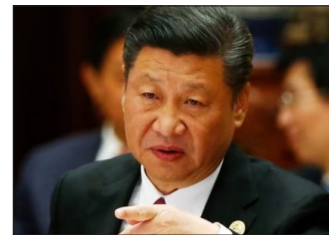




THE MILEAGE

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Gaurav Gogoi urges adequate Central support

Guwahati: Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi has voiced concerns over the severe flood situation in Tripura, urging the Central government to provide adequate support. The floods have displaced over 60,000 people and claimed 20 lives, prompting a Rs 40 crore relief measure from the Centre.

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi has raised concerns about the Tripura flood situation, stating that it is gravely concerning. Taking to the microblogging site X, Gogoi urged the Central government to ensure that people in the state are given adequate support. He stated, "The ongoing flood situation in Tripura is gravely concerning. More than 17 lakh people have been impacted, and 19 have lost their lives. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of those affected

China sees red after the Australian Senate rejects UN resolution 2758 for Taiwan status

New Delhi: The Xi Jinping regime is fuming after the senate in Australia, a QUAD partner, passed an urgency resolution on Wednesday rejecting Beijing's misinterpretation of the UN resolution 2758 and the international law regarding Taiwan's status.

While Beijing response is expected within a day or so, the Australian senate resolution moved by Senators David Fawcett and Deborah O'Neill has made it clear that the UN resolution was limited to a seat in the global body and has nothing to do with either 'One China' policy or the status of Taiwan. Senator O'Neill stated : " Taiwan is a leading Indo-Pacific democracy and an important partner of Australia. We share with Taiwan a commitment to an open, inclusive and stable Indo-Pacific region." Sena-



tor Fawcett apparently highlighted the impact of PRC's strong arm tactics and warned that the distortion of UN Resolution 2758 would weaken UN's integrity and increase the challenge to international rule based order. China has been using UN resolution 2758 to push its 'One China' narrative with the entire world and coerces small countries and

African nations to reiterate this narrative in all of the bilateral statements. It used to be a standard mantra for joint statements with India before 2010. While China uses the UN 2758 to buttress its claim that Taiwan is just another province of the PRC, the Australian interpretation is that the resolution was only limited to transfer of UN seat from the Republic

of China to the People's Republic of China. The resolution was passed on October 25, 1971 after the US under Richard Nixon had pushed for a détente with the PRC as a counter-weight to the erstwhile USSR.

It is understood that other Australian senators supported the resolution stating that it directly affected the peace and security of the Indo-Pacific and asked the PRC to stand down from its aggressive behavior against Taiwan. One senator even called for escalation of military activities targeting Taiwan. The Australian motion follows the launch of the 2758 initiative to reject what they call Chinese distortion of the UN Resolution and support Taiwan's claim for meaningful participation in UN agencies and beyond.

India denies Bangladesh flooding due to Tripura dam



New Delhi: India on Thursday dismissed reports that the opening of a dam on the Gumti river in the north-eastern state of Tripura had caused floods in Bangladesh, and said the flooding in the neighbouring country was due to waters from large catchments downstream. The external affairs ministry issued a statement on the situation after reports, mainly on social media in Bangladesh, claimed the floods were caused by the opening of India's Dumbur dam. Some reports even implied New Delhi resorted to such a step after the fall of the government of former premier Sheikh Hasina, who stepped down and fled to India on August 5 following a student-led uprising. The statement said concerns expressed in Bangladesh about floods in some districts on the eastern borders being caused by the opening of the Dumbur dam in Tripura were "factually not correct".

Docs refuse to relent, say will continue strike to push for Protection Act



New Delhi: Agitated resident and junior doctors will continue their nationwide indefinite strike, which has entered its 10th day on Wednesday, to push the Central government to enact a law to protect healthcare professionals. The decision to continue the strike was taken after the Indian Medical Association, which is the largest organisation of healthcare professions in the country with over 4 lakh members, called a meeting of all resident doctors associations (RDAs), who have shunned work since the brutal rape-mur-

der of a Kolkata woman doctor, to jointly chalk out future plans.

