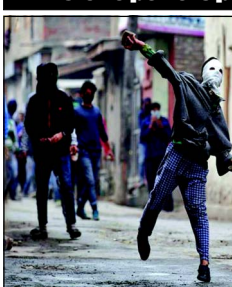


KOLKATA, APRIL 29 /- Former Supreme Court judge Asok Kumar Ganguly today said that he was positive about the outcome of the apex court's ruling on constitutional validity of triple talaq, hearing of which will begin on May 11. "I think none is above the law. The justice which will be delivered after hearing will be final. I am positive about the outcome," Justice Ganguly told reporters on the sidelines of a seminar on triple talaq. He had been asked about the Muslim Personal Law Board's stand on the issue. "I have full confidence in the constitutional accountability of the Supreme Court," he added. "I wonder for how long women would be considered as commodity in this society. I think the Muslim women don't feel free under the present triple talaq system," Justice Ganguly said. Justice Ganguly referred to the outcry when Rammoan Roy had spearheaded the

Amma security guard murder: Ex-Jaya driver and key suspect killed, another injured

COIMBATORE, APRIL 29 /- A former driver of late Chief Minister Jayalalithaa and one of the main suspects in the murder of a security guard at a bungalow in nearby Kodanadu Estate frequented by her, was killed today in a road accident. Another suspect and close friend of Kankaraj, Sayan alias Shyam, was seriously injured while his wife and child died in a road accident involving their two-wheeler and a car in Kerala's Thrissur district today, the police said. Kanakaraj died after his two-wheeler hit a car early today at Athur in Salem district, they said. Kanakaraj and Sayan were key suspects in the break-in and murder case, the police said, citing information provided by three persons taken into custody yesterday in connection with the incident. The estate figures in the disproportionate assets case involving jailed AIADMK general secretary V K Sasikala and Jayalalithaa, among others. A security guard posted at the bungalow, frequently visited by Jayalalithaa, at nearby Kodanadu estate was found dead on April 24, while some documents were suspected to have been stolen from there. While 40-year-old Om Babur was found dead, a seriously wounded Kishore is undergoing treatment. (PTT)

JK stone pelters part of pan-Islamic intifada movement: Kashmiri Pandits' body



AHMEDABAD, APRIL 29 /- Kashmiri stone pelters are part of a larger "pan-Islamic intifada fundamentalist movement", a frontal organisation of displaced Kashmiri Pandits said here today. Ashwani Churungoo, president, Panun Kashmir told reporters that while stone pelting was not new in Kashmir (its origin dating back to 1931), stone pelting in contemporary times are part of a larger pan-Islamic intifada fundamentalist movement and global terrorist. "Stone pelting has been a part of politics in Kashmir since 1931. Today stone pelting has been adopted as a means to cover the terrorism movement in Kashmir," he said. "The minority community of Pandits were the first target of this stone pelting culture, and then (when) the Pandits were forced out of the valley,

the practice was used to settle scores with political rivals in the state," he said. Churungoo was here to meet displaced Kashmiris settled in Gujarat as well as city mayor Gautam Shah to discuss issues pertaining to the Kashmiri Pandits. The Panun Kashmir chief also came down heavily on "so-called mainstream politicians of the valley for supporting stone pelting," adding that such politicians have used the issue to meet their political ends. "Thus, it is not astonishing that the so-called mainstream politicians of the valley have come out in support of the stone pelters. We expect the Government of India to take tough stand and decisive action against them, and this nationalist forces need to be strengthened in order to tackle fundamentalists," he said.

The displaced community is also pressing for their demand for carving out a union territory within Kashmir for Pandits and other minorities in the valley. Churungoo said, "The Centre needs to take a stand to instil confidence in the nationalist forces in the state and pave way for some tough security and political decisions. Creation of homeland for Hindus and other minorities is one of those decisions," he said. "We demand from the government to hold a dialogue with the displaced Pandits and find a way out. This homeland will help Kashmiris go back to their home state. For the first time, the Indian government has given a number of things to J&K, including ITI, IIM, hotel management institute, and a river front which will be a replica of Sabarmati riverfront."