

Coal shortage hits NALCO Truck owner association urges to stop laying of sorry pipe lines

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With the Aluminium Major, National Aluminium Company (NALCO) facing acute shortage of coal, Odisha Government Wednesday said it would hold a discussion with Mahanadi Coalfields Limited(MCL) to resolve the coal crisis. Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallick said: "I will hold discussions with the authorities of NALCO and also the MCL and ensure that the Aluminium Major's production is not affected due to shortage of coal."



While the NALCO Bosses are tight lipped over the crisis as both the Mines and Coal Ministries are handled by one Union Minister, several workers' union of NALCO have raised concern over the coal crisis in its smelter plant at Angul. Former NALCO CMD, Tapan Kumar Chand said: "The MCL was supposed to provide 5.6 million tons of coal per annum to Nalco. However, the MCL has not been able to supply the agreed amount of coal. Shortage of coal will affect NALCO's productivity and also its profitability." Meanwhile, the workers unions pointed out that there is only 1.55 lakh metric ton of coal in the Nalco's stock **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

Barbil(KCN): The Keonjhar Truck Owners' Core Committee handed over a memorandum to the district Collector, Keonjhar against the transporting of iron ore by sorry pipelines and demanded priority to local truck owners in the transportation of ore. Truck Owners' Association said local educated unemployed youths are

maintaining their families by engaging trucks in the local mines of Keonjhar district and along with them, lakhs of family members of truck operators and local shop keepers are also dependent on truck business but the recent introduction of transportation of ore by some companies like JSPL and JSW has hit the business of **CONTINUED ON: P-7**



In'tel Connect With Cocaine Case State Alerts on Covid

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Crime Branch of Odisha Police has found an international link in the first ever cocaine case detected in the State's Capital city

Both the accused have links with international drug mafia and it helped them bring the cocaine into India and the State, said Sanjeeb Panda, Chief of Crime

that the duo had connections with some foreign drug mafia in countries like Switzerland, China, France, United States, Thailand and South Africa. They

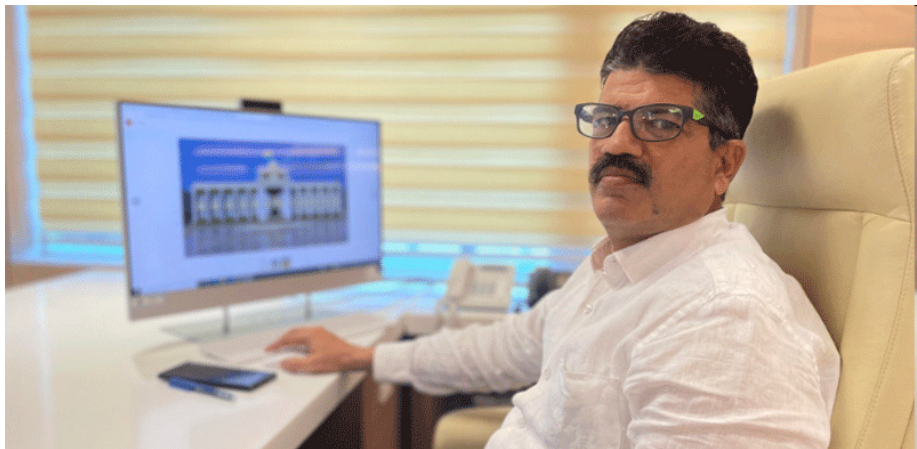
net-worth individuals, particularly the tourists scheduled to arrive in Bhubaneswar for the Hockey World Cup in 2023, informed the ADG Crime Branch. The CB also found that apart from Bhubaneswar, the duo had visited Puri to prepare groundwork to establish a distribution network. The Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB) had also joined the interrogation by the CB, given the sensitivity of the case. According to police sources, prime accused Ravi used to sell cocaine in different areas of Delhi, procuring from a bigger cocaine trafficker in Delhi. He contacted Sunny, who runs a small bangle shop in Bhubaneswar, to expand the cocaine business.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): As Covid cases again started rising in some States, Odisha Government has asked all District Collectors to keep the contingency action plan ready to deal with any upsurge in the Covid cases. "The Covid-19 situation in Odisha is not in a worrying stage. However, we all knew that the virus has the tendency of rapid infection. So, we have asked the district officials to maintain surveillance activities to know whether there is any outbreak in any cluster or not," said Niranjana Mishra, Director Public Health here on Wednesday. "To prepare further strategy, we need to know if there is a surge in Covid cases in any cluster or pocket of the state. Further, we need to

collect evidence-based data on the outbreak of the virus," the Director said. Therefore, the Government has asked District Administrations to keep a contingency action plan ready to deal with any upsurge in the cases, he added. In a letter to all Mu-

ing emergence of new cases /clusters, case positivity, population affected, geographical spread of cases and hospital infrastructure preparedness, he said. The collectors were asked to keep a close vigil on people coming from high burden countries and states.

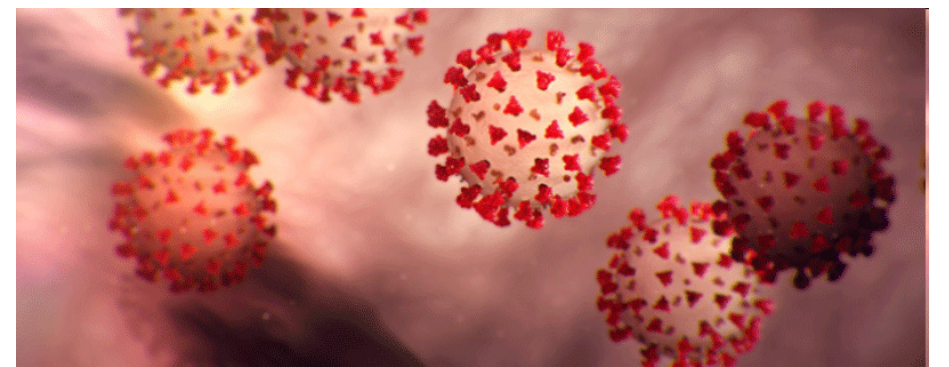
instructed to ensure that home isolation protocol is followed scrupulously and due treatment provision is in place. Moreover, the director instructed the district official to ensure vaccination coverage to all beneficiaries as per guideline issued from time to time.



Bhubaneswar very recently. On 13 April, the Special Task Force (STF) of the Crime Branch seized cocaine weighing 202 grams from Xavier Square and arrested two peddlers, Ravi and Sunny Kumar.

Branch here on Wednesday. The Crime Branch (CB) found the link after analyzing their mobile phones and call record details. Speaking to reporters here, Mr.Panda said, "It was revealed during the interrogation

were in regular touch with the drug peddlers and middlemen in those countries." The drug paddlers are able to import the cocaine using the existing drug distribution network in Odisha. For selling cocaine, they eyed the high-



nicipal Commissioners, Collectors and Chief District Medical & Public Health Officers, Dr.Mishra has asked to maintain Covid surveillance and related activities. There should be constant review regard-

Stating testing – tracking – treatment- vaccination and Covid appropriate behaviour are the main strategy for management, Mishra asked to strengthen this system. The officials further

SARI surveillance should be continued as before and an early warning system of detecting the rise of cases should be monitored. Periodic surveillance of high-risk and vulnerable population **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

India visit will deepen strategic ties, British PM Boris Johnson tells Parliament Russia pressures Mariupol as it focuses on Ukraine's east

LONDON(KCN): British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Wednesday that his two-day visit

(PMQs) on the eve of his visit, Johnson said the trip to Ahmedabad and New Delhi will build on

our two countries, building on India's involvement in the Carbis Bay G7 summit," Johnson told

