

Major cabinet revamp in offing in Odisha?

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): A reshuffle in the Odisha cabinet is likely after the Budget Session of the State Assembly which will continue till April 7.

Sources said fate of several ministers in whose constituencies performance of BJD was not upto mark will be dropped. Besides, several other ministers who landed the party and government in difficult situation for different reasons are also likely to be changed.

Though BJD emerged victorious in 473 Zila Parishad (ZP) zones, out of 846 zones for which elections were held, the BJP won 297 zones. The BJP which gave a tough challenge to BJD, improved its performance from 36 seats it had won in 2012 polls.

Pyari on Ventilator Fishery on fast track

Mumbai (KCN): Founder of Odisha Jana Morcha, a political outfit and former Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Pyarimohan Mohapatra was today put on ventilator support after his condition turned critical at Hinduja Hospital here, family sources said today.

According to sources, his health condition is grim at the intensive care unit (ICU) at Hinduja Hospital in Mumbai. Notably, Mr. Mohapatra suffering from lungs cancer was undergoing treatment in Mumbai since last six months. Initially he was admitted to the Breach Candy Hospital and later shifted to the Hinduja Hospital.

"His health condition turned critical this morning and has been put on ventilator support," Mr. Mohapatra's wife Pratiba Devi told Media Men.

Mr. Mohapatra



had earlier undergone two surgeries to remove a malignant tumor in the lungs and administered chemotherapy. The 77-year-old bureaucrat-turned politician was the Principal Strategist of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and used to call the shots till he fell from grace of party Supremo Naveen Patnaik after the alleged midnight coup on 19 May 2012.

Berhampur(KCN): Around 500 delegates participated in a national seminar on priorities in fisheries and aquaculture held recently at the College of Fisheries, OUAT at Rangeilunda in Berhampur.

The delegates included nationally acclaimed fisheries scientists who delivered lead lectures in the two-days seminar, which was inaugurated by Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (FARD) Secretary Bishnupada Sethi.

A total of 230 papers were presented in four parallel technical sessions and an exhibition showcased various fisheries and aquaculture products and technologies of fisheries institutes, NFDB, state fisheries departments, other organizations and industries.

On the occasion, souvenir, book of abstracts, technical bulletins namely Phy-

toplankton of River Mahanadi in Odisha, India: A Pictorial Guide, Fishes of River Mahanadi of Odisha, India: A Field Guide, Hindi Magazine Nilanjali and

try held in the conference hall of Society for Management of Information, Learning and Extension (SMILE) in Bhubaneswar.

The workshop



OFCAAR alumni profile book were released by Chief Guest Mr.Sethi.

FARD Secretary Mr.Sethi on Wednesday inaugurated another workshop on increasing productivity in backyard poul-

try was jointly organised by GALVmed and SMILE, Bhubaneswar.

Mr.Sethi expressed his happiness about the collaboration with GALVmed and SMILE in organising the work-

shop. He viewed that the rich experience of GALVmed in working with different areas in various countries would be helpful to the State for backyard sector poultry development.

Odisha is a pioneering State to notify the Poultry Policy one year back, where thrust has been given for backyard poultry development. Backyard poultry is crucial for economy of poor tribal and from biodiversity point of view.

The ARD department has 52 functional poultry hatcheries and around three hatcheries will be dedicated to produce indigenous chicks by collecting hatching eggs from the doorstep of farmers.

Odisha has a good repository of native poultry breeds. Survey and characterization of these native breeds should be taken up for recognition, Mr.Sethi said.

Yogi Adityanath to take oath as UP chief minister, Keshav Maurya, Dinesh Sharma to be his deputies

New Delhi(KCN): Putting an end to speculations, the BJP on Saturday declared Yogi Adityanath as the next chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, according to news agency ANI. Yogi, who is an MP from Gorakhpur, is known for having a staunch Hindutva ideology and making anti-Muslim statements. The decision to make Yogi the chief minister was taken at BJP legislature meeting in Lucknow. Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dinesh Sharma will be the deputy CMs of the state. The BJP had swept the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections by winning 312 of the 403 assembly seats.