According to Dr Dhruv Chauhan, national council coordinator of the Indian Medical Association-Junior Doctors Network, who attended the IMA meeting at its headquarters in Delhi, the decision of all the RDAs is to continue the strike. "All the RDAs have decided to continue the strike. We don't want assurances, we want an ordinance. All the RDAs decided that strong action was needed to awaken this government.

PM Modi defeated by Congress's ideology : Rahul

Srinagar: Senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, claiming that the Congress and the INDIA alliance have shaken Modi's confidence.

Addressing Congress workers in a local hotel in Srinagar, Gandhi stated, "One thing has changed after the Lok Sabha polls and you must have seen it on TV. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's confidence has been shaken by Congress and the INDIA alliance. We have broken his self-confidence and his psychology."

Gandhi asserted that Modi was defeated by the Congress ideology and the INDIA alliance's focus on love, unity, and respect. "We did not resort to any violence and did not use bad words. We told Narendra Modi clearly that what you think you are, you are not that," he added. During his



visit, Gandhi emphasized the Congress party's commitment to love and unity. "I want to tell J&K people, especially youth, that we have to open a shop of love in the market of hatred. Hate cannot be defeated by hate but by love and affection. And we have to unitedly defeat the hate through love," Gandhi said. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who arrived in Srinagar alongside Gandhi, also addressed the gathering. Kharge criticized Modi as a "master of lies" and urged the people not to

trust him. "If you trust in him, you will end. If any party can save the country, it is only the Congress party," Kharge asserted. He also referred to Modi's past claim of securing 400 seats in the parliamentary polls, noting that Modi was limited to just over 200 seats. Kharge highlighted the security situation in J&K under Modi's rule, stating that there have been 2,350 terror incidents and 377 civilian deaths in the region. He underscored the importance of the upcoming J&K Assembly elections.

'Satsang' with the deprived in UP

Lucknow: Instead of people going to 'satsang', it will now reach out to them as the Vishwa Hindu Parishad plans padyatras to Dalit villages and settlements for religious awakening in the society especially among the deprived and downtrodden sections. The VHP has planned it to be a pre-Diwali event, keeping in mind the drifting of Dalit communities away from the BJP that led to its poor showing at recent Lok Sabha elections. Besides padyatras and religious sermons will take place.

Tripura floods: 4 dead, over 500 displaced as heavy rain causes severe flooding

Agartala: A total of four people died and more than 500 people have been forced to take refuge in relief shelters across Tripura after heavy and incessant rainfall led to severe flooding in several areas.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), parts of South Tripura have recorded alarming levels of rainfall. Bagafa and Belonia received 375 mm, while Amarpur in Gomati District recorded 307 mm. The capital city Agartala, too, saw over 150 mm of rainfall, leaving many areas submerged.

The people lost their lives due to landslides in Amarpur in Gomati District, Santibazar in South District, and Mungiakami in Khowai District. Over 20 houses have also been damaged in the state. "Since last night, the heavy rain has significantly impacted many areas, leading to rising water levels in major



rivers like Gomati, Muhuri, and Haora. We have immediately deployed National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel, along with Tripura State Rifles jawans and Tripura Police for rescue operations," Disaster Management Project Officer Dr Sarat Das told. "Many parts of the state, including sections of Agartala, are underwater as rivers continue to flow at dangerous levels. Over 15 relief camps have been opened so far, where more

than 500 people have sought shelter," Das added. Rakesh Roshan, a resident of Chandrapur near Agartala, said, "The water levels began rising on Monday (August 19) evening, but after midnight, it surged suddenly. By 4 am, we had to evacuate and take shelter in a nearby government school. Many people were caught off guard while sleeping. Young people, along with the NDRF, joined forces in the rescue efforts. One boat has already arrived for evacuations." Another

affected resident, Nayama Begum, who fled to a shelter with her six children, said, "When I woke up at around 2 AM, I saw the water rising rapidly. All our belongings are submerged. We rushed to the shelter house, but the elders are still at home and will be joining us soon. We face this problem every year."