Prime Minister Modi had addressed the G7 summit at Carbis Bay virtually as his travel plans were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The two leaders met in person later in the year, when Modi travelled to Glasgow for the COP26 climate summit in November. This followed Johnson's planned visits to India in 2021 being cancelled twice due to the pandemic situation in either country. This week, it is expected that the Russia-Ukraine conflict will feature prominently during the bilateral talks between the leaders when Johnson is in New Delhi on Friday. **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

KYIV(KCN): Russian forces pressured a stubborn pocket of resistance in Mariupol amid renewed hopes Wednesday for an evacuation of thousands of civilians from the shattered port city that is a key battleground in Moscow's new onslaught to take control of Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland. In addition to pounding Mariupol, Russian forces have intensified their attacks along a boomerang-shaped front hundreds of miles

long in what is known as the Donbas, home to coal mines, metal plants and factories vital to Ukraine's economy. If successful, the offensive would give President Vladimir Putin a badly needed victory following the failed attempt by Moscow's forces to storm the capital, Kyiv, and stronger-than-expected resistance in the nearly two-month war. Ukrainian troops said Tuesday the Russian military dropped heavy bombs to flatten what

was left of a sprawling steel plant "believed to be the last holdout of troops defending Mariupol" and hit a makeshift hospital where hundreds were staying. The reports could not be independently confirmed. Elsewhere, Russian Defense Ministry said Wednesday its forces kept up intense attacks on Ukrainian targets, hitting 1,053 with artillery and 73 with airstrikes. Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov also

said there had been missile strikes on concentrations of Ukrainian troops and vehicles in the Kherson Region in southern Ukraine. Those claims could not be independently verified. The General Staff of Ukraine's military said in a statement that taking control of the Azovstal steel mill and thus fully capturing Mariupol remains a top Russian priority. But it added that Moscow's forces were continuing to mount offensives across the east as its forces probe for weak points in the Ukrainian defensive lines. A siege on Mariupol since the early days of the war has flattened much of the city on the Sea of Azov and inflicted some of the most dramatic suffering of **CONTINUED ON: P-7**



to India, starting in Gujarat on Thursday, will deepen the strategic trade, defence and people-to-people ties between the two countries. Addressing the House of Commons for his weekly Prime Minister's Questions

India being invited as a guest country for the G7 Summit hosted by the UK in Cornwall in June last year. "I will be travelling to India to deepen the strategic trade, defence and people-to-people ties between

members of Parliament. "I will be seeing Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi in Delhi, meeting Indian business people investing in the UK and visiting British investments in India," he said.

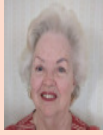


"The Very Abnormal- Normal"

Mary Lynn Luiz

It's a Beautiful Day outside!
But yet I'm stuck inside a hospital waiting room waiting for a friend of mine, to see a doctor when it comes her time!
People coming and going! Hurrying and scurrying!
Every which way! In this door and out the other, Oh my, how confusing and mind-boggling!

Masks are required and were given to us with instructions on how to put them on as we were entering in!
I hope very soon that this will be a thing of the past!



That things will get back to what I call normal again!
Every other chair in the waiting room has a sign on it that says, this seat is unavailable!
Social distancing is still in effect! Oh, what the heck!
I have to comply, even though I don't believe, it's a good thing or understand their reasons why!

Oh well tomorrow's another day!
Maybe all of these restrictions and forced compliances will be voted out and thrown away!
I'm looking forward to fear being replaced by the return of common sense!
And Faith in The Creator to show us the way, to enjoy each other and be able to say, Thank God! I had a normal and perfectly lovely day!

"Just a Normal Day"

T.s_Theddy

Stray bullets and bleeding men,
Leftover crimes and running stomachs,

Love and broken hearts,
Curses and blessings,

And this is just a normal day,
In the world I see,

Dreams and fantasies,
Reality and revelations,

Wars and broken bones,
Peace and treaties,

Homicides and suicides,
Murder and disorder,

And this is just a normal day,
In the world I live,

Trust and betrayal,
The good and the bad,

The blood on roses,
Tears on joy,

Judgement and mystery,
Concoctions and prescriptions,

Thanksgiving and regrets,
Prayers and blasphemy,

And this is just a normal day,
In the world I know,



Nirvana

Dwit David Philip

Death, good luck for you?
Death, victory for mankind?
Good Friday, 'Good' why it is?
Proclaim those, aren't crazy?



Found in the Vedas and the Bible,
"God being human will die and rise from dead again"

Peace, remorse and nirvana in one web,
Birth, death on the cross,
Resurrection from the dead seems false

Unbelievable if, look for evidence,
If you do not return from sin,
You will lose peace and nirvana for ever

Isn't this a way, its the way it says?

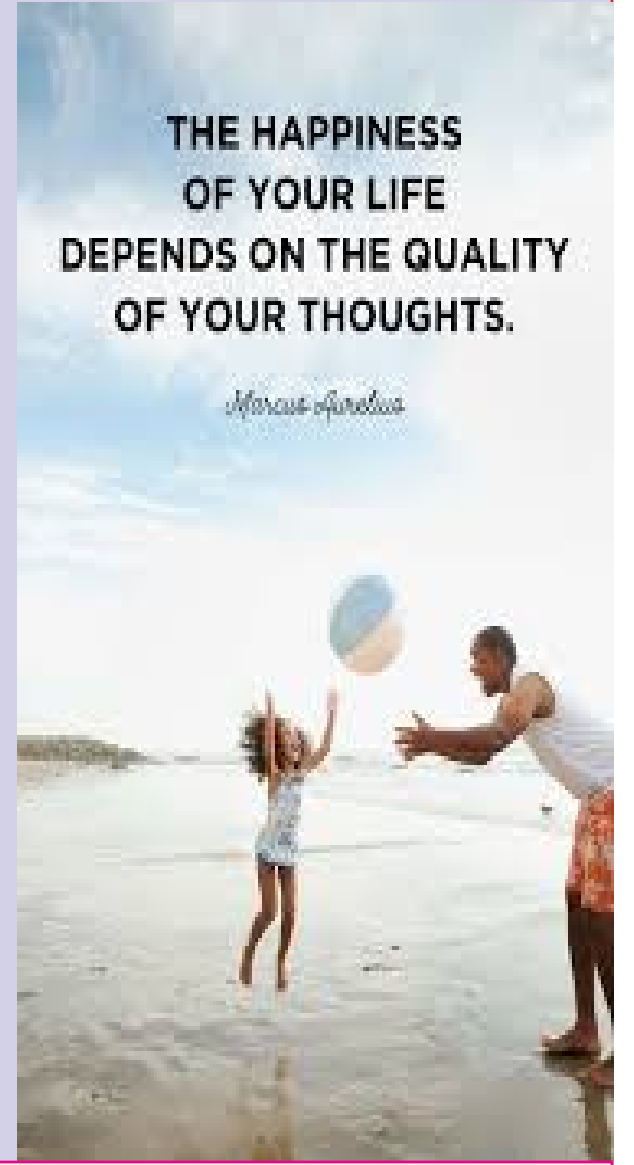
Good Friday is a call,
Peace for Body and Soul,
Salvation for ages

Lehiri police station, Katapar, Bihar Sharif,
Nalanda, Bihar 803101

Quotation of the Day

**THE HAPPINESS
OF YOUR LIFE
DEPENDS ON THE QUALITY
OF YOUR THOUGHTS.**

Marcus Aurelius



See a Rare Watercolor of a Black Woman Living in Edinburgh in the Late 18th Century

A small watercolor recently acquired by the National Galleries of Scotland could be one of the earliest known portraits of

for sketching bustling street life in urban hubs such as

Nora McGreevy

Rome and Naples. Upon his return to Scotland in 1779, he became one of the first artists to paint scenes of Scottish life from "across the social hierarchy," per the statement. Allan settled in Edinburgh and dedicated himself to creating watercolors and aquatints of ordinary Scottish people. His Edinburgh Characters series, begun in 1788, features individual portraits of soldiers, coalmen, fishwives, lacemakers, salt vendors, firemen, maids and other

Edinburgh Milkmaid With Butter Churn is currently undergoing restoration but will eventually go on display at the National Galleries. "We are so pleased to bring this remarkable, rare and extraordinary watercolor into Scotland's national collection," says curator Christopher Baker in the statement. "It is an incredibly striking and special work, one which we believe will be enjoyed by many and, we hope, lead to new research on its background and most importantly the story of the woman depicted."

land. After Scotland united with England in 1707, Scots played an influential role in British colonies, particularly Guyana and Jamaica. As historian Stephen Mullen writes for the Centre for the



a Black person by a Scottish artist, notes a statement.

