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PM Modi to visit Varanasi, release Samman Nidhi installment for farmers on June 18

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Varanasi on June 18, marking his first visit after forming the government for the third consecutive time. The visit will focus on farmers' welfare, including the release of the 17th instalment of the Samman Nidhi scheme. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit his parliamentary constituency of Varanasi on June 18, marking his first visit after the formation of the Modi government for the third consecutive time at the Centre. During his one-day visit, PM Modi will address a Kisan Sammelan in Varanasi, dedicating the visit to the welfare of farmers. The Prime Minister is expected to spend 4.5 hours in Varanasi, starting with his arrival at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport Babatpur around 4:30 pm. He will then proceed directly to the venue, receiving a grand welcome at various locations along the way. PM Modi's visit holds significance as he plans to honor farmers from Varanasi by



releasing the 17th installment of the Samman Nidhi scheme.

This initiative aims to benefit approximately 267,665 farmers in Kashi, providing them with financial support. Following the Kisan Sammelan, PM Modi will visit the Baba Kashi Vishwanath Temple and participate in the world-renowned Ganga Aarti at Dashashwamedh Ghat. Speaking about the Prime Minister's visit, BJP Kashi Zone President Dilip Patel expressed pride in

PM Modi's commitment to Varanasi. Patel highlighted Modi's dedication to fulfilling promises, particularly his focus on the welfare of farmers. During the visit, PM Modi will interact with farmers and address the Kisan Sammelan in Mehndiganj Gram Sabha of Sevapuri Assembly of Varanasi Lok Sabha. Preparations for PM Modi's visit are already underway in Varanasi, with BJP workers diligently organizing a grand welcome for the Prime Minister. All

party members have been assigned specific responsibilities for the successful execution of the Kisan Sammelan. PM Modi's victory in Varanasi during the recent Lok Sabha elections reaffirmed his strong support in the constituency. He secured a significant margin of victory, defeating Congress candidate Ajay Rai by 1,52,513 votes. With 6,12,970 votes in his favor, PM Modi's victory underscored his popularity among the electorate.

Delhi plunges into darkness following power outage

New Delhi: Several parts of national capital, including the area housing Delhi L-G secretariat and Chief Minister's residence, faced outages for varying lengths as a substation of power grid in neighbouring UP's Mandola caught fire on Tuesday afternoon, officials said. Power discom officials said several areas, largely in the central and east Delhi, were affected due to the failure. Some areas in north Delhi also faced outages. "Areas likely Civil Lines, Model Town, Kashmere Gate, Gulabi Bagh, Shakti Nagar and Vijay Nagar in north Delhi faced outages. The supply was resumed within an hour," said a discom official. He said the power supply of L-G House and Chief Minister's residence was also briefly affected. Areas in east, central, south and north Delhi like ITO, Laxmi Nagar, Lajpat Nagar, Jamia, Narela, Model Town, Rohini, Gopalpur, Sabzi Mandi, Wazirpur and Kashmere Gate also faced outages, he said. Delhi Power Minister Atishi

termed the occurrence extremely worrying and said she would meet the Union Power minister and chairman of Power Grid Corporation to ensure prevention of such situation. In a post on X, the Delhi Power minister said the fire at substation of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) in Mandola near Loni (Ghaziabad) in Uttar Pradesh had led to power outage in many parts of the national capital. "There is power outage in many parts of Delhi from 2.11 pm. This is due to a fire at sub-station of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) in Mandola, UP. Delhi receives 1200 MW of power from the Mandola sub-station, and therefore many parts of Delhi have been affected. electricity is now gradually returning to different areas. "But this major failure in the national power grid is extremely worrying. I am seeking time with the Central Power Minister and the Chairman of PGCIL, to ensure that such a situation is not repeated," she said in the post.

IIT Kanpur takes lead with 'Bright Minds Scholarships'

Kanpur: The world of science and technology is undergoing tremendous change. The surge in demand for skills in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Data Science is opening up thrilling career opportunities and Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) is at the forefront in cultivating these future leaders in AI and emerging technologies. The 2024 QS World University Rankings by subjects had seen IIT Kanpur ranking 2nd in India and an impressive 36th position globally in the Data Science & Artificial Intelligence category, affirming its leadership in these rapidly growing fields. The coveted Computer Science Department, ranked

3rd in the country, boasts of cutting-edge research and quality products in the digital security domain, and has many of the nation's leading experts, educationists and consultants in computer science.