Chief Minister Manik Saha took to Facebook to direct the authorities to prioritise public safety and minimise the impact of the flooding.

"Due to intense rainfall, several areas in South Tripura and other districts are experiencing severe flooding. Relief centers have been set up to assist those affected. The district administration has been instructed to take immediate action to prioritize public safety and mitigate the impact," Saha wrote on Facebook. Rescue operations across the state are underway.

Security forces rescue abducted individual in Imphal East



Imphal: The Police Control Room, Manipur Police on Monday rescued an abduction victim and arrested two individuals involved in the abduction and extortion case. The arrested persons are Md Juma Khan, 34, and Ram Bahadur Khadkar, 44, from Imphal East, stated a release.

Further in another case, Manipur Police rescued another kidnapped person at Thoubal and arrested five individuals, it stated. The are Khoirom Sanathoi Meitei, 23, Thokchom Mothomar Meitei, 18, Laisharam Ahendrajit Meitei, 31, Phandom Ango Singh, 18, Haorokcham Chitrnanjan Singh, 31, it mentioned. During the last 24 hours, the situation in the state was under control, it said. Search operations and area domination were conducted by security forces in the fringe

and vulnerable areas of hill and valley districts, it mentioned. During the search operations, one 22 Rifle, 39 live ammunitions, seven blank cartridge, 28 ILLUM JMK ammunition, 20 MK 12 T ammunition, 15 HE Hand Grenades, seven tube launching, one magazine box, one walkie talkie set with charger, one Tripal plastic blue in colour from Champhai Hill, Imphal East, were seized. Manipur Police arrested two individuals namely Md Nurhaman alias Nurahaman, 51, and Ibem, both residents of Kwakta, Bishnupur from Terakhongsangbi, Bishnupur District.

Further from their possession, suspected Opium weighing 5.587 kgs. and brown colored powder (suspected to be brown sugar/heroin) weighing 1.006 kgs were seized, it stated.

Schools Closed In Aizawl District Due To Adverse Weather Conditions

Aizawl: The Deputy Commissioner of Aizawl District has announced the closure of all schools in the district today due to severe weather conditions. The decision was made to prioritize the safety of children amid the ongoing heavy rainfall in the area. With periods of rain and thunderstorms forecasted throughout the day, the closure aims to prevent any potential risks to students and staff. In response to heavy rainfall that hit Mizoram's Aizawl district over the

past several hours, leading to widespread flooding, mudslides, landslides, and rockfalls, local authorities have taken the unprecedented step of suspending all school activities in the area.

The decision, aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being of students, comes after extensive deliberations and analysis of data provided by the Indian Meteorological Department and other relevant sources. The Competent Authority has officially declared Au-

gust 22, 2024 (Thursday), as a holiday for all schools within the Aizawl District. This precautionary measure has been made under the powers conferred by Section 30(v) in conjunction with Section 2(d) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, as referenced in Circular No.F.20016/12/2024-DMR dated July 30, 2024.

Authorities have issued a stern warning that non-compliance with this directive will result in punitive action under Section 51(b) of the Disaster Man-

Rhythms of Manipur to perform in Vietnam

Imphal: A 10 - member troupe of the internationally acclaimed music group, Rhythms of Manipur will participate in the upcoming third Festival of India, 'Namaste Vietnam' slated to be held in three different places of Ho Chi Minh city from August 25 to 27. The Consul General of India in Ho Chi Minh, Madan Mohan Sethi extended an invitation to Rhythms of Manipur to perform during the festival being organised by the Indian Consulate to commemorate the 52nd anniversary of Vietnam-India diplomatic relations through activities in various fields, stated a release. It stated that the group will showcase music numbers including the national award winning fusion music composition the Dancing Drummers and the State song Sana Leibak Manipur for three days during the festival. The inaugural event will be held at Rex Hotel Saigon at 5.30 pm. in which Rhythms of Manipur will present

Foxes attack residents in North Guwahati, 8 Critically Injured

Guwahati: A group of fox attacked residents in North Guwahati leaving 8 persons seriously injured. The injured persons were later rushed to AIIMS and Gauhati Medical College and Hospital for treatment.