Painted by David Allan between the mid-1780s and early 1790s, the work on paper—titled Edinburgh Milkmaid With Butter Churn—depicts a woman in a white and blue dress. She stands alone, barefoot, in the center of an Edinburgh street, resting one hand on her hip while locking eyes with the viewer.

Based on the large vessel at her feet, scholars have concluded that the portrait's subject was likely a servant or milkmaid. Clues regarding her name and other identifying details are scarce, but experts are researching the work and hope to uncover more information about it in the months to come, BBC News reports.

Biographical details about the portrait's painter are more readily available. Born in the Scottish town of Alloa in 1744, the artist relocated to Italy in 1767, remaining there for the next decade or so, according to the National Galleries (a consortium of five Scottish museums). His most famous paintings from this period depict scenes from classical antiquity, including Cleopatra Weeping Over the Ashes of Mark Antony (1771) and Hector's Farewell From Andromache (1773), reports Shanti Escalante-De Mattei for ARTNews.

A man in a blue striped suit, carrying a long metal rod and a bucket, walks in front of a burning building David Allan, An Edinburgh Fireman, circa 1785 Courtesy of the National Galleries of Scotland While abroad, Allan developed a knack

workers, posed with the tools of their trade and framed against the backdrop of the contemporary city. The artist often used these generic "characters" to populate his panoramic renderings of Edinburgh's busy streets, including High Street From the Netherbow (1793).



Despite Allan's propensity for drafting generic "types" of people, curators believe that the recently acquired watercolor was based on a real model. As researchers say in the statement, the milkmaid's detailed facial features and clothing indicate that the work is "clearly a portrait of a specific person."

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A side-profile, full-length portrait of a woman with a red kerchief, carrying a basket of fish on her back and standing on a beachfront David Allan, An Edinburgh Fishwife, circa 1785 Courtesy of the National Galleries of Scotland Researchers encourage anyone with useful information about the watercolor or the sitter's identity to contact the National Galleries. People of color appear frequently in European early modern fine art but are often relegated to marginal or subservient roles. Milkmaid is somewhat unique in that its subject takes center stage in the composition.

The woman pictured in Allan's watercolor could have been one of the many people of African descent who settled in Europe during the 18th century as a result of the transatlantic slave trade. Scottish scholars have been slow to reckon with their country's participation in the slave trade, wrote Alasdair Lane for NBC News last year. But many Scots made their fortunes through the capture, sale, deportation and exploitation of African people throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, notes the National Library of Scot-



Study of the Legacies of British Slavery, "[W]ealth poured into Scotland from the labor and suffering of enslaved Africans in Jamaica."

By the time that Allan painted this work in the late 18th century, many formerly enslaved people in Scotland were fighting for their legal rights in the courts—including Joseph Knight, who was enslaved in Jamaica but moved to Scotland, reports Martin Hannan for the National. Knight won his freedom in a landmark case against his one-time enslaver, John Wedderburn of Balindean. After two appeals, the Scottish Supreme Court ruled in favor of Knight, effectively deeming slavery illegal in the country in 1778, according to the National Records of Scotland.

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'We can be heroes' movie review: Super-kids save the day

Just last week, Robert Rodriguez was being lauded for being part of what is

Jonas), the director of the Heroics programme. But then, when did any

gets, the colours... But it isn't all for children. The film takes pot-



considered one of the best things to happen to the Star Wars Universe: The Mandalorian. This week, after dabbling with big budgets, he comes up with We can be Heroes, a spiritual sequel to his own film, The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl.

It's a Spy Kids-meets-Avengers film. Aliens attack Earth. The superheroes (led by Pedro Pascal), known as the Heroics in this film, come a cropper. Nepotism comes into the picture, with the children of the Heroics getting pushed to the forefront. There is an Avengers-inspired spaceship that spits out smaller spaceships with which the superheroes get kidnapped. They are kept safe in a bunker by Ms Granada (a superbly hammy Priyanka Chopra-

film kid ever listen to the adults and stay put? Each of the superkids use their superpower under the able guidance of Missy Moreno (YaYa Gosselin), who interestingly is the muggle among wizards and yet, the leader. We can be Heroes is a film made for kids, and the message is that anyone can be a hero, superpowers notwithstanding. Just like his Spy Kids films, Rodriguez paints this film with dreamy colours like pink and perky purples, and shoots it as if the scenes were pages straight out of a kids' comic. In one scene, a super-kid even comments that the villain's lair feels made for kids. This is a film that is designed for kids, and this audience segment is best suited to enjoy the gags, the highs, the charades, the gad-

shots at the big-ticket superhero films, for being needlessly destructive. Missy and her friends express their unhappiness about their superhero-parents fighting villains in crowded areas. In some ways, Rodriguez tries to level up the film for the not-so-young audience members, but the saccharine ending, and the overall simplicity makes it quite clear who he's targeting with this film. Growing up, we didn't ask logical questions of Spy Kids or The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl, and simply took in the sights and sounds created by this whimsical filmmaker. For this generation of kids, Rodriguez has created We can be Heroes. The kids are safe, so long as this filmmaker is around. The adults may want to wait for a version of Sin City though.

Shooting for third season of 'Four More Shots Please' to begin soon: Kirti Kulhari

MUMBAI(KCN): Bollywood actor Kirti Kulhari on Thursday said shoot for her series "Four More Shots Please!" is set to commence in coming days. The Amazon Prime

Taking to Instagram, Kulhari shared her excitement to team up with her co-actors again for the new season. "And we are back #fourmoreshotsplease #season3 shoot begins su-

tions, the show was recently nominated in the best comedy series category at the 48th International Emmy Awards. On the film front, Kulhari is currently awaiting the release



Video series, which also features Sayani Gupta, Maanvi Gupta and Bani J, follows a quartet of friends who deal with their relationships, work-life conflicts, ambitions and anxieties in a male-dominated society.

per soon. Lovely to be back with the crazy 3," Kulhari wrote alongside a series of candid photos with Gupta, Gagroo and Bani. Created by Rangita Pritish Nandy and produced by Pritish Nandy Communica-

of the Hindi remake of Hollywood blockbuster "The Girl on the Train", starring Parineeti Chopra. The movie, which premiere on streamer Netflix on February 26, will feature Kulhari as a British cop.