Adityanath's name was proposed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Suresh Khanna and was supported by Union Information and Broadcasting Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu. Known for his firebrand Hindutva image, the 44-year-old Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader

comes from the Rajput community and is the head of the Gorakhnath Mutt in Gorakhpur, which has millions of fol-

lowers from eastern UP and neighbouring Nepal. He has been elected as the Lok Sabha MP from Gorakhpur uninterrupted from 1998. A science graduate, Adityanath is popular among his supporters but has antagonised



minorities by his speeches and statements like Love Jihad, Ghar Wapasi. Later, addressing the media, Union

term MLA, and seconded by 10 others. Naidu said even after the proposal was made, he asked the 312 newly elected

and Sharma would hold the posts. As the meeting was about to begin, an element of surprise gripped the venue

As soon as it was decided that the saffron-robed Gorakhpur MP will hold the reins of the state, party leaders and

where Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah will be present. Adityanath, considered a divisive political figure, enjoys considerable popularity in the state and is known to make provocative statements, be it about Islam or Pakistan. His elevation as the Chief Minister of the volatile state would mark the culmination of an aggressive two-pronged election campaign by the BJP in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi talked about the party's development agenda, but sundry leaders raked up the issue of Ram temple. The campaign acquired communal overtones following Modi's "Kabristan and Shmashan" remark at an election rally. A strong votary of construction of the Ram temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya, Adityanath drove BJP's Hindutva campaign in the eastern UP in the just concluded Assembly polls.

MLAs if they wanted to propose anybody else for the post, but they all backed Adityanath unanimously. He said that the Yogi then said he needed two deputy CMs to assist him in the gigantic task, following which it was decided that Maurya

MLAs rushed to the dais with sweets and garlands. Adityanath will be the 21st chief minister of Uttar Pradesh and the fourth from the saffron party. He will be sworn in tomorrow at a ceremony at Kanshiram Smriti Upvan at 2.15 PM

The Yogi, who wears 'Hindutva' on his sleeve and has been accused of involvement in quite a few communal incidents in the past, wields considerable influence among the Hindu hardliners. He is not known to enjoy good rapport with the BJP leadership and his elevation has left many puzzled, with political circles abuzz with talk of RSS having prevailed over the party in deciding the new chief minister.

Adityanath has rebelled against his party on several occasions, but because of the sway he holds over the 'Hindu' voters, the BJP apparently could not ignore his 'leadership qualities'. Naidu said, "This is a historic win. This is a watershed moment for BJP...BJP has become a common man's party. UP message is very clear and it is that country wants to move with Modi."

"Mandate is for development, mandate is See page-7

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Shameful, says Aparna Sen on 'Lipstick...' censor certificate controversy

KOLKATA(KCN): from the Central Acclaimed film- Board of Film Certi- "Lipstick Under My Burkha", which is di- Appellate Tribunal) has enough sense to



maker Aparna Sen says it is shameful that "Lipstick Under My Burkha" is not getting a certificate of certification (CBFC) in India. Aparna's actress-daughter Konkona Sensharma stars in the film directed by Alankrita Shrivastava. "It's shameful. I hope the tribunal (Film Certification Board) say 'yes we will give it a certificate'. It is a breach of our democratic right to our freedom of expres-

sion," Aparna told IANS on the sidelines of the trailer launch of her next directorial venture "Sonata".

Revolving around four women -- a burqa-clad college girl, a young beautiful, a mother of three and a 55-year-old widow who rediscovers her sexuality - "Lipstick Under My Burkha" also features actors like Ratna Pathak Shah and Aahana Kumra.

"Lipstick Under My Burkha" has been deemed too "lady oriented" in content and according to the censor board, it is laced with sexual scenes and abusive words.

The film won a gender equality award at the Mumbai film fest last year, and recently won the Audience Award at the Glasgow Film Festival.

Mahesh Bhatt looking for reinvention with Begum Jaan

NEW DELHI(KCN): Filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt



says producing Vidya Balan-starrer "Beg-um Jaan" is a conscious decision with a motive to reinvent.

After churning out content running high on sex and thrill, Mahesh asserts that he has come back to subjects that he explored during his formative years in Bollywood.

