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Atishi is a key face of the party as well as the government and holds multiple portfolios

Atishi succeeds Arvind Kejriwal as new Delhi CM

New Delhi: Delhi minister Atishi pipped Kailash Gahlot to become the next Delhi Chief Minister, two days after Arvind Kejriwal said he would step down from the top post. Atishi's name was proposed by Kejriwal at the meeting of the legislature party, and it was unanimously accepted by the AAP MLAs.

Sources said there would be no Deputy Chief Minister and Atishi would take oath during a special Assembly session, which would be held on September 26-27.

Kejriwal, who was granted



bail in the liquor policy case last week, sent shockwaves through Delhi's political circles after announcing on September 15 that he would resign in two days. An Oxford

University alumnus and a Rhodes scholar, Atishi is considered close to Kejriwal and former deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

Apart from being the only

woman minister in the Delhi Cabinet, she is also in charge of key portfolios like education, finance, public works department, revenue and services. Atishi, known to work behind the scenes, became a household name as she became the face of the party after the arrest of Kejriwal and top AAP leaders in the liquor policy case. After Kejriwal's arrest on March 21, Atishi was a regular at press conferences, defending the AAP chief and articulating the government's stand.

Cabinet clears one nation, one election proposal

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet has cleared the proposal to hold simultaneous elections in India, as recommended by a high-level committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind.

Addressing media persons, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said simultaneous polls would be held in two phases. The first phase will cover Lok Sabha elections and Assembly elections, while the second phase will cover local body elections, within 100 days of the first phase. The Kovind committee had submitted

its report to the government in March, shortly before the announcement of Lok Sabha elections 2024. The panel had recommended that the government take a "one-time transitory measure", which would require the Union government to identify an "appointed date" immediately after a Lok Sabha election. All state assemblies that go to poll after the said date would have their terms expire with the Parliament. This would synchronise the electoral cycles of the central and state governments and bring back simultaneous elections.

Arvind Kejriwal gets bail, Supreme Court split on legality of CBI's arrest



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday made strongly worded observations on the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) arrest of Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case, saying the agency must demonstrate that it is now an "uncaged parrot". Granting bail to Arvind Kejriwal, who has been incarcerated since March 11, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan said the CBI must dispel the notion that it is a caged parrot. "The CBI must dispel the notion of being a caged parrot. It must show it is an uncaged parrot," he said.

The opposition uses the phrase 'caged parrot' to refer to the alleged interference of the Central government in the functioning of the agency.

Justice Bhuyan said he failed to understand the CBI's urgency to arrest Arvind Kejriwal — who was on the cusp of release in the ED case — when it did not do so for 22 months. He said it

would be a travesty of justice to keep Arvind Kejriwal in custody when he got bail in the ED case on the same grounds.

He observed that the CBI couldn't justify arresting Arvind Kejriwal and continued his detention citing his alleged evasive replies.

He also noted that non-cooperation cannot mean self-incrimination. Questioning the timing of his arrest by the CBI, the court said the agency aimed to frustrate the grant of bail to Arvind Kejriwal in the Enforcement Directorate's case.

"Not commenting on conditions imposed on Arvind Kejriwal due to judicial discipline as it was in a separate ED case," he added.

Granting bail to Arvind Kejriwal, the court directed him to not make any public comment on the merits of the case. He has also been barred from entering the chief minister's office and signing official files.

Three militants killed in gunfight in North Kashmir



Srinagar: Three militants were killed in a gunfight that started Friday night after a joint team of security forces cordoned off Chak-e-Tapper village in North Kashmir's Kreeri.

Police sources said that a joint team of J-K Police, Army's 29 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched a cordon and search operation at Chak-e-Tapper villager in Friday night after specific intelligence inputs about the presence of militants in the village. As the joint team of forces zeroed in on the target, the hiding militants opened fire. The joint team of forces retaliated, leading to a gunfight.