Richa Chadha drops first look poster of her political drama 'Madam Chief Minister'
NEW DELHI: Actor Richa Chadha on Monday dropped the first look poster of her upcoming political drama 'Madam Chief Minister.' The Subhash Kapoor

Priyanka Chopra Jonas to star opposite Richard Madden for 'Citadel' Amazon series

Washington DC: In a recent series of tweets, Priyanka

directorial revolves around the story of an "untouchable" woman who rises to the top. The poster that Chadha shared on Instagram sees her sporting a pixie cut

hairstyle with bruises on her face. She is also seen holding a broom. The background of the poster features Manav Kaul and Saurabh Shukla, who play pivotal roles in the film.

content. More soon. @AmazonStudios @AGBOfilms"



Chopra Jonas made the announcement that she would be starring alongside Richard Madden in 'Citadel,' a Russo brothers drama series that'll be launched on Amazon. Tweeting a screenshot of an article from the Variety website, Chopra wrote: "Cannot wait to work with the talented @_richardmadden and incredible @Russo_Brothers on CITADEL... A multi-layered global franchise with interconnected local language productions from India, Italy and Mexico. It will truly be global

Furthermore, she also posted two online article links about this latest development, one from Deadline, and another from The Hollywood Reporter. According to Variety, the producers have till now remained secretive about 'Citadel's' plot. The show would also be released in various local languages. As announced at the recent Television Critics Association's winter press tour, a separate version for Mexico is also in the works along with local productions in Italy and India, reported The Holly-

Pinkner, and Scott Rosenberg would be the executive producers and writers of this series. Apart from the aforementioned, Patrick Moran, Mike Larocca, and Joe and Anthony Russo would also be among the executive producers. The Italian series will be co-produced with Amazon Studios and Cattleya, part of ITV Studios, and the Indian series will be developed by Raj Nidimoru and Krishna D.K. and produced with Amazon Studios.

Vijay Sethupathi, Katrina Kaif in Sriram Raghavan's next?

It was recently revealed that Sriram Raghavan's upcoming film, Ekkis, has been put on hold. A big-budget military drama starring Varun

Santosh Sivan, is a Hindi remake of Maanagaram (2017). He is also rumoured to star in an upcoming web series directed by Raj and

Sriram Raghavan's last film was Andhadhun (2018) with Ayushmann Khurrana and Tabu. The film is getting a Tamil and Telugu re-



Dhawan, the film was delayed due to Covid-19.

DK. The unrevealed series will also star Shahid Kapoor.

make with Prashanth and Nithiin, respectively, in the lead.

Now, rumour has it that Sriram has signed Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi for his next. If true, this is the latest Hindi project Vijay Sethupathi is attached to — the others being Laal Singh Chadha and Mumbaikar. The latter, directed by

Banita Sandhu clarifies on COVID-19 diagnosis, says she 'continues to test negative'
MUMBAI(KCN): "October" actor Banita Sandhu on Thursday said she has continued to test negative for COVID-19 since her arrival to the country in January 3, contrary to what is being reported in media.

According to health department sources, Sandhu had tested positive for COVID-19 on January 4 in Kolkata after flying from United Kingdom and was admitted to a private hospital after she refused to be treated in a government facility.

Significance of the First Information Report (F.I.R.)

The First Information Report under Section 154 Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 is substantially the



important document that moves forward to initiate the criminal proceedings under the law to try the offence alleged to have committed

by any person and the offence is determined on the anvil of the trial after examining the evidence under the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. The Section 154 contemplates that if there an information relating to the commission of a cognizable offence is received orally by an officer incharge of the police station shall be reduced to writing by him or under his discretion and be read over to the informant and every such information whether given in writing or reduced to writing as aforesaid shall be signed by the person giving such information and the substances thereof shall be entered into a book to be kept by such officer in such a form as the State Government may prescribe in this behalf. The principal object of the First Information Report to set a criminal law in motion from the point of view of the investigating authorities has to obtain an information and thereafter the investigating authorities will be able to take a suitable step for tracing and bringing to book a guilty person. However, the first information report does not constitute an indefensible evidence though its importance conveying the earliest investigation relating to the occurrence of an offence cannot be questioned. The statement of the First Information Report should be corroborated to its maker under Section 157 of the Indian Evidence Act or contradicting him under Section 145 of the Evidence Act. Therefore, the statement of the girl in a rape case is immediately recorded for admissibility after the occurrence under Section 157 or under Section 8 of the Evidence Act.

Section 8 - Motive, preparation and previous or subsequent conduct:- Any fact is relevant which shows or constitutes a motive or preparation for any fact in issue or relevant fact.

The conduct of any party, or of any agent to any party, to any suit or proceeding, in reference to such suit or proceeding, or in reference to any fact in issue therein or relevant thereto, and the conduct of any person an offence against whom is the subject of any proceeding, is relevant, if such conduct influences or is influenced by any fact in issue or relevant fact, and whether it was previous or subsequent thereto.”

The substance of an FIR has to be

entered into a book to be kept at every police station in

such a form as the State Government may prescribe and the said book is called or known as “General Diary”. It is also called “Station Diary” or the “Station House Register”. The FIR contains (i) the name and address of the victim; (ii) The exact date and the time of the offence that has occurred and is being reported; (iii) Accurate facts of the offence that has occurred; (iv) Detailed particulars of the persons or person involved in the offence; (v) The location or the place of the offence so committed. The registration of a FIR provides a basis in criminal proceedings and the same be registered promptly or without any delay after the occurrence of the offence. The cognizance on the basis of the FIR is the paramount duty of the State or the investigating authorities so that the victim would get justice without any negligence.

In the case of *‘Surjeet Singh @ Gurmeet Singh Versus State of Punjab (1993) Suppl. (1) SCC 208’*, the Hon’ble Supreme Court on the First Information Report has held that it is not an encyclopedia of the entire case and has even not a substantive piece of evidence. Its value is unquestionably for the purpose of corroborating or contradicting the maker.

In the case of *‘Madhusudan Singh & Anr. Vs State of Bihar; (1996) 11 SCC 248’*, the Hon’ble Supreme Court has held FIR by itself not a substantive piece of evidence, the same can be used to contradict or corroborate the maker thereof in the manner provided under the Evidence Act. The relevant para 5 is reproduced as under:

“5. The High Court has dealt with the case of Madhusudan Singh in para 23 of the judgment. A perusal of the said paragraph shows that for coming to the conclusion, that he was responsible for misappropriation of 19 qtls. of wheat, reliance has been placed only on the allegations contained in the FIR. FIR by itself is not a substantive piece of evidence. It can be used to either contradict or itself is not a substantive piece of evidence. It can be used to either contradict or corroborate the maker thereof in the manner provided under the Evidence Act, 1872. Nothing has been brought to our notice from the record from which it may be possible to hold that the allegations made in the FIR regarding Madhusudan Singh, A-7 were at all substantiated at the trial by any oral evidence. The allegations contained in the FIR have, thus, not been proved at the trial. That being the position, we do not find it possible to uphold the conviction and sentence of Madhusudan Singh, A-7 for any of the charges.”

Radha Shyam Jena

Delay in lodging the FIR is

not sufficient to draw the adverse inference against the prosecution case. Facts and circumstances of each case should be considered as held by the Hon’ble Supreme Court at para 10 of the judgment in the case of *‘Amar Singh Versus Balwinder Singh & Ors., (2003) 2 SCC 518’ (page 527-528)*.

In the case of *‘Srinarayan Saha Versus State of Tripura; (2004) 7 SCC 775’* the Hon’ble Supreme Court has held mere delay in lodging the FIR is really of no consequence as stated in para 5 of the judgment as under:

“We wish to first deal with the plea relating to the delayed lodging of the FIR. As held in a large number of cases, mere delay in lodging the FIR is really of no consequence, if the reason is explained. In the instant case, the evidence of PW 3, the victim and that of her husband, PW 4, clearly shows that there was initial reluctance to report the matter to the police by PW 4. He, in fact, had taken his wife to task for the incident and had slapped her. In *Karnel Singh v. State of M.P.* it was observed that a woman who was a victim of sexual violence, is not an accomplice to the crime but is a victim of same amount of suspicion as that of a culprit. Therefore, the rule of prudence that her evidence must be corroborated in material particulars, has no application. At the most, the court may look for some evidence which lends assurance.”