Afghan Star: Rap, stilettos and a musical revolution

KABUL (KCN): Smo-key-eyed Zulala Hashemi, standing tall in four-inch gold heels, wants to sing for women. The 18-year-old has become the first girl to reach the final of popular

Saeed, who was born in Kabul but usually lives in London, is likened widely to American reality star Kim Kardashian and is despised by religious conservatives for her figure-hug-

ghanistan since the fall of the Taliban regime that banned music and cinema. But since its launch in 2005, it has also seen a backlash from mullahs for the way it features un-

singer," says Zulala in her deep voice, determination in her almond-shaped eyes. "I wear traditional dresses but my songs follow the path of Aryana. I want to convey a message to

barricaded against car bombs and gunfire. The TV station has stopped outdoor recordings owing to security concerns. The Afghan capital is regularly hit with insurgent gun

from his neighbours for the bus ride to Kabul. At 23, he is the breadwinner of his family and is keenly eyeing the Afghan Star prize -- a motorcycle and a trip to Kazakhstan.



"Jamal has been in the lead since the beginning," said Omid. However, his chances are weak if the voting is along ethnic lines in the deeply divided country. Zulala is from the dominant Pashtun majority, whereas Mubarez is a Hazara, a long persecuted minority.

"Every show I encourage the audience to vote for talent, not according to ethnicity," Omid said.

In the semi-finals, Aryana Saeed took to the stage, intoning a new song dedicated to Farkhunda and Rukshana -- two Afghan women who were beaten to death and became a symbol of endemic violence against women.

"Your status is that of half a man / But you are punished twice as much (...) Arise and shout / Raise your sleeves / Claim your rights / You can do it!"

The final of the show will be live on Monday, on the eve of the Afghan New Year.

television music talent show Afghan Star. Hashemi, a native of eastern Jalalabad -- a stronghold of Taliban and Islamic State insurgents -- will face off against the first rapper of the competition in Monday's final.

Their clash will be one of the most trailblazing in the popular show's 12-year history.

Quietly rooting for Zulala is Aryana Saeed, one of the judges and an indefatigable women's rights activist.

ging clothes. Zulala and Saeed hug in a studio at local television station Tolo, their eyelashes fluttering.

"I have never hidden my support as women have little chance in this country," Saeed told AFP. "For the first time people have voted for a girl -- and one who comes from a very conservative province, a land of Islamic State zealots."

Afghan Star, Tolo's adaptation of "American Idol", has been a huge hit in conservative Af-

veiled women singing and dancing.

A woman came in third place in 2008, and since then no female singer has gone beyond 7th or 8th position, said Omid Nezami, the show's presenter and a former contestant.

Aside from the backing of the public, Zulala can count on support from her mother Merem Hashemi, a smiling woman who designed and hand-stitched all her daughter's on-stage costumes.

"Even if I do not win, I will be a

Afghan women: they must claim their rights and explore their talents," she added.

Massood Sanjer, the head of Tolo TV, said it was nothing short of revolutionary that a girl from conservative Jalalabad had reached the finals.

"This is exactly what this country needs right now," he enthused, alluding to growing insecurity.

Tolo's maze of production sets lie behind a thick steel door, manned by armed guards and

and bomb attacks. Earlier this month, a group of gunmen stormed Afghanistan's largest military hospital in Kabul, killing more than 100 people, according to multiple surviving staff.

Competing against Zulala is Sayed Jamal Mubarez, a barber and a young rapper from northern Mazar-i-Sharif city.

Dressed in baggy pants, a cap and red sneakers, Mubarez shut down his hair salon for three months to participate in the show, borrowing \$8

Jack Ma to launch Alibaba's regional distribution hub in Malaysia: Sources

KUALA LUMPUR(KCN): Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Limited plans to set up a regional distribution hub in Malaysia to cater to its fast-growing business in the region, two sources aware of the discussions said.

The hub would be sited within KLIA Aeropolis, a 24,700-acre development led by airport operator Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) that is expected to generate more than 7 billion ringgit (\$1.58 billion) worth of domestic and foreign investments.

Alibaba executive chairman Jack Ma and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak are expected to announce the plans at an event in Kuala Lumpur next week, the sources said.