The operation was halted because of darkness and resumed on Saturday early morning. The three militants who were killed were hiding near a school building, the sources said. A senior police officer said they are yet to be identified.

Union Cabinet approves health cover for all aged 70 and above

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the health coverage to all the senior citizens aged 70 years and above irrespective of income under the flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

This aims to benefit approximately 4.5 Crore families with six (6) crore senior citizens with 5 Lakh rupees free health insurance cover on a family basis.

With this approval, all senior citizens of the age 70 years and above irrespective of their socio-economic status would be eligible to avail the benefits of AB PM-JAY. The eligible senior citizens would be issued a new distinct card under AB PM-JAY. The senior citizens of the age 70 years and above belonging to families already covered under AB PM-JAY will get an additional top-up cover upto 5 lakh per year for themselves (which they do not have to share with the other members of the family who are below the age of 70 years). All oth-



er senior citizens of the age 70 years and above will get a cover upto 5 lakh per year on a family basis. Senior citizens of the age 70 years and above who are already availing benefits of other public health insurance schemes such as Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) may either choose their existing scheme or opt for AB PMJAY. It has been clarified that senior citizens of 70 years and above who are under private health insurance policies or Employees' State Insurance scheme will be eligible to avail benefits under AB PM-JAY. AB PM-JAY is

the world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme which provides health cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to 55 crore individuals corresponding to 12.34 crore families. All members of the eligible families irrespective of age are covered under the scheme. The scheme has covered 7.37 Crore hospital admissions including 49 percent women beneficiaries. The public has benefited to the extent of over Rs. 1 Lakh crore under the scheme. The expansion of cover to senior citizens of the age of 70 years and above was earlier announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in April 2024.

The Protestors called for PM Modi's intervention to restore peace

Manipuri Elders' Consortium protests in Shillong over escalating violence in Manipur

Imphal: A civil society organisation of the Meitei community organised a sit-in protest at the Manipur Bhavan in Meghalaya's capital Shillong on Sunday, condemning the recent rocket and weaponized drone attacks in Manipur by "Kuki insurgents", reports NDTV.

The Manipuri Elders Consortium Shillong (MECS) in a statement said many members of the Meitei community including students living in Shillong participated in the sit-in protest.

"Protesters expressed strong opposition to the recent aerial attacks targeting Meitei villages along the foothills in Manipur, which involved the use of drones and rockets, resulting in numerous civilian casualties," MECS said in the statement.

MECS also raised concerns over what it called



inflow of illegal immigrants, the growing threat of narco-terrorism, and propaganda campaigns against the Meitei community.

"We call on the urgent need to safeguard the indigenous communities of Manipur, with calls for immediate action to address the ongoing violence and bring immediate peace in the state," the MECS said.

Kuki civil society organisations have refuted allegations of their "defence volunteers" using weaponized drones. The Manipur

Police have said they are considering giving the case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

There are many villages of the Kuki tribes in the hills surrounding the Meitei-dominated valley. The clashes between the Meitei community and the nearly two dozen tribes known as Kukis – a term given by the British in colonial times – who are dominant in some hill areas of Manipur, has killed over 220 people and internally displaced nearly 50,000.

SC cancels criminal case against Army over deaths of 13 civilians

New Delhi: The Supreme Court of India has terminated criminal proceedings against Army personnel involved in the 2021 Mon district incident that resulted in 13 civilian deaths.

The court's decision effectively closes the First Information Reports (FIRs) filed in the case, while leaving room for potential disciplinary action within the Armed Forces.

The incident, which occurred on December 4, 2021, in Nagaland's Oting village in Mon district began when an Army team mistakenly fired upon a truck carrying coal miners, killing six civilians. The situation rapidly escalated, leading to violent clashes between local villagers and security forces, resulting in seven more civilian deaths and the loss of one soldier's life.

Arunachal's education sector undergoes paradigm shift

Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh's education system is undergoing a major overhaul, spearheaded by Education Minister Pasang Dorjee Sona. Recent initiatives highlight the government's commitment to transforming the state's educational landscape.