Finally the Constitution Bench of the Hon’ble Supreme Court has dealt elaborately the importance and significance of the First Information Report in the interest of the general public for the sake of justice in the case of *Lalita Kumari Vs Government of U.P. & Ors. (2013) SCALE Page 559* wherein the Hon’ble Supreme Court has disposed of a batch of Criminal Appeals and the writ petition filed by the Petitioner Lalita Kumari with the certain directions at para 111 of the judgment to be followed by the States for the registration of the FIR stated herein below:

“In view of the aforesaid discussion, we hold:

- (i) Registration of FIR is mandatory under Section 154 of the Code, if the information discloses commission of a cognizable offence and no preliminary inquiry is permissible in such a situation.
- (ii) If the information received does not disclose a cognizable offence but indicates the necessity for an inquiry, a preliminary inquiry may be conducted only to ascertain whether cognizable offence is disclosed or not.

(iii) If the inquiry discloses the commission of a cognizable offence, the FIR must be registered. In cases where preliminary inquiry ends in closing the complaint, a copy of the entry of such closure must be supplied to the first informant forthwith and not later than one week. It must disclose reasons in brief for closing the complaint and not proceeding further.

(iv) The police officer cannot avoid his duty of registering offence if cognizable offence is disclosed. Action must be taken against erring officers who do not register the FIR if information received by him discloses a cognizable offence.

(v) The scope of preliminary inquiry is not to verify the veracity or otherwise of the information received but only to ascertain whether the information reveals any cognizable offence.

(vi) As to what type and in which cases preliminary inquiry is to be conducted will depend on the facts and circumstances of each case. The category of cases in which preliminary inquiry may be made are as under:

- a) Matrimonial disputes/ family disputes
- b) Commercial offences
- c) Medical negligence cases
- d) Corruption cases
- e) Cases where there is abnormal delay/laches in initiating criminal prosecution, for example, over 3 months delay in reporting the matter without satisfactorily explaining the reasons for delay. The aforesaid are only illustrations and not exhaustive of all conditions which may warrant preliminary inquiry.

(vii) While ensuring and protecting the rights of the accused and the complainant, a preliminary inquiry should be made time bound and in any case it should not exceed 7 days. The fact of such delay and the causes of it must be reflected in the General Diary entry.

(viii) Since the General Diary/Station Diary/Daily Diary is the record of all information received in a police station, we direct that all information relating to cognizable offences, whether resulting in registration of FIR or leading to an inquiry, must be mandatorily and meticulously reflected in the said Diary and the decision to conduct a preliminary inquiry must also be reflected, as mentioned above.

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'Tulsi-bhai': WHO chief Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus gets a Gujarati name from PM Narendra Modi

GANDHINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday gave a new name -- 'Tulsi-bhai' -- to Director-General of the World Health Organization Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus at his request.

Dr Ghebreyesus shared the dais with Modi, had tried to start his speech in Gujarati. Modi said Dr Ghebreyesus wanted a Gujarati name. "When he met me today morning, he said he has become a 'pucca' Gujarati. He

always say one thing, 'whatever I am today Modi ji, is because of Indian teachers who taught me since childhood'. Indian teachers have played a very big role at important junctures in my life, and I am proud to be associated with In-

of Diwali. The 'bhai' suffix, he said, is a must for a Gujarati," he said. He was especially happy calling Dr G h e b r e y e s u s 'Tulsibhai,' and delighted by the latter's affection for Gujarat, his attempt to speak



Ghebreyesus reacted with a laughter when Modi gave him a Gujarati name during a summit here. The Tulsi plant ('holy basil' or Ocimum tenuiflorum) has been an integral part of India's spiritual heritage, the prime minister said, speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the three-day Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit. Dr Ghebreyesus, who

asked me to give him a Gujarati name. He reminded me on the stage, whether I had decided on a name for him. In this pious land of Mahatma Gandhi, as a Gujarati, I would call my best friend ('param mitra') 'Tulsibhai'," the prime minister said. "Director General of WHO Dr Tedros has been a very good friend ('achhe mitra) of mine. Whenever we meet, he would

dia," Modi quoted Dr Ghebreyesus as stating. Modi said that the holy basil is traditionally planted in every household in India and prayers are offered to it generation after generation. "Tulsi is a plant which is an integral part of India's spiritual heritage," the prime minister said, noting that there is also Tulsi Vivah festival around the time

in Gujarati and his affection for the Indian teachers who taught him in childhood, Modi added. Notably, while Modi and Dr Ghebreyesus shared bonhomie on stage, the Indian government last week took objection to the WHO's methodology for estimating COVID-19 mortality in the country, saying that its mathematical modelling was unsuitable for a vast country like India.

Jahangirpuri demolition: AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi allegedly stopped by police from visiting site



NEW DELHI: Hyderabad MP and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi was allegedly stopped by the police from visiting Jahangirpuri where the North Delhi Municipal Corporation demolished several structures on Wednesday before the Supreme Court ordered a stay on it.

Police personnel were deployed in large numbers as Owaisi tried to reach the violence-hit area. He lashed out at the BJP and AAP over the anti-encroachment drive action launched by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation in the area. "The AAP is saying

they are Rohingyas and Bangladeshis. I condemn it," he told reporters and termed the demolition drive an "example of vigilante justice" and slammed the BJP for it. "A BJP leader wrote a letter for using bulldozers in Jahangirpuri and the mayor said that they are criminals and their houses should

be demolished," Owaisi said. The AIMIM chief also sought to know how could a procession be taken out in Jahangirpuri on Hanuman Jayanti without getting permission from the police. Bulldozers tore down several concrete and temporary structures close to a

'I was demeaned, berated by ex-wife Amber Heard', testifies Johnny Depp

FAIRFAX: Actor Johnny Depp scoffed at the notion during court testimony on Wednesday that his constant quarrels with ex-wife Amber Heard would ever prompt him to hit her. "Violence isn't necessary," he said from the stand during his libel lawsuit against Heard. "Why would you hit someone to make them agree with you? Heard has accused Depp of physically and sexually assaulting her on multiple occasions before and during their brief marriage. Depp sued after Heard made an indirect reference to those accusations in a 2018 op-ed piece she wrote for The Washington Post. Depp began to address Heard's accusations in detail on Wednesday. Heard has said the first time she was assaulted was when Depp slapped her in 2013 after she made fun of a tattoo he had - one that used to say "Winona Forever" when he was dating the actress Winona Ryder that he altered to "Wino Forever" after they broke up. "It didn't happen. Why would I take such great

an opiate to which he admits he was addicted at the time - and locked himself in the plane bathroom and fell asleep to avoid her badgering. He took great lengths to explain the difference between falling asleep on opiates and blacking out on alcohol, and insisted throughout his testimony that he was never addicted to booze. Generally, Heard had a "need for conflict, a need for violence" that "erupts out of nowhere", Depp told the jurors. "And the only thing I learned to do with it is exactly what I did as a child: retreat," he added. Most of his Depp's Day 1 testimony in Fairfax County Circuit Court focused on his descriptions of a difficult childhood, his rise to fame as an actor after an aborted music career and his early relationship with Heard after meeting her on the 2011 film "The Rum Diary". The two married in 2015 and she filed for divorce a year later. Taking the stand for a second day, Depp said things began to change in his marriage when he felt that he "was suddenly just



offense to someone making fun of a tattoo on my body? That allegation never made any sense to me," he said of the alleged assault. Later, he addressed an alleged assault on a private plane flight in 2014 from Boston to Los Angeles when he was filming the movie "Black Mass". Heard has said Depp became blackout intoxicated and assaulted her on the plane ride. Depp testified he took two roxycodone pills -