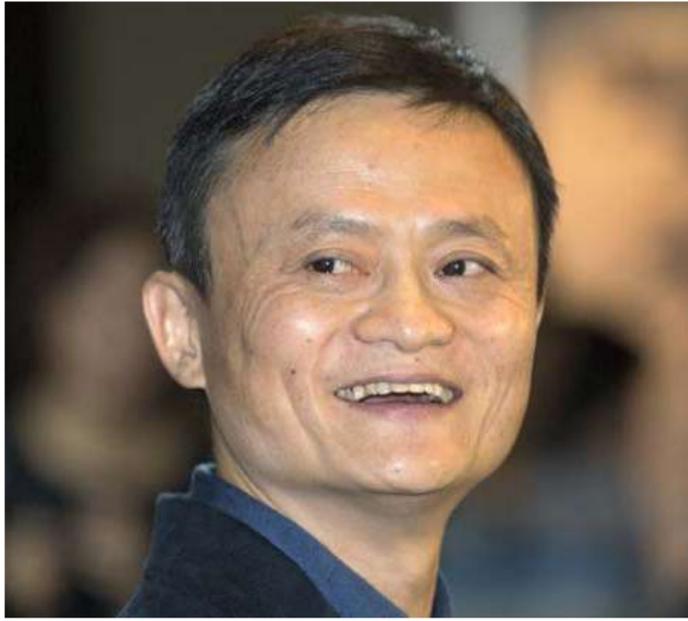
The hub will be set up with the help of Malaysian state-linked agencies. It was not clear whether Alibaba would invest any funds in the project.

"Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) has existing facility for Alibaba Group to pilot their distribution services here, and if (Alibaba) decide to expand in the future, there is the option to build more on other (undeveloped) sites in KLIA Aeropolis," one

source said. Alibaba and the Malaysian

(logistically)," one source said.

November 2015. Najib returned



prime minister's office did not respond immediately to requests for comment.

Najib appointed Ma as his government's digital economy adviser during an official trip to China in November.

Malaysian media reported that Ma, whose Alibaba owns Chinese online shopping business Taobao, would help steer Malaysia's e-economy development with the implementation of online payment and banking.

"Many people see Malaysia as an emerging hub next to Singapore. Malaysia may not be able to take all of Singapore's business but it is a good choice

This would mark Alibaba's first investment in Malaysia. The company invested \$1 billion last year to control Singapore-based e-commerce platform Lazada, Southeast Asia's largest online shopping platform. It also increased its shareholding in Singapore Post to 14.4 percent from the 10.2 percent acquired in 2014 and bought a 20-percent stake in Thai e-payment service, Ascend Money.

Ties between Malaysia and Beijing have blossomed in recent months with a surge of investments from China.

China agreed to buy assets of troubled state fund IMDB for \$2.3 billion in De-

from November's Beijing visit with 14 agreements amounting to \$34.4 billion, which included an agreement to buy four Chinese naval vessels and collaboration to build rail projects in Malaysia.

Sources said the distribution hub would be part of Malaysia's Digital Free Trade Zone (DFTZ), also slated to be launched during Ma's visit next week.

"KLIA Aeropolis includes many components and the DFTZ is likely a new component to be added into the development," one source said. Plans to establish the DFTZ were announced in the national budget last October.

Ongoing rupee appreciation short-lived, RBI intervention required: Care Ratings

MUMBAI(KCN): Rating agency Care Ratings today said the ongoing rupee appreciation is short-lived and the Reserve Bank will soon have a role to play in correcting the sentiment.

The rupee traded in the range of 66.70 and 65.41 between March 1 and March 16, but has appreciated by nearly Rs 1.23 against the US dollar since March 1 making it the best performing unit in the whole of Asia this year. "We do believe that the current trend of rupee appreciation will get corrected in the next few trading sessions. The fundamentals do not signal any sustained strengthening of the rupee and the RBI will have a role to play in correcting the sentiment," Care said in a report.

The rupee has started appreciating quite sharply following the BJP win in the recent state elections, especially in the key state of UP. Analysts and market expect that the huge victory

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against corruption, against black money..." he said, with the Yogi by his side. "This mandate is against caste politics, religious politics and vote bank politics," he said, noting that all the five regions in UP and all communities had overwhelmingly voted for the saffron party. In the just-concluded Assembly elections, the BJP, riding a Modi wave, stormed to power in Uttar Pradesh, securing a three-fourth majority and demolishing rivals SP-Congress and BSP.

margin will help the government accelerate reforms. "The election outcome has

not sustainable unless the fundamentals alter sharply to justify this rally. "The range

creases during the year. The Fed move follows a strong pick up in the US



caused a rally in the forex market with the rupee strengthening sharply," the report said.