The victims, identified as Parmananda Boro, Bharati Boro, Ranjan Boro, Ram Singh Aufe, and four oth-



ers, are currently in critical condition, with doctors closely monitoring their progress. This wave of fox attacks has instilled deep

fear among the residents, disrupting their sleep and daily routines. The situation has escalated to such an extent that the local community has taken up arms, forming vigilance groups. Armed with bamboo sticks, these groups, alongside the police and forest department personnel, are patrolling the area at night in search of foxes.

Sanitation workers stage half-naked protest in Bongaigaon

Bongaigaon: Sanitation workers, led by the Safai Karamcharis Association, staged a half-naked protest outside the Bongaigaon Municipality office on Tuesday, demanding better wages and housing. The demonstration took place during the ongoing state assembly session, drawing attention to the workers' hardships.

The sanitation workers currently receive an honorarium of just Rs 3,000, an amount they claim is insufficient to cover their basic needs. Despite earlier talks between the government and workers, including discussions held at Badamba, no solutions have been reached. Bhim Basfor, the

central president of the Safai Karamcharis Association, expressed frustration, stating that while municipalities are being awarded for cleanliness efforts, it is coming at the expense of the sanitation workers' well-being.

He criticized the lack of attention from both the government and municipalities toward the persistent issues faced by these essential workers. The protest is part of a larger movement pressing for justice, with housing and improved pay being the key demands. However, there has been no response from the government yet on addressing their grievances.

Why Reliance shares gained ahead of upcoming AGM

Guwahati: Shares of Reliance Industries rose 1% to Rs 3,022.65 in early trade on Friday, pushing its market capitalization near the Rs 20.5 lakh crore mark.

The shares of the company rose as a result of increasing optimism from both domestic and global brokerage firms ahead of the company's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on August 29.

Analysts are forecasting significant announcements related to the possible demerger or separate listings of the company's telecom and retail divisions. Bernstein remains bullish on Reliance Industries, driven largely by Reliance Jio's growth momentum. The brokerage has raised its target price for RIL, citing higher valuations due to recent tariff hikes by the telecom arm that outpaced previous expectations and the completion of its 5G rollout.

The brokerage project-



ed 16% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) in revenue and a 20% CAGR in earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) for Jio over the next three years. It expects the benefits of the recent tariff hikes to be reflected in FY2025.

Bernstein also noted that Reliance's retail operations have focused on operational efficiency by moderating capital expenditure and rationalizing store operations. Meanwhile, oil-to-chemicals (O2C) earnings have remained stable. The brokerage has now revised

its target price for Reliance Industries from Rs 3,190 to Rs 3,440. It may be noted that RIL's stock has gained around 17% in 2024 so far, and the next phase of growth is expected to come from 5G monetisation and the scaling up of broadband services.

CLSA has also maintained its 'Outperform' recommendation for Reliance Industries with a price target of Rs 3,300 per share.

Other market observers are watching for updates during the AGM on the company's new energy business, its debt status,

and its capital expenditure plans. The demerger of retail and/or telecom is another focal point for investors.

According to Reliance's FY24 annual report, the company is poised to tap into financial markets when needed to raise capital for its growth plans. In particular, the company highlighted the progress in its new energy business, announcing advancements in setting up five giga factories as part of its ambition to achieve net carbon zero by 2035. In the O2C segment, challenges persist with weaker petrochemical margins due to new capacity additions and muted demand. However, refining margins remain robust, driven by steady global oil demand.

Reliance's digital business has also been a highlight, with the company underscoring the advantages of its 5G rollout via stand-alone architecture, which sets it apart from competitors.