wrong about everything" in Heard's eyes. Depp said that Heard made little digs at him to demean him. "The insults escalated into full-fledged circular arguments from which there was no way in or out. It was sort of a rapid fire, sort of endless parade of insults. Ms. Heard was unable to be wrong. It just didn't happen. She couldn't be wrong," Depp said. He said that he was constantly being told about how wrong he was about various aspects of his life, including his 30-year acting career. "I was sort of not allowed to be right. Not allowed to have a voice," he said. Violence would often ensue, sometimes with a slap or a shove from Heard or his wife throwing a television remote control or a glass of wine in his face, Depp said. "There were times when I would just go and lock myself in the bathroom or a place where she couldn't get to. Why did I stay? I stayed I suppose because my father stayed (with my mother) - I didn't want to fail. I wanted to try to make it work. I thought maybe I could help her. I thought maybe I could bring her around," Depp said. Depp said that he used drugs and drank alcohol as a way to cope with Heard's abuse and said she was also a heavy drinker. He added: "I had to have something to distance me and distance my heart from those verbal attacks. I had to have something to be able to maintain me." Depp said he at one point stopped drinking to try to save the relationship. But Depp said Heard refused to abstain, even when he asked her to help him in his sobriety. Depp sued Heard after she wrote a 2018 op-ed piece in The Washington Post in which she referred to herself as a "public figure representing domestic abuse". She never mentioned Depp by name, but Depp and his lawyers said it was a clear reference to accusations Heard made in 2016 when the couple divorced and she sought a restraining order against him. Depp said the accusations and the article contributed to an unfairly ruined reputation that made him a Hollywood pariah and cost him his role in the lucrative "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie franchise. Heard's lawyers say the article is accurate and does not defame him. They say Depp's ruined reputation is the result of his own bad behavior, including drug and alcohol abuse. On the stand Tuesday, Depp called the accusations of drug addiction "grossly embellished", though he acknowledged trying every drug known to man and that he started abusing medication at age 11 when he snuck his mother's "nerve pills". His testimony Tuesday featured long, stream-of-consciousness responses to his lawyer's questions, often wandering well beyond what he was asked.

Heritage Business School ranked #1 in West Bengal and #3 in Eastern India



Kolkata (KCN): Proud to state that Heritage Business School Kolkata had been ranked #1 in West Bengal and #3 in Eastern India in the Private College category as per OPEN-KANTAR IMRB B-School Survey 2022. The results of the ranking were

released recently and the same was done on the basis of Institute accreditation & selection process, Infrastructure & Intellectual Capital, Diversity & Inclusion, Student safety & Governance, Fees & Funding, ability and intent to deal with conditions posed by

Covid Course, Curriculum & Personality Development and Industry Interface, Internship & Placements. More than 1000 B-schools all over India applied and only 158 B-schools could make it in the final list. "It's a matter of pride

to acknowledge the fact that we are the top B-school in the State and I thank our students, alumni and the faculty members who had helped us to achieve this prestigious ranking," said Shri P.K. Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions Kolkata.

Truck owner association urges to stop laying of sorry pipe lines

Barbil(KCN): The Keonjhar Truck Owners' Core Committee handed over a memorandum to the district Collector, Keonjhar against the transporting of iron ore by sorry pipelines and demanded priority to local truck owners in the transportation of ore. Truck Owners' Association said local educated unemployed youths are maintaining their families by engaging trucks in the local mines of Keonjhar district and along with them, lakhs of family members of truck operators and local shop keepers are also dependent on truck business but the recent

introduction of transportation of ore by some companies like JSPL and JSW has hit the business of local truck operators. As far as local trucks are concerned, they are made to wait for days together for a single loading. For this reason, the local truck owners are now rendered jobless. Many of them apprehended that if the situation continued further, their financial condition would deteriorate and the property which they had mortgaged for getting loan to purchase trucks would be auctioned by the banks as they wouldn't be able to pay off loan.

Phulbani ITDA performed best deeds in Odisha

Phulbani: (KCN, Surya narayan Behera) Kandhamal District's Phulbani ITDA ranks

for cultivation, provided various agricultural implements, including water pumps, and provided them

10 lakh in respect of the award. District Magistrate and ITDA Chairman. This has been made

the project manager's hard work and special interest properly been managed. After re-



first in odisha state. Out of the 22 ITDA's in the state, Phulbani ITDA topped in the list, Bringing glory to the District this year. Phulbani ITDA is made up of Phulbani, Khajuripada and phiringia blocks. The poorest names in the various villages were identified by the farmers, who repaired their lands, provided free seeds

with various types of paddy and vegetable cultivation. In addition, the government has rewarded the ITDA for its successful role in forming women's SHG and providing assistance to hundreds of women in poultry, fish farming and goat farming, said project administrator Birendra Kumar Das. The state government has also awarded Rs

possible by Dr. Bunda D.'s sincere efforts. Dr. Brinda D. the Collector and District magistrate is a number one collector always ponder about the downtrodden people to bring them up. No collectors were pondering about development of district but Dr. Brinda D always focused development. Due to her sincerity, diligence to

ceiving the award, congratulations to the project administrator from various levels. Jagat Kandhamal General Secretary and Senior Lawyer Satyanarayan Behera, Senior Journalist and Press Club President Sunil Patnaik and media for vice president Aditya Tripathy congratulated Mr. Das, Chief Project Manager.

Excise Department Conduct Intensifies Raids and Seized Huge Amount of ID Liquor

Khordha(KCN): The Excise Department connection one accused person namely members were, Khordha, Biranchi Bhairab Sahu, In- Narayan Mohanty,



have amped up their work across the district in abid to clamp down ID Liquor. Today Excise Personnel conducted raid in the village of Samantarapur and Mangarajpur under Begunia Police Station, Khordha and seized 6600 litres gur wash, 380 litres ID Liquor and distillation apparatus. The seized article approximate value of Rs-3,98,000/. All the seized properties were destroyed at the spot. In this

Dandu Behera, aged about -50 years was arrested and forwarded to the Judicial court of Khordha. The raiding team

spector Khordha, range, OIC, Begunia and the Sasmita Hota, Inspector of Excise, Mobile Unit, B. Manoj Kumar, OIC,

Excise Staff's of Khordha and Begunia were also participated the raids.



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Wheat procurement down 32 per cent till April 17; private firms buying more grains for exports

NEW DELHI: The Centre's wheat procurement declined



32 per cent to 69.24 lakh tonnes till April 17 of the current rabi marketing year as private companies are buying grains aggressively for exports, according to official sources.

As per the official data, about 69.24 lakh tonnes of wheat has been purchased by the government agencies till April 17 of the ongoing 2022-23 rabi marketing season (RMS) as against 102 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period. The rabi marketing season runs from April to March but the bulk of procurement ends by June. State-owned Food Corporation of In-

dia (FCI) and state agencies undertake procurement at a

minimum support price to meet the requirement under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes.

The Centre has set a target to procure record 444 lakh tonnes of wheat in the 2022-23 marketing year as against an all-time high 433.44 lakh tonnes in the previous marketing year. The official sources attributed the fall in wheat procurement so far to increased buying activities by private players, especially in Haryana and Madhya Pradesh.

However, they said that even if there is a small decline in the government's

procurement, this will not have any impact as the government has surplus buffer stock for meeting any exigencies.

The decline in the government procurement is largely seen in Madhya Pradesh and Haryana where private traders are actively purchasing wheat at present, they noted. As per the data, the government's wheat

India visit will deepen strategic ties, British PM Boris Johnson tells Parliament

Continued from page-1

Downing Street has stressed that the UK would not look to "lecture" India over its neutral stance in the United Nations or its decision to hike Russian oil imports.