FPI outflows have been stronger at USD 2.289 billion this month with equity flows being very strong.

The February data showed exports jumped 17.5 per cent-an all-time high since Sept 2011. Though this is a one-off case, the markets today have perceived it positive. The agency said the ongoing rupee appreciation is

of 66-66.50 looks more likely to prevail once the noise factor in the market diminishes," it said.

Quoting market sources, the report said RBI is talking to banks to tone down the level of enthusiasm. Forex assets continue to remain stable at USD 364 billion which does not warrant a sharp appreciation on a continuous basis.

The Federal Reserve yesterday raised interest rates on expected lines but hinted at gradual in-

economy and strong jobs creation.

As monetary policy has to be forward looking the Fed may be expected to raise rates two more times this year by 25 basis points each. It said in the current scenario, RBI will view these developments more from the forex angle rather than interest rate consideration as monetary policy will be determined by CPI inflation and hence be data-driven.

Its allies Apna Dal(S) and SBSP bagged nine seats and four seats, respectively, taking the total tally of the combine to 325. On the other hand, the SP won 47 seats, while its ally the Congress got seven. The BSP won just 19 seats, finishing a dismal third. The chief minister will have a long list of tasks to accomplish going by BJP's Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra (Pledge for People's Welfare) which promised a host of sops for students, women and farmers, especially free education, laptops and LPG connection in every home.

Domestic air passenger traffic in India rises 16% in February: DGCA

NEW DELHI(KCN): India's domestic air passenger traffic rose by 15.77 per cent in February, official data showed on Saturday.

According to data furnished by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), domestic air passenger traffic had increased to 86.55 lakh from 74.76 lakh during the corresponding month last year.

"Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-February 2017 were 182.34 lakh as against 151.31 lakh during the corresponding period of previous year thereby registering a growth

of 20.51 per cent," the DGCA said in its statistical analysis.

In January, the passenger traffic zoomed up by 25.13 per cent to 95.79 lakh.

The data showed that low-cost carrier (LCC) SpiceJet had the highest passenger load factor (PLF) during the month under review at 93.7 per cent.

In terms of PLF, SpiceJet was followed by budget passenger carriers GoAir at 90.9 per cent, AirAsia at 88.1 per cent and IndiGo at 87.7 per cent.

According to the data, SpiceJet led the industry with 81.1 per cent punctuality rate



at four major airports of Bengaluru, New

Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

It was followed by IndiGo (79.7),

Vistara (72.6), GoAir (68.6), Jet Airways

and JetLite (68.5) and Air India (66.2).

"It has been our endeavour to provide our customers with a memorable flying experience and getting them to their destination on-time, every time. I'm very proud of the fact that we have been the most punctual airline in the country for the fifth consecutive month," Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet said in a statement.

The DGCA data disclosed that the overall cancellation rate of scheduled domestic airlines for the month of February 2017 stood at 0.39 per cent.

Besides, a total of

810 passenger related complaints were received during the month. "The number of complaints per 10,000 passengers carried for the month of February 2017 has been 0.9 per cent," the aviation regulator said.

The data revealed that IndiGo led the industry with the highest market share of 39.6 per cent, followed by Jet Airways (15.6), Air India (13.8), SpiceJet (12.9) and GoAir (8.4). Vistara reported a market share of 3.1 per cent, followed by AirAsia India (2.9), JetLite (2.5), Air Costa (0.5), Trujet (0.4) and Air Carnival (0.1).

Pakistan recalls Ahmed Shehzad, Kamran Akmal in limited-overs squads

LAHORE(KCN): Pakistan on Wednesday recalled opener Ahmed Shehzad and Kamran Akmal in separate squads for the four-match Twenty20 and three-match one-day series in the West Indies starting later this month. Both batsmen earned their recalls on the back of solid performances in the recently held Pakistan Super League (PSL) where they played for opposing sides in the final.

The limited overs squads will be led by Sarfraz Ahmed, who will also keep wicket, with the first Twenty20 in Barbados on March 26. The remaining three matches will be played in Port of Spain on March 30, April 1 and 2.

Shehzad was dropped from the Twenty20 and one-day squad after former head coach Waqar Younis described him as "undisciplined" following Pakistan's World Twenty20 failure in India last year.