The innovation and startup ecosystem of IIT Kanpur recognised as No.1 in the country by NIRF 2024, ensures ample opportunities for students to explore and obtain real-world experience through internships and entrepreneurship through their education. Following the announcement of the results of the JEE Advanced 2024, Each scholarship is worth Rs. 3 lakhs annually, covering tuition and living expenses for each of the four years.

Prof. Manindra Agrawal, Director, IIT Kanpur said, "As I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the toppers and successful candidates of the JEE Advanced, The scholarships will ensure that the student's academic journey into the world of science, engineering, and technology is not hindered by financial constraints.

At IIT Kanpur, we have a keen eye on technology that is reshaping the world, which reflects in our debut in the QS World University Rankings at the 2nd rank in India in Data Science & Artificial Intelligence. IITK remains the first choice for students who want to make their mark in the field of science and technology."

RSS has become 'irrelevant', what's the point of speaking out now: Cong

New Delhi: The Congress on Wednesday claimed the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has become "irrelevant" and said the Constitution, democracy and society do not need the Sangh or its chief, Mohan Bhagwat, as they can protect themselves. Congress' media and publicity head Pawan Khera said, "Mohan Bhagwat ji, you reap what you sow. The fault is not of the soil; the fault is of the gardener." "When farmers were facing the wrath of the weather and police just outside the capital, you were silent. When a Dalit girl was raped and murdered in Hathras, you were silent. When the rapists of Bilkis Bano were released and your ideological brothers welcomed them, you were silent. When Dalits were being urinated upon, you were silent. When Pehlu Khan and Akhlaq were killed, you were silent. When Kanhaiya Lal's killers' links with the BJP were exposed, you were silent," Khera said of Bhagwat. "Your silence and Narendra Modi have made you and the Sangh irrelevant. You've been made irrelevant by Amit Shah and the BJP.

Your last chance was when the BJP leaders were talking about changing the Constitution, you should have spoken out but you remained silent," the Congress leader said. "What is the use of speaking now?" Khera added.

The RSS or Bhagwat, as they can "protect and reboot" themselves, he asserted. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh also hit out at Bhagwat and posted on X a Hindi couplet by Kabir - "Karta raha so kyon kiya, ab kari kyon pachtaye, boye pedh babool ka, amua kahan se paye" (loosely translating to 'you shall reap what you shall sow')." Bhagwat had on Monday expressed concern over peace eluding Manipur even after one year and said the situation in the strife-torn north eastern state must be considered with priority. Addressing a gathering of the RSS trainees at the concluding programme of the organisation's 'Karyakarta Vikas Varg-Dwitiya' at the Dr Hedgewar Smriti Bhavan premises in Reshimbagh in Nagpur, he said the conflict in various places and in society is not good.

District official arrested for bribery in Assam's Cachar, case lodged

Guwahati: The Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption, Assam, made a significant arrest on Wednesday, apprehending Saumyabrata Bhattacharjee, a Senior District Administrative Assistant at the office of the District Commissioner, Cachar, Silchar, on charges of bribery. The Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption, Assam, made a significant arrest on Wednesday, apprehending Saumyabrata Bhattacharjee, a Senior District Administrative Assistant at the office of the District Commissioner, Cachar, Silchar, on charges of bribery.

The arrest stemmed from a complaint lodged with the Directorate, alleging that Bhattacharjee had solicited a bribe of Rs. 2,000 from the complainant concerning a land-related issue. Upon refusal to comply with the demand, the complainant



sought legal recourse from the Directorate. Taking swift action, a team from the Directorate set up a trap at the office of the District Commissioner, Cachar, Silchar. Bhattacharjee was caught red-handed accepting the bribe from the complainant. The tainted money was seized from his possession in the presence of impartial witnesses.

A case has been filed at the ACB Police Station on June 12, 2024, under ACB

PS Case No. 47/2024, invoking Section 7(a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. With substantial evidence against Bhattacharjee, he has been taken into custody, and legal proceedings are underway. The Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption reiterated its unwavering commitment to combatting corruption and urged the public to promptly report any instances of malpractice or bribery they encounter.