"This visit is not framed on the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Obviously, that is really important but this is a visit we have planned for a very long time. India is an incredibly important partner," Johnson's official spokesperson, who is accompanying him to India, told reporters at Downing Street.

"The Prime Minister has been wanting to make this trip to build our partnership across trade, investment, security and defence, and green energy. We will be discussing all those issues and it is expected that Russia-Ukraine will be on the agenda. But we won't be seeking to sort of lecture India or try and persuade them into one position or another. We will be seeking to work together constructively as an important international partner," the spokesperson said. Asked if the issue is likely to dominate the closed-door discussions between the two Prime Ministers, the spokesperson asserted that it would be one of many topics.

"Obviously, Russia-Ukraine is a huge priority for the UK at the moment and for the world. It's a global issue that has destabilised the economy, the oil markets and international security. So, it would absolutely be on the agenda," the spokesperson said. Downing Street has reiterated the position that "different countries are in a different position" when it comes to energy security and that the UK accepts that dynamic in relation to levels of Russian oil imports, whether it is in Europe or in India.

Meanwhile, with the third round of free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations scheduled in Delhi for next week, Johnson's first visit to India as Prime Minister is also expected to push forward trade talks towards an end of the year agreement timeline.

"Both countries have set out an intention to reach an agreement by the end of this year. It's not a fixed deadline, we won't rush it. We would take as long as it takes to reach a good deal for both countries," his spokesperson said. Thursday, the first day of the visit, will be focused on trade and investment and commercial matters in Ahmedabad, involving a visit to a university and a new business as well as some cultural sightseeing.

In New Delhi on Friday, the UK Prime Minister is scheduled for a ceremonial day of greetings and meetings with Modi and business leaders.

Unlike previous prime ministerial visits, he is not accompanied by a business delegation from the UK.

The visit coincides with a crucial vote in the House of Commons on Thursday, when MPs will decide if Johnson should be referred to the Committee of Privileges over whether he knowingly misled Parliament over the partygate scandal involving lockdown-breaching parties at Downing Street.

Downing Street dismissed the notion that there was any itinerary reconsideration around the Parliament vote clash with the India visit, which they said has been in the making for some time now and reflects the "importance of the bilateral relationship with India"

procurement in Haryana reached 28 lakh tonnes till April 17 of the current marketing year when compared to 44 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period. As much as 9 lakh tonnes were purchased in Madhya Pradesh as against 17 lakh tonnes in the comparable period. In Punjab, the government agencies have procured 32 lakh tonnes of wheat as against 34

lakh tonnes in the year-ago period.

According to the official sources, the procurement is slightly less in Punjab and this could be because of shrivelled wheat grains due to early onset of heat wave. Punjab, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh are three major wheat procuring states. There is a huge demand for Indian wheat amid sharp decline in availability of the grain in the global market due to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Both nations are major producers

Russia pressures Mariupol as it focuses on Ukraine's east

Continued from page-1

the conflict, which has also pushed more than 5 million people to flee the country.

Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said that there was a "preliminary" agreement to open a humanitarian corridor for women, children and the elderly to leave Mariupol and head west to the Ukraine-controlled city of Zaporizhzhia on Wednesday afternoon.

Mariupol Mayor Vadym Boychenko urged locals to leave the city, though previous such agreements have fallen apart, with Russians preventing buses meant to pick up evacuees from entering the city or shelling escape routes.

"Do not be frightened and evacuate to Zaporizhzhia, where you can receive all the help you need - food, medicine, essentials, and the main thing is that you will be in safety," he wrote in a statement issued by the city council.

Boychenko asked people who had already left Mariupol to contact relatives still in the city and urge them to evacuate. He said 200,000 people had already left the city, which had a pre-war population of more than 400,000.

Boychenko said buses would be used for the evacuation and one pickup point will be near the Azovstal steel mill, where a Ukrainian police official has said civilians, including children, are sheltering among the city's last known defenders.

Many previous evacuation efforts relied on civilians using private cars after efforts to bring buses from Ukraine-held territory into the city failed.

But with fuel supplies and the number of such vehicles dwindling in the city, that is becoming increasingly difficult. There was no immediate confirmation on the evacuation from the Russian side, which issued a new ultimatum to the Ukrainian defenders to surrender Wednesday.

The Ukrainians have ignored previous demands to leave the sprawling steel plant's warren of tunnels and bunkers. The Russian Defense Ministry said those who surrender will be allowed to live and given medical treatment.

Capturing Mariupol holds strategic and symbolic value for both sides.

The scale of suffering there has made it a focal point of the war for many outside Ukraine, and Russia's difficulty in definitively taking it is a prime example of the ways an under-gunned Ukrainian force has stymied Moscow's troops. Mariupol's fall would also deprive Ukraine of a vital port, complete a land bridge between Russia and the Crimean Peninsula that Moscow seized from Ukraine in 2014 and would also free up Russian troops to move elsewhere in the Donbas.

Coal shortage hits NALCO

Continued from page-1

against the normal reserve of 5 lakh metric ton. The company required around 19,000 metric ton of coal every day to run its captive power plant and also smelter at Angul.

The recent state wide driver's strike has also adversely affected coal supply to the company, Nirmal Chandra Satpathy, a worker union leader at NALCO's smelter plant in Angul, said adding that the existing coal stock will be consumed in only five/ six days.

As per an agreement between the NALCO and the MCL valid from April 2018 to March, 2023, the later would supply 47.16 lakh Metric Ton(MT) linkage coal and 9 lakh MT of bridge linkage coal to former per annum. However, MCL could supply only 39 lakh MT linkage coal and 3 lakh MT bridge linkage coal in 2021-22, which is less by 14 lakh MT from the agreed volume.

Inadequate supply of coal to NALCO has forced the aluminium major to purchase 200 Mega Watt of power from the State Grid every day between July, 2021 to March, 2022.

Of the 19 units of NALCO's Captive Power Plant (CPP), eight become functional and generating about 920 MW to 915 MW of power. If the coal supply is not made regular, the more units of CPPs will be closed, the worker union leaders apprehend.

A few thousand Ukrainian troops, by the Russians' estimate, remained holed up in the steel plant. The deputy commander of the Azov regiment, who was among the troops remaining in Mariupol, said the Russian military dropped heavy bombs on the steel plant and hit an "improvised" hospital.

Serhiy Taruta, the former governor of the Donetsk region and a Mariupol native, also reported the bombing of the hospital, where he said 300 people, including wounded troops and civilians with children, were sheltered. Both sides have described stepped-up assaults along a broad front in the east that began Monday as a new phase of the war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the Russian military was throwing everything it has into the battle, with most of its combat-ready forces now concentrated in Ukraine and just across the border in Russia. "They have driven almost everyone and everything that is capable of fighting us against Ukraine," he said in his nightly video address to the nation.

Despite claims that they are hitting only military sites, the Russians continue to target residential areas and kill civilians, he said.

"The Russian army in this war is writing itself into world history forever as the most barbaric and inhuman army in the world," Zelenskyy said. He also said the Kremlin has not responded to a proposal to exchange Viktor Medvedchuk, the jailed leader of a pro-Russian party, for the Mariupol defenders.

Weeks ago, after the abortive Russian push to take Kyiv, the Kremlin declared that its main goal was the capture of the mostly Russian-speaking Donbas, where Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian forces for eight years.

Military experts said the Russians' goal is to encircle Ukrainian troops from the north, south and east.

Moscow has poured thousands more troops into Ukraine's south and east in recent days, including foreign fighters, according to Western officials. Eyewitness accounts and reports from officials have given a broad picture of the extent of the Russian advance.