A three-day 'Chintan Shivir cum Education Conclave 2024' was recently inaugurated by Governor Lt. General K L Patnaik. The event, themed 'Shikshit Arunachal - Viksit Arunachal', focused on implementing the National Education Policy 2020 and improving education across the state. Minister Sona has introduced several reforms since taking office. One among these is the installation of libraries in various learning centres, including the State Assembly Building. This initiative aims to foster a reading culture among youth. The state government has allocated a record Rs 2139 crores for education under the Arun

SHRI Mission. Plans include establishing 30 new government higher secondary and senior secondary schools, as well as constructing residential quarters for teaching staff. In a significant move, 600 schools with low or zero enrollment have been closed. Arunachal Pradesh currently has over 2,800 government-run schools across various levels, employing more than 7,600 regular teachers.

Following the conclave, a follow-up programme was held in Changlang District. Minister Sona emphasised the government's commitment to implementing reforms discussed at the conclave. He stressed that education is a key priority, saying one cannot afford to lose any more time. Minister Sona has also launched an e-library in the State Assembly building, providing free access to students. Additionally, a museum showcasing the state's rich artefacts and traditions has been opened.

2 held in Tripura on charges of raping minor

Agartala: Two men have been arrested on charges of raping a minor girl in Tripura's North Tripura district, the police said on Friday. The accused, both in their twenties, were arrested after the girl's relatives lodged a complaint, the police added.

The men have been booked under sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the police said. "We got a written complaint from the relatives of the minor girl. She is under treatment... After getting the complaint, we have arrested both of them," Bhanupada Chakraborty, Superintendent of Police, North District, said. According to local sources, the minor was abducted when she went to a shop on Thursday evening. Later, the men allegedly took her to a nearby jungle and sexually assaulted her. She was later found unconscious on the road, following which her family was informed, sources said.

BJP's Assam Unit Inducts 20 Lakh New Members In 9 Days



Guwahati: BJP's Assam unit has enrolled over 20 lakh new members in just 9 days in the state during the party's membership drive. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Thursday that the BJP's membership drive in Assam has now crossed over 20 lakh.

"The Bharatiya Janata Party, Assam Pradesh, has already enrolled 20,43,796 members in just 9 days. In fact, we have already surpassed the total membership enrolled in 2019. We will continue the membership drive with even greater dedication," Sarma said. In 2019, the total number of members was 18 lakh and it was done in one and a half months. But in the last 9 days, the BJP's mem-

bership drive in Assam has crossed 20.43 lakh. The BJP's membership drive will be continued till September 25. Today we held a meeting to discuss the membership drive in the BTAD area," he added.

The Assam Chief Minister further said that they had a target to cross 18 lakh and yesterday they crossed the target.

On Sunday, the Chief Minister said that the BJP's membership drive in the state had been successful, with 13 lakh people joining within a week. CM Sarma further informed that the BJP membership drive will continue till September 25.

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Assam police arrest Sumi Borah and Tarkik Borah in multi-crore trading scam

Guwahati: An Assamese actor and her photographer husband accused in an online trading scam worth several hundred crores were arrested on Thursday after a 10-day manhunt.

Assam Police have been probing an online trading scam. Assam Police have been probing an online trading scam. Assam Police chief GP Singh said a Special Task Force (STF) traced the couple Sumi Bora, 29, also a choreographer and social media influencer, and Tarkik Bora, to Dibrugarh. "The game is over for them. Compliments to the team STF," Singh posted on X. It is unclear yet whether the couple, who were due to be produced in a court, surrendered before their arrest. Police superintendent (Dibrugarh) VV Rakesh Reddy said STF handed over the couple to them. "We will have to interrogate them for more details on their involvement and other aspects. We will inform you more later," he said without clarifying whether the cou-



ple surrendered.

The couple was suspected to be hiding in Meghalaya and Nepal. On Wednesday, Sumi Bora issued a