Parliamentary Affairs minister Kiren Rijiju stresses quality debate in Parliament

Itanagar: Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has stressed the importance of quality debates and cooperation among political parties for the effective functioning of Parliament. He called for all members to work together as 'Team India' to address key issues. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, emphasized the importance of having quality debates in Parliament. He highlighted that the country expects and deserves meaningful discussions on key issues. "We should have quality debate in Parliament; the country wants to see meaningful debate," Minister Rijiju stated, underlining the significance of productive discussions that address critical matters affecting the nation.

Additionally, Minister Rijiju urged all parties to work together as "Team India" for the effective functioning of Parliament. He emphasized the need for constructive debates and positive contributions from all members. "If everyone plays a positive role, Parliament will function properly," Minister Rijiju asserted, highlighting the crucial role of cooperation and collaboration among political parties in ensuring the smooth conduct of parliamentary proceedings. Rijiju has been appointed as the Union Minister for Minority Affairs and Par-



liamentary Affairs in the current BJP-led NDA government. Before this, he served as the Cabinet Minister for the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Ministry of Food Processing.

Upon taking charge, Rijiju expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the trust placed in him. "I thank PM Modi for entrusting me with this huge responsibility. We will ensure that PM Modi's wish to run the parliament smoothly by taking everyone along will be fulfilled. We are committed to the job and we will ensure whatever it takes we will reach out to everyone," Rijiju stated. He called for cooperation from all political parties and members of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to achieve this goal.

BJP Nagaland announces strategy for 2024 ULB elections

Kohima: The BJP in Nagaland has revealed its candidate nomination strategy for the 2024 Municipal and Town Council Elections. The plan includes cooperation with the NDPP to avoid direct competition and bolster the PDA coalition. In preparation for the 2024 Municipal and Town Council Elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Nagaland has laid out its candidate nomination strategy. The party has decided to field candidates across various wards within the state, with a specific focus on ensuring alignment and cooperation with its alliance partner, the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP). The BJP will nominate candidates in all wards of Municipal and Town Councils within the 12 Assembly Constituencies currently represented by BJP MLAs. This move is aimed at consolidating the party's influence and ensuring strong representation in areas where it already has a legislative foothold. In a gesture of alliance cooperation, the BJP will not field candidates in Municipal and Town Council wards that fall under the 25 Assembly Constituencies represented by the NDPP, and the NDPP will reciprocate by not fielding candidates in wards within the BJP-represented constituencies. This mutual understanding is intended to avoid direct competition and strengthen the People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) coalition. For the 23 Assembly Constituencies not represented by either the BJP or the NDPP, the BJP plans to field candidates in the Municipal and Town Council wards, ensuring a friendly contest. This approach aims to expand the party's reach and influence in new areas while maintaining a cooperative stance with the NDPP. Wherever feasible, the BJP and the NDPP will work together to accommodate each other's candidates based on their winnability. This strategy is part of a broader effort to ensure the success of the PDA and enhance the alliance's overall electoral prospects. The decision follows extensive consultations with the NDPP, reflecting a united front in the greater and common interest of the People's Democratic Alliance. The announcement was made by Benjamin Yepthomi, State President of BJP Nagaland, through an official party communication

Accused booked under Arms Act, investigation underway

Aizawl: Mizoram police are investigating a shooting incident that took place on June 12 near Dawrpui Mosque in Aizawl. The incident involved an intoxicated youth demanding money, which led to a shopkeeper being shot. Mizoram police have provided detailed information regarding the shooting incident that took place on June 12, near Dawrpui Mosque in Aizawl, Mizoram. The incident involved a youth, identified as Lalnunsanga, in an apparent state of intoxication, entered "Abdul Rokit Shop" and demanded Rs. 1,00,000 from Hayder Ali, the shopkeeper. Upon refusal Lalnunsanga shot Ali, resulting in a gunshot wound to his left big toe. Following the incident, an FIR (AZL-PS C/ No. 212/24 Dt. 12.06.2024 u/s 397/307/326 IPC r/w 25(1-B)(a)/27(1) Arms Act {311/109/118(2) BNS}) was lodged by the victim, Hayder Ali, a resident of Kadaigul, Karimganj, currently living in Dawrpui. The police have detained Lalnunsanga (32) of Armed Veng South, Aizawl, who



was apprehended by the complainant and residents immediately after the incident. SI Lalsangliana from Aizawl Police Station has been tasked with investigating the matter. Swabs for Gunshot Residue (GRS) have been collected from the accused's hands, and suspected blood stains have been lifted from the victim's feet. An injury report from the Medical Officer at Civil Hospital Aizawl classified the injury as grievous. Lalnunsanga, identified as a drug addict, was under the influence during the incident and has provided inconsistent statements regarding the source of the weapon. According to psychiatrist Laldhawmi

at Civil Hospital Aizawl, Lalnunsanga was under treatment for drug de-addiction and was prescribed Nap-10, a sedative used for this purpose. The police are conducting a thorough investigation, including sustained interrogation of the accused and tracing his connections. The accused, Lalnunsanga, had a heated dispute with Hayder Ali, a shopkeeper from Karimganj, during which he shot Ali in the right foot with a 0.22 pistol. Lalnunsanga was arrested on the scene, and a locally-made pistol was seized. He claimed the gun was given to him for repairs by Muanpuia from Manipur. The police are thoroughly investigating his claims and connections.

Grenade explodes outside doctor's residence in Imphal East

Imphal: A grenade explosion outside Dr Amit's house in Bamon Leikai, Imphal East District, caused widespread panic and destroyed a vehicle. An unexploded grenade was found and safely defused by the Manipur Police Bomb Disposal Squad. A grenade exploded outside the residence of Dr Amit in Bamon Leikai in Imphal East District. The incident occurred around 8:00 pm on Tuesday, causing panic in the neighbourhood. The blast caused by a hand grenade completely destroyed a nearby four-wheeler. Additionally, an unexploded grenade was found at the scene.

Upon information, police officials arrived at the scene to secure the area and begin an investigation. The Manipur Police Bomb Disposal Squad was also deployed to safely defuse the unexploded grenade, preventing further potential danger. The motive and perpetrators behind the attack remain unknown and further investigation is underway.

Nissan Motor announces its Weekend Carnival across all its dealerships in India

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India is excited to announce the upcoming Nissan Weekend Carnival, set to take place on June 8-9, and June 15-16, 2024 across its dealership network in India. The carnival aims to bring together the valued Magnite customers, both current and prospective, for an unforgettable experience full of excitement and exclusive offers. Guests at the Carnival will enjoy a lively atmosphere with special gifts upon arrival, exclusive accessories upon bookings, and exciting deals for GEZA SE models. Lucky visitors can also win discounts and accessories through daily draws. Families are invited to partake in the engaging activities tai-



lored for children, including coloring competitions. Every child accompanied by their parents will receive a special gift, ensuring a festive ambience for everyone. Nissan has launched the NMIPL Loyalty Program to reward its loyal customers, including Nissan

and Datsun car owners, with benefits up to INR 1,35,100, as part of its commitment to customer satisfaction. These benefits encompass special exchange and loyalty offers, a 3-Year Pre-Paid Maintenance Program, exclusive finance options, and more.

Collaborate to launch Platinum Evara's Nova Collection Honoring Modern Women

Guwahati: Platinum Guild International (PGI)-India in partnership with Senco Gold & Diamonds are launching the Platinum Evara Nova Collection, a tribute to modern women symbolizing joy, abundance, and empowerment. With a legacy of over eight decades, Senco Gold & Diamonds India is known for its high-quality jewellery that blends craftsmanship, exquisite designs, and timeless elegance. With an emphasis on creativity and artistry, the new platinum jewellery

collection offers a wide range of statement pieces that can be worn for various occasions as well as paired with a variety of outfits. The collection features exquisite diamonds, precious stones, and pink gold, showcasing the versatility and beauty of platinum, exuding a modern and elegant aesthetic. Speaking on the collection, Suvankar Sen, CEO & MD, Senco Gold & Diamonds said, "Through this collection, we aim to offer women versatile yet elevated platinum jewellery pieces that

reflect their individuality and aspirations."

The Platinum Evara Nova Collection is a collection of 95% pure platinum jewellery designed to embody the timeless elegance and classiness of platinum. Commenting on the launch, Vaishali Banerjee, MD, PGI India, stated, "This collection represents our dedication to offering fresh and contemporary platinum jewellery pieces that resonate with our consumers' aspirations and individuality."