But independent reporting in the parts of the Donbas held by Russian forces and separatists is severely limited, making it difficult to know what is happening in many places on the ground. Western nations, meanwhile, are boosting their donations of military supplies to Kyiv.

US President Joe Biden is expected to announce a new weapons package in the coming days that will include additional artillery and ammunition, according to a US official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity. Canada and the Netherlands also planned to send more heavy weapons, their prime ministers said.

Truck owner association urges to stop laying of sorry pipe lines

Continued from page-1

local truck operators. As far as local trucks are concerned, they are made to wait for days together for a single loading. For this reason, the local truck owners are now rendered jobless. Many of them apprehended that if the situation continued further, their financial condition would deteriorate and the property which they had mortgaged for getting loan to purchase trucks would be auctioned by the banks as they wouldn't be able to pay off loan. They further alleged that in the year 2012, the mines owners had signed an agreement with the Government as per which they would give a certain percentage of the ore for transportation to local trucks. But the transport if ore by sorry pipe lines led to the violation of the agreement.

State Alerts on Covid

Continued from page-1

lations like Health Care providers, educational institutions, residential hostels etc. pointed out Dr.Mishra.

"There should be in-house strengthening of testing, surveillance and treatment mechanisms to face any upsurge of cases and to integrate it into a comprehensive health care system," he added.

All non-Covid health care services are to be fully operationalised. Adequate IEC, community sensitization and information sharing system should be in place to prevent mis-information and panic, he further told the Collectors.

Wearing a face cover is compulsory in public places, in work places and during transport. Individuals must maintain an adequate distance in public places, workplaces and avoid overcrowding, the Director said in his letter. Dr.Mishra further advised that spitting in public places should be discouraged. Provision of hand wash or sanitizer should be made mandatory at work places. Proper ventilation to be ensured, particularly in closed spaces, he added.

The State on Wednesday logged 8 more Covid-19 cases, which took the active caseload to 110. With the confirmation of death of another person due to Covid-19, the death toll surged to 9,124.

West Indies limited overs skipper Kieron Pollard announces retirement from international cricket

MUMBAI: West Indies white-ball captain Kieron Pollard on Wednesday announced his retirement from international cricket though he will continue to freelance in private T20 and T10 leagues across the globe. If one tries to sum up Pollard's international career in a nutshell,

One of the biggest six hitters, there wasn't a bowler in world cricket who didn't fear bowling fuller deliveries to Pollard in his prime and also the yorkers which would be effortlessly dug-out for straight sixes.

He did have his problems against slower bowlers and later as the teams did their homework, the wide yorker would be effectively used to stop his exploits. While the highlight of his international career would be hitting six sixes of Akila Dananjaya in a T20I -- third to do so after Herschelle Gibbs and Yuvraj Singh.

He was a part of the 2012 ICC T20 World Cup winning West Indies squad. He never played Test cricket.

While he had three hundreds in ODIs, Pollard was never the same player for the Windies as he has been for Mumbai Indians or for that matter the other franchises for which he has plied his trade during all these years. Perhaps, it was West Indies cricket's financial crunch that always made Pollard realise his priorities and that's the reason whenever he came to represent the national side, he was never at his best. A testimony to that would be 99 sixes in 101 T20Is, less than a six per game and during the later years, his bowling prowess dipped considerably as he fancied himself as a late-order hitter. As he is closing in on his 35th birthday, Pollard knows that he would need to maximise his earnings by playing leagues all over the world and in the post COVID world, it is very difficult for a family man to hop from one bio-bubble to another with additional burden of international cricket making the job doubly difficult.



he could be termed as a perennial underachiever in maroon jersey.

The 34-year-old Pollard, who made his ODI debut back in 2007, fittingly played his last series against India, a country which has become his second home due to his long association with Mumbai Indians.

"Hi all, after careful deliberation, I have decided to retire from international cricket. It was a dream of mine to play for West Indies since I was a 10-year-old boy and I am proud to represent the West Indies for over 15 years in T20 and ODI format of the game," Pollard announced on his official Instagram page.

While he is a feared T20 cricketer, one of the finest that the world has seen, his numbers for the West Indies remain underwhelming with only 2706 runs at just above 26 and 55 wickets from 123 ODIs along with 1569 runs from 101 T20Is at an average of shade over 25. He also took 44 wickets.

KGF fever strikes Premier League: Manchester City's post featuring De Bruyne, Gundogan, Foden goes viral

Bombay : As Sandalwood actor Yash-starrer 'KGF: Chapter 2' is making waves across the country in multiple languages, the popularity of the film has now caught the attention of En-

The post went viral on social media, and also caught the eyes of Bollywood filmmaker-actor Farhan Akhtar, who presented the dubbed Hindi version of the maverick film.

Meanwhile, with his latest release, 'KGF: Chapter 2', Yash officially entered the pan-India space. Prashanth Neel's directorial 'KGF: Chapter 2' received a lot of attention across the

Playing a crucial role in the blockbuster film, Raveena Tandon was overwhelmed with the response she got for the film. She said, "It is heartwarming to receive



glish Premier League giants Manchester City.

One of the most successful football clubs, Manchester City had come up with their own post to pay tribute to the Kannada film.

The Manchester-based club shared a photo of three of their star players - Kevin de Bruyne, Ilkay Gundogan, and Phil Foden - dubbing the trio as "Our very own KGF!". The post indicated the starting letters of their respective names, branding them as 'KGF'.

The 'Dil Chahta Hai' director called the gesture "brilliant" and shared it on his Instagram stories. Alongside, he also wrote, "When your team and film find each other". Farhan Akhtar is also one of the hardcore fans of Manchester City.

Bollywood filmmaker-actor Farhan Akhtar's Instagram Story. People on the internet were overwhelmed by this cheeky tribute to KGF by one of the richest football clubs in the world.

country and has set the box office on fire. According to film analysts, the film has collected over Rs 600 crores at the box office within the initial few days of its release.

Speaking to IANS about the huge success of the film, Yash said, "Regardless of the other factors, your fans are the only ones who love you. They buy a ticket, come in, watch you on the screen, and then leave. They are unconcerned about your religion, caste, or community."

so much love from everyone! I am humbled and grateful for the appreciation I have received as Ramika Sen. She is a strong woman and exudes a lot of discipline and power, enjoyed playing her on screen. Really thankful to everyone involved in this journey!"

Released nationwide on April 14, in Kannada, Telugu, Hindi, Tamil and Malayalam, 'KGF 2' also starred Sanjay Dutt, Srinidhi Shetty, Prakash Raj in prominent roles.

Five-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova announces first pregnancy on her 35th birthday



WASHINGTON: Former world number one Maria Sharapova announced on Tuesday that she is pregnant with her first child on the occasion of her 35th birthday.

The five-time Grand Slam champion retired from sports back in 2020 after battling injuries and overcoming a 2016 suspension. The former Russian Ten-

nis player enjoys a massive following of 4.2 million followers on Instagram.

Taking to Instagram Maria wrote, "Precious beginnings!!!," and added a photo of her standing on the beach. "Eating birthday cake for two has always been my specialty," she further added.

As soon as Sharapova announced the news,

fans started pouring congratulatory messages on her Instagram account including many celebrities. This wasn't the first big reveal under the Russian flag and is the only Russian woman to have won a career in Grand Slam. Sharapova has lived in the United States since she came to the country as a young tennis prodigy in 1994.

Back in 2020, Sharapova revealed that she is engaged to British Businessman Alexander Gilkes. The couple has been dating since 2018 and got engaged in December 2020. Sharapova competed under the Russian flag and is the only Russian woman to have won a career in Grand Slam. Sharapova has lived in the United States since she came to the country as a young tennis prodigy in 1994.



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