The 35-year-old Akmal last played for Pakistan in the 2014 World Twenty20 in Bangladesh and has also shown remarkable form to regain his place, finishing as top scorer in PSL with 353 runs. Chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq said in addition to recalls for some seniors, younger newcomers were also being given a chance. Fast bowler Mohammad Amir was rested for the Twenty20 series but was included in the ODI squad. However there was no room in either squad for Azhar Ali, who stepped down as ODI captain after losing a series 4-1 in Australia in January. Leg-spinning all-rounder Shadab Khan,

only 18, impressed selectors with his performances in the PSL to get a berth in both squads. Left-handed batsman Fakhar Zaman, 26, was also rewarded for his domestic performances, while 23-year-old all-rounder Fahim Ashraf, the best player in last year's National One-Day Cup, was included in the 50-over squad.

Squads (Twenty-20): Sarfraz Ahmed (captain) Ahmed Shehzad, Kamran Akmal, Mohammad Hafeez, Babar Azam, Shoaib Malik, Fakhar Zaman, Imad Wasim, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Hasan Ali, Sohail Tanvir, Wahab Riaz, Rumman Raees, Usman Shinwari

One-day: Sarfraz Ahmed (captain), Ahmed Shehzad, Kamran Akmal, Mohammad Hafeez, Babar Azam, Shoaib Malik, Fakhar Zaman, Imad Wasim, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Asghar, Hasan Ali, Mohammad Amir, Wahab Riaz, Fahim Ashraf, Junaid Khan

Zaman, Imad Wasim, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Hasan Ali, Sohail Tanvir, Wahab Riaz, Rumman Raees, Usman Shinwari

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Former Sunderland midfielder Adam Johnson loses bid to appeal against child sex conviction

LONDON(KCN): Former Sunderland and England midfielder Adam Johnson has lost his bid to appeal against a conviction for sexual activity with a 15-year-old.

Johnson was jailed for six years last March and his application for permission to appeal was dismissed by three judges in London on Thursday. The Court of Appeal judges also rejected his bid for a reduction in his prison sentence.

At the start of his trial at Bradford Crown Court,

Johnson admitted one her in his Range



charge of sexual activity with a child, relating to kissing her.

He also admitted a charge of meeting a child with intent following grooming her.

Johnson denied there was any further sexual activity with

Rover when he met up with her in County Durham in January 2015.

But the former Manchester City star was found guilty by a jury in March last year of one offence of sexual activity with a child.

India vs Australia: Pujara's unbeaten 130 steers India to 360/6 on day three

RANCHI(KCN): Cheteshwar Pujara's unbeaten 130 steered India to 360/6 in reply to Australia's first innings total of 451 on Day Three of the third Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Though the pitch didn't show any signs of deteriorating, the hosts batsmen were guilty of throwing away the wicket on Saturday.

Thanks to some 63 runs and 57 runs



disciplined bowling, Australia had India very much in control as they scored only

in the first and final session. The only session India dominated was the post-lunch

session where thanks to the new-ball, Pujara scored a flurry of boundaries en route to his 11th Test century.

Follow the live score here

Earlier in the morning session, Murali Vijay looked set to score his 10th Test ton, but was dismissed going for a big hit in the last over before lunch. Skipper

Virat Kohli was dismissed trying to drive off Pat Cummins and Ajinkya Rahane was out caught behind trying to play an upper cut. Karun Nair, who looked comfortable, was done in by an off-cutter from Josh Hazlewood.

India are still 91 runs behind with Wrridhiman Saha giving company to Pujara on 18.

Dinesh Chandimal lifts Sri Lanka against Bangladesh in Colombo Test

COLOMBO(KCN): Dinesh Chandimal rode his luck to score an unbeaten half-century for Sri Lanka against Bangladesh in Colombo Wednesday after the tourists made a dream start to their 100th Test match.

The home side reached 238-7 before bad light stopped the opening day's play, recovering from 70-4 on a turning pitch at the P. Sara Oval, owing mainly to Chandimal's patient 86 not out.

Chandimal shared a 66-run stand with Dhananjaya de Silva and then added 44 and 43 runs with Niroshan Dickwella and captain Rangana Herath to halt what had been a quick procession of wickets.