Ola plans dark stores Krutrim cloud for ONDC



Guwahati: Ride-hailing firm Ola Cabs on Thursday announced its plan to set up fully automated dark stores and state-of-the-art fulfilment centres, deploy electric two-wheelers and offer one year of free Krutrim cloud for all ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) suppliers, applicable for startups and SMEs, under a fair usage policy. Ola Consumer, the rebranded name of Ola Cabs, is looking at revolutionizing the warehousing space that supercharges the commerce supply chain, the company said. It said ONDC will be the UPI

moment for commerce and will make a democratic ecosystem that will bring down the cost of commerce. To further support this growing ecosystem, Ola Consumer will offer one year of free Krutrim Cloud for all ONDC suppliers, applicable for startups and SMEs, under a fair usage policy. In addition, D2C brands will also be given one year of free access to Krutrim Cloud, it said. "65% of the overall two-wheeler market is motorbikes, and though electric penetration in the scooter category has already reached 21%" Agarwal said.

Sebi imposes 5-year trading ban on Anil Ambani

Mumbai: Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has barred industrialist Anil Ambani and 24 other entities, including former key officials of Reliance Home Finance from the securities market for five years for diversion of funds from the company.

Sebi has imposed a Rs 25 crore penalty on Ambani and banned him from any association with the securities market, including serving as a director or Key Managerial Personnel (KMP) in any listed company or intermediary registered with the regulator, for a period of five years. Additionally, the regulator barred Reliance Home Finance from the securities market for six months and fined it Rs 6 lakh. In its 222-page final order, Sebi revealed that Anil Ambani and RHFL's top executives orchestrated a fraudulent scheme to divert funds from RHFL under the guise of loans to entities connected to him. Despite the RHFL Board of Directors issuing firm directives to halt such lending practices and



regularly reviewing corporate loans, the management disregarded these instructions. Sebi concluded that the fraudulent scheme was executed by Ambani and the KMPs of RHFL, funneling funds through credit-worthy conduit borrowers, all of whom were linked to Ambani himself. The market regulator also said that Anil Ambani leveraged his position as the "chairperson of the ADA group" and his indirect shareholding in RHFL's holding company to execute this scheme. Sebi noted that loans worth hundreds of crores were approved for companies with little to no assets, cash flow, or revenue, suggesting a deliberate intent behind these loans. Most of these borrowers defaulted, resulting in RHFL's own debt default and its eventual resolution under the RBI Framework.

Zomato shares rise 4%

New Delhi: Shares of Zomato saw a sharp rise of 4% in early trade on Friday, reflecting positive investor sentiment surrounding the company's latest acquisition plan. At 12:37 pm, Zomato's shares were up 3.57%, trading at Rs 267 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

The uptick comes in the wake of Zomato's Rs 2,048 crore deal to acquire Paytm's entertainment ticketing business. Under this deal, Paytm will transfer its movie ticketing arm to Origen, while its sports and events ticketing will go to Wasteland Entertainment, both of which will now become wholly-owned subsidiaries of Zomato. Analysts are bullish on the acquisition, seeing it as a strategic move to bolster Zomato's newly launched "District" app, which aims to tap into the growing "going-out" market, encompassing entertainment ticket bookings and dining reservations

Byju's employees may sue firm over unpaid salaries as insolvency looms



Bangalore: Challenges continue to mount for Byju's, once celebrated as the posterboy of India's growing startup ecosystem, as its employees are now considering legal action as they struggle to receive their salaries.

The insolvency crisis at ed-tech giant Byju's has sparked widespread concern among its employees, reported news agency Reuters.

The report highlights the growing desperation among the workforce as they try to find a way to get away from what could become the largest insolvency in India's tech start-

up sector. Byju's, once considered the epitome of success in the startup ecosystem, was valued at \$22 billion in 2022. The company rose to fame during the COVID-19 pandemic by offering online courses, which were in high demand as traditional education methods were disrupted. However, the company is now embroiled in a legal battle with US lenders who are seeking to recover \$1 billion in unpaid dues.