Haier Appliances India unveiled its Graphite series, a premium range of steel door refrigerators

Guwahati: Haier Appliances India launches its Graphite series, a premium range of steel door refrigerators featuring a matte finish and contemporary design elevating the aesthetics of modern Indian homes. The series will be available in capacities ranging from 205 to 602 Lts, catering to various storage requirements, making it suitable for every Indian household. Haier India launches the Graphite series in both offline and online retail channels at a starting price of INR 24,690, with a side-by-side range starting at INR 1,13,990. The models come with a 2-year product and 10-year compressor warranty. With a focus on premiumization, the new range of refrigerators feature a sleek matte finish design, seamlessly blending into modern Indi-



an homes and elevating kitchen spaces with contemporary elegance. The series is available across a wide range of configurations including Direct Cool, top-mounted, bottom-mounted, 2-door side-by-side, and 3-door side-by-side. Haier has also introduced the matte finish series in its revolutionary 3-door Wi-Fi Convertible Side by Side Refrig-

erators range, empowering users to convert the freezer section to a fridge from anywhere using the HaiSmart App. Commenting on the launch, Mr. NS Satish, President, Haier Appliances India said, "We are confident that our new range will deliver a premium experience, aligning perfectly with the evolving needs of our customers."

Yamaha unveils Fascino S with 'Answer Back' feature

New Delhi: India Yamaha Motor has launched the Fascino S model with an 'Answer Back' feature, in line with the 'Call of the Blue' brand campaign. Fascino S encapsulates the essence of stylish European design, performance, and innovation. The premium scooter model, a vibrant addition to Yamaha's portfolio, is available in the striking Matte Red and Matte Black color shades, along with the captivating Dark Matte Blue colour option, further enhancing the brand's reputation for elegance and style. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Eishin Chihana, Chairman, Yamaha Motor India Group of Companies, said, "We will continue to innovate and introduce such convenient features to deliver an enriching experience to our customers." The 2024 Fascino S model features Yamaha's 'Answer Back' function, accessible through the 'Yamaha Scooter Answer Back' mobile application, allowing customers to easily locate their scooter by pressing the 'answer back' button. The application activates both left and right indicators and a horn sound for about two seconds, providing convenience and enhancing customer experience, and can be easily installed from Google Playstore/App Store. The Fascino S model from Yamaha features a 125 cc Blue Core hybrid engine with Smart Motor Generator, enabling "Silent Start" and "Power Assist" performance.

Dr. Jaishankar extended his leadership at MEA, as two new MoSs join the ranks

New Delhi: The new Council of Ministers was formally sworn in at Rashtrapati Bhavan, attended by 71 Parliamentary Members and along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The following day, portfolios were assigned to each minister. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar was reappointed as the Union Minister of External Affairs, and he will be supported by two new Ministers of State (MoS) for External Affairs.

Assam MP Babita Margherita has been appointed as the Minister of External Affairs in the Rajya Sabha. Previously, Margherita served as the spokesperson and political secretary to Assam Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma. Alongside his responsibilities at the

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), he will serve as MoS in the Ministry of Textiles. Kir-tivardhan Singh, elected for the fifth time from the Gonda constituency in Uttar Pradesh, has been appointed as the new MoS for External Affairs. These new appointments mark the departure of the previous three MoS at MEA — Meenakshi Lekhi, V. Muraleedharan, and Rajkumar Ranjan Singh. EAM Jaishankar, upon taking his oath as Union Minister, met with the heads of state from neighboring countries in New Delhi for the Prime Minister's swearing-in ceremony. This early engagement during EAM's second term emphasises New Delhi's prioritisation of its relationships with neighbouring countries.

Kurlon revealed its new logo and the tagline "Life Banegi Hula Hula"

Mumbai: Kurlon, India's iconic mattress brand, celebrates its 60th anniversary with a new logo and tagline, "Life Banegi Hula Hula." This rebranding marks a significant evolution for the brand, positioning it to resonate with contemporary consumers and signalling freshness in the current market.

Kurlon acknowledges that Indians spend numerous active hours on their mattresses, including reading, talking, eating, and enjoying life's moments beyond just sleep. This insight drives the new positioning of Comfort Meets Joy in every life moment. This is reflected in the line "Life Banegi Hula Hula" around which the new cam-

aign is built.

The new Kurlon logo features a minimalist design with a dawn-to-dusk gradient, symbolizing trust and heritage. The brand's commitment to providing comfort from morning to night is also reflected in the updated packaging, ensuring products stand out and resonate with consumers. Nilesh Mazumdar, CEO SheelaFoam Ltd. said, "This rebranding milestone is not just a visual transformation, but a fresh take on the category itself, where everyone is talking about sleep, Kurlon is going beyond it. With 'Life Banegi Hula Hula', we wish to bring joy and comfort into every home".

Vi Movies & TV App offers users a single subscription plan to stream sporting events

Shillong: Ormax Media's report indicates that India has 678 million sports audiences, with cricket and football being the top two with 612 million and 305 million respectively. To cater to this audience's growing preference for digital viewing experiences, Vi, a leading telecom operator, is making it easier for them to find and watch sports content. This season, Vi users can catch all the sporting action from the World's Biggest T20 Cricket Tournament on Disney+ Hotstar, UEFA Euro 2024, and Copa America, with a single subscription plan on the Vi Movies & TV App. Enhancing their experience, it is also giving users a chance to stream these events through connected TV, enabling a more immersive viewing experience. Vi has introduced an exclusive bundled subscription for cricket and football fans,



simplifying access to Disney+ Hotstar and Sony LIV. For just Rs 169, users can enjoy a three-month subscription and 8GB of data for 30 days. Vi post-paid offers two data add-on packs for cricket fans and football fans. For Rs 499, users can enjoy a Disney+ Hotstar Mobile subscription for 1 year and 20GB of data. For Rs 100 per month, users can access the UEFA Euro 2024 on TV/mobile phone.

Clinical Pakistan keep alive their hopes with a seven-wicket win over Canada

New work: A clinical bowling performance led by Mohammad Amir (2-13) and Haris Rauf (2-26) and an unbeaten half-century by Mohammad Rizwan (53 not out) helped Pakistan beat Canada by seven wickets to register their first win in preliminary round Group A in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup here on Tuesday. Two defeats in successive matches against the USA and India had left Pakistan teetering on the brink in Group A with three teams above them in the race for Super 8 qualification. By beating Canada, they have now raised some hopes of qualifying if other results go in their favour. The former champions made slow progress towards their target, eventually reaching 107/3 to win by seven wickets after 17 and a half overs. A strong showing in the field meant they were able to secure the victory they knew they needed if they were to progress - but they may yet regret not winning more resoundingly if they fail to grab their place in the next stage of the tournament. Canada made 106/7 from 20 overs, thanks primarily to a brilliant half-century by Aaron Johnson, who has now scored eight fifty-plus scores in T20Is, the most for Canada, breaking Navneet Dhaliwal's record. Johnson scored 52 off 44 balls, studded with four boundaries and as many sixes. Pakistan went into the match knowing that they needed a win at the Nassau County International Stadium, and quite possibly by a significant margin, to get their campaign back on track with one more group fixture (against Ireland) to follow. Mohammad Amir made an early breakthrough with a terrific ball demolishing the stumps



of Navneet Dhaliwal, leaving Canada 20/1 after three overs. And Shaheen Shah Afridi - who went for ten runs in the first over of the innings - benefited from a smart change of ends, striking with the very first ball from the other end as Pargat Singh edged to Fakhar Zaman, and leaving Canada on 29/2 after the first ball of the sixth over. A flurry of wickets followed. Nicholas Kirton was sent packing, run out after scoring a single, courtesy of swift thinking from Imad Wasim and ending a potentially fruitful partnership with Aaron Johnson. And Haris Rauf tempted Shreyas Movva to nick on to wicketkeeper Rizwan - securing his 100th wicket in T20 internationals. The 101st was not too long in following, coming two balls later as new batter Ravinderpal Singh edged to slip, and by the end of the tenth over Canada were 55/5. Johnson did manage to lead a brief resurgence, with 52

off 44 balls, before being bowled decisively by Naseem Shah. In reply, after a slow-scoring first three overs, Saim Ayub, who came in for Iftikhar Ahmed, made an effort to push it on and got a scare when he lofted a no-look shot towards Dhaliwal who palmed the ball away rather than closing his fingers around it. And in the fifth over Saim got his marching orders, edging Heyliger through to wicketkeeper Movva for just 6 runs. The experienced duo of Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan came together to steer Pakistan to victory, with a partnership of 63 from 62 balls. But Heyliger struck again, luring Babar to an edge behind for 33 to make the last five overs even tougher. Rizwan got the job done, though, making an unbeaten 53, despite new partner Fakhar holing Gordon out to the substitute fielder Dilpreet Bajwa with just three more runs required.