Chandimal, who faced 210 balls and

lam to fine leg on 46 but was given a benefit of the doubt by the third umpire as TV replays on whether Mehedi Hasan had caught him cleanly were inconclusive.

Coming into the side for Lahiru Kumara as Sri Lanka's only change from their 259-run win in the first Test in Galle, de Silva gave Chandimal good support before he was bowled by Taijul for 34.

Wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella chipped in with 34 after de Silva's departure before Herath joined Chandimal in his effort to give Sri Lanka innings a decent look.

Herath, unbeaten on 18 at the close of play, also had his share of luck as he

Rahman and Subashis Roy took one wicket apiece.

Milestone Test

Mustafizur put the visitors in good heart in their milestone Test when he forced an edge from opener Dimuth Karunaratne, having cranked up the pressure by bowling three successive maidens.

Mehedi took a brilliant catch at gully as Karunaratne departed after making just seven runs.

Mehedi then struck in his third over, enticing Kusal Mendis out of his crease before Mushfiqur Rahim completed a stumping. Mendis was the man-of-the-match in the first Test in Galle after scoring 194 but he departed this time having scored just five.

Sri Lanka's

Odisha Eyes Next Olympics

Bhubaneswar (KC-N): Not bothered over a poor performance in the RIO Oylmpics, Odisha Government has once again initiated action and will be actively coordinating with the Union Government to formulate a Comprehensive Development Program for the sportspersons to compete in next three Olympic Games: 2020, 2024 and 2028.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Vishal Dev is in continuous contact with the Union Secretary Sports Injeti Srinivas, who is supporting the State to promote the sportspersons of Odisha for International Sports.

Mr.Srinivas is an Odisha Cadre IAS Officer, who is at the helm of sports promotion in the country.

With the Olympic Task Force (OTF) is preparing the Comprehensive Plan for next three Olympic Games, the State Government is taking keen interest in the matter.

As the Eight Member OTF will be coming to Odisha



soon to conduct consultations with the state holders, Mr.Dev is making arrangements for the meet as the State Government is determined to promote the budding sports-persons for next three Olympics.

In the RIO Olympics two Sprinters and four Hockey Players participated and the State Government announced to pay Rs.10 Lakh each Sportspersons for their moral boost.

Though the sportspersons could not become success-

ful in bringing in any medals, while India bagged only two medals in RIO Olympics, Odisha is not losing hearts. Secretary Sports & Youth Affairs, Mr.Dev is the Nodal Officer for such an initiative and he is coordinating the entire exercise to help out the OTF in formulating short, medium and long term plan for effective participation of the sportspersons of the country in forthcoming Olympic Games.

In the meantime, Union Secretary Sports, Mr.Srinivas has urged the State Government to involve elite sportspersons, sports bodies, educational institutions, elite coaches, sports colleges, sports officers both the State and District level, Principals of the Physical Education Colleges, Sports Schools, Secretary Education, Director Sports and other officials for consultations and the way to move forward, said sources. Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi is taking lot of interest in promoting sportspersons for the next Olympics and accordingly directed the Department of sports and Youth Affairs to prepare the Base Paper for such deliberations, said sources.

The Task Force will be submitting the Report on Comprehensive Plan for promoting sportspersons for next three Olympics, while conduct-

ing National Dialogue with all the stakeholders.

While the State is lacking basic infrastructure for the sportspersons to compete in an International Event, creating and upgrading the infrastructure and providing proper training to the sportspersons is the focus, said a senior officer in Directorate of Sports.

In order to participate in Olympics, international exposure and training in the foreign countries is necessary to build up confidence.

So such an arrangement is needed to be worked out with the support of the Department of Sports in Government of India. And most importantly, effective talent identification is needed for 2024 and 2028, said sources.



hit four fours in his knock, was given out lbw on 38 off the bowling of left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan but the decision was overturned following a review.

He then top-edged another left-arm spinner Taijul Is-

had an lbw decision overturned off Shakib.

Bangladesh, sent into bowl first by Herath, had taken the honours in the opening session as off-spinner Mehedi struck twice and fast bowlers Mustafizur

troubles deepened when Upul Tharanga edged Mehedi to Soumya Sarkar at slip for 15 after earlier being given a reprieve by a television replay when he was given out lbw off Mustafizur for six.