The situation has left thousands of Byju's employees in a precarious position. Many have not been paid for months,

leading to mounting frustration and anxiety. In interviews conducted by Reuters, employees expressed their concerns about their financial stability and their ability to meet basic needs. One such employee, Sukirti Mishra, who previously earned Rs 1 lakh per month teaching mathematics at Byju's subsidiary WhiteHat Jr., shared her struggles on a conference call with about 60 other employees. "A lot of people, including myself, have stopped taking classes because there's no point doing charity for the company anymore," Sukirti Mishra, 29, told Reuters.

Mishra, like many of her colleagues, has stopped conducting classes, stating that there is no point in working for a company that no longer pays its employees. She now faces pressure from parents whose children were enrolled in her courses, while she herself is struggling to pay medical bills and loan installments.

Neeraj Chopra digs deep in Lausanne to extend incredible 2174-day streak



Lusaan : Neeraj Chopra, throughout his illustrious career, has consistently found different ways to leave his mark. Sometimes, it has been one-and-done -- a massive throw right out of the gate, ensuring a podium finish. But in recent years, the javelin star has shown an increasing ability to battle pressure and dig deep, as he did on Thursday at the Lausanne Diamond League. It's been 2,174 days since Neeraj Chopra finished outside the top three in a javelin competition. He has secured a podium finish in 23 consecutive competitions—a remarkable streak that dates back to 2020.

In Lausanne, one of his favourite hunting grounds, Neeraj seemed off his game during the first four of

his six throws. His attempts read 82.10m, 83.21m, 83.13m, and 82.34m. Many wondered if the double Olympic medallist had rushed his return after the Paris Games, especially after citing a groin injury concern just two weeks prior. Neeraj had much to process from the Olympics. He was dethroned as the reigning champion and openly discussed how a long-standing groin injury had impacted his performance on the sport's biggest stage. His team hinted that Neeraj might take a break and consider surgery -- a procedure that had been delayed for quite some time. It seemed that taking a break, consulting doctors, and returning fresher and fitter next season might have been the wiser choice for Neeraj.

Umran Malik focused on Duleep trophy after recovering from Dengue

New Delhi: Young India fast bowler Umran Malik is focused on Duleep Trophy after recovering from Dengue. Notably, Duleep Trophy is all set to begin from 5th September 2024 in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh and M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru. Malik has been put in Team C alongside Suryakumar Yadav, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar among others. Recently, the 24-year-old opened up on his preparations for the domestic tournament and hoped to do well for his team in the tournament.

"I am feeling better and now I am fully focused on the preparation of the Duleep trophy at NCA. I hope, I will be doing good in this season for my team," Malik said. Malik didn't have a memorable outing in the previous domestic season picking just four wickets from five matches at an average of 38.50 in the Ranji Trophy 2023-24 for Jammu & Kashmir. Earlier, he failed to leave his mark in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2023 with six wickets from seven matches at an average of 35.83 and an economy of 8.26. Malik had a forgettable time in the Vijay Hazare Trophy as well, where he went wicketless in the only game he played leaking 68 runs from eight overs. In the Indian Premier League 2024 (IPL 2024), the speedster featured in just one game and was hammered for 15 runs in the solitary over.

Carlos Alcaraz still baffled at himself over shocking racquet-smashing act at Cincinnati

Chinchinati: Carlos Alcaraz is looking to reset and focus as he prepares for the upcoming US Open following a turbulent end to his summer season. After a successful run that included winning both the French Open and Wimbledon and securing a silver medal at the Olympics, Alcaraz faced a surprising defeat against Gael Monfils in the Cincinnati Open's second round. Describing the match as the worst of his career, Alcaraz struggled to control his emotions, smashing his racket multiple times and visibly frustrated by his performance. "I couldn't play. Honestly, I'd been practicing really well," Alcaraz said. "The previous days, I was feeling great, hitting the ball clear, moving well. I don't know what happened. I don't know how I felt like this. I couldn't control myself. Alcaraz's unexpected loss came in his first hard-court match since March,



spotlighting a challenging transition from his strong performances on clay and grass earlier in the summer. Despite practicing well before the game, Alcaraz could not replicate his form and struggled to adapt to the hard court, leading to his defeat. He acknowledged his difficulty finding any positives from the game and wanted to move past the setback quickly.