Arshdeep's four-fer restricts USA to 110/8 in crucial clash

New Work: A clinical bowling performance by pacer Arshdeep Singh (4-9) and Hardik Pandya (2 for 14) helped India restrict host the United States to 110 for 8 in a Group A match of ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. Put in to bat first, the host had a disappointing start on a track that offered plenty of swing and seam movement. It took Arshdeep all of one delivery to strike Shayan Jahangir's pad with a superb in-swing-er. With three overs on the scoreboard, USA were yet to score a boundary and had already lost two wickets, both in the first over to Arshdeep Singh. Andries Gous tried to slap a shortof-length delivery but was defeated by an extra bounce. The USA's only boundary in the Power-play came off a top edge that flew over fine-leg for six when Aaron Jones attempted to hook a Mohammed Siraj bumper. After scores of 94* and 36*, Jones couldn't get going against India. He got away with a short ball that he topedged for six off Siraj, but fell trying to pull Hardik as the ball skidded on quicker than he anticipated. It's Siraj who took the catch at fine leg to effect the dismissal. Shivam Dube, who

bowled all of one over in IPL 2024, was given the ball and USA went after him immediately with eleven runs in the over. Steven Taylor cut loose by walloping a 122kph half-tracker over deep mid-wicket. The USA were 42 for 3 after the halfway mark. Axar Patel was handed the ball ahead of Ravindra Jadeja and he got the dangerous Steven Taylor (24) off his second over, after conceding 12 runs in the over. A ball after he was dismissed into the stands off a slot ball, Axar slowed it down and shortened his length nicely to have Taylor chop on while attempting a cut shot. Nitish Kumar, hit the It didn't take him long to find his hitting range. Hardik kept bowling length and short-of-length but got punished at the first instance of bowling. Two balls later, he drilled another straight hit off a full delivery. Corey Anderson slog-swept Axar to the deep midwicket fence. After a crawl of a first half, USA finally got momentum towards the end and were eyeing a score of 120. Kumar's (27) journey was cut short by Arshdeep Singh courtesy of Mohammad Siraj picking a blinder at deep mid-wicket. Arshdeep ended his spell with 4 for 9 as Pandya claimed a two-fer for just 14 in four overs.

David Miller's half-century guides SA to 4-wicket win

New work: David Miller's unbeaten half-century (59*) helped South Africa defeat the Netherlands by four wickets in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, here on Saturday. In another low-scoring encounter at the venue which has been criticised for the unpredictable bounce and injury scare, the Proteas nearly escaped the Dutch threat and prevailed in the match to register their second consecutive win of the tournament. Chasing 104, pacer Vivian Kingma's opening spell along with support from Logan van



Beek and Bas de Leede reduced South Africa to 12/4 in 4.3 overs. Quinton de Kock (0), Reeza Hendricks (3), captain Aiden Markram (0) and Heinrich Klaasen (4) were sent back to the pavilion well inside the power-play to put pressure on the batting side.

India lose out on qualification dreams with controversial 1-2 loss against Qatar

Doha: Indian football fans were again left seething in frustration as the side fell against Asian Champions Qatar despite taking the lead in the first half. The scoreline ended 2-1 in favour of the home side at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium in a game surrounded by controversy. In their first game without former skipper Sunil Chhetri, Gurpreet Sandhu started the game with the captain's armband and came agonizingly close to leading the team to their first-ever trip to the third round of the FIFA WC Qualifiers. The loss also means that India will not receive automatic qualification to the AFC Asian Cup 2027.



Qatar started the game on the front foot and almost took the lead through a wellworked corner which was saved by the vigilant skipper in goal. Despite a rocky start India grew into the game and came close to scoring on multiple oc-

casions with Manvir Singh, Rahim Ali, and Lallianzuala Chhangte coming close to opening the scoring. The breakthrough came in the 37th minute through a brilliant pass by Brandon Fernandes who found Chhangte inside the box which

the 27-year-old slotted into the back of the net. Controversy broke out during the 75th minute as Yousef Aymen scored a goal despite the ball having clearly rolled out of the pitch in the build-up. Kuwait won their fixture against Afghanistan (1-0), securing their progress to the next round.

It was a brilliant turnaround by the side that started the day from the bottom of the table. It is back to the drawing board for India who will have to take the result with a pinch of salt. A new era of the sport awaits the team, one without Sunil Chhetri and hopefully one with more moments to celebrate.