"It's really difficult to find some good stuff from this

match. So, I want to forget it and try to move on. I'll go to New York and try to practise well, get used to those courts." Flushing Meadows holds special significance for him, as it was the site of his grand slam breakthrough in 2022 when he won his first major title as a teenager. With four grand slam titles to his name, Alcaraz is a strong contender despite his recent dip in form.

However, Alcaraz will face stiff competition from

several top players, including Novak Djokovic and Jannik Sinner. Djokovic, who outplayed Alcaraz to win gold at the Paris Olympics, has regained form after a disappointing start to the season. On the other hand, Sinner showed his strength on the hard court by winning the Cincinnati title. Other threats include Daniil Medvedev and Alexander Zverev, both strong competitors on hard courts.

Despite the challenges ahead, Alcaraz is determined to finish the season strong and aims to reclaim the world number one ranking by the end of the year. He is focused on playing great tennis and achieving consistent results in the remaining tournaments. "I'm focused on going to every tournament, thinking about playing great tennis, doing a good result to get better in the race," Alcaraz said. "Ending the year as number one is one of my main goals."

Real Madrid held to draw by Mallorca in Kylian Mbappé's La Liga debut

Madrid: Defending Spanish champion Real Madrid had to settle for a 1-1 draw against Mallorca in its La Liga season opener. In Kylian Mbappé's league debut, Real survived a sluggish start to take the lead through Rodrygo's wonderful, curled effort after 13 minutes, latching onto Vinicius Jr.'s backheel.

But Vedat Muriqi's thumping header from Dani Rodríguez's corner leveled the score seven minutes into the second half. Both sides had chances to win the match in the closing stages, but neither was able to find the crucial winning goal. Real defender Ferland Mendy was then shown a straight red card in stoppage time for a late lunge on Muriqi as he attempted to stop a Mallorca counterattack. "I was happy with some of the draws last season, but not today because we could have done a lot better," manager Carlo Ancelotti said after



the match. "I don't want to make excuses for anything, but we just need to do better and with a better attitude. We can learn a lot from this match. It's quite clear where our problems could come from.

"We struggled defensively, we struggled to win the ball back and to press after losing the ball. We have to improve on that. When we talk about the defensive performance, we're talking above all about attitude and collective commitment.

"When we regain the ball,

we all have to think about it as a team. It's a problem for the forwards and the defense. It's a team problem, and in this match, they didn't understand that this was a very important factor. Mallorca played very well defensively, better than us. I think the draw is a fair result." After scoring in his club debut in Real's 2-0 UEFA Super Cup win over Atalanta last week, Mbappé was largely quiet. Elsewhere, Real's bitter rival Barcelona kicked off its La Liga season with a 2-1 win.

NSC clears stance on appointment of BCB directors

Dhaka: The National Sports Council has claimed, on Friday, they have nominated two new representatives as directors of Bangladesh Cricket Board on the basis of Philosophy of Jurisprudence. Earlier, NSC nominated Jalal Yunus and Sajjadul Alam as BCB directors. The constitution allows NSC to have five councillors on the board, with the authority to appoint two of them as directors in the 25-member board of directors. In the last board meeting where Faruque was elected as BCB president, both Jalal and Sajjadul were replaced respectively by Nazmul Abedin and Faruque. Confusions were created as Sajjadul decided not to resign from his post as BCB director after Jalal decided to do so in order to pave ways for Nazmul Abedin. Sajjadul claimed to media that the way NSC took away his councillorship and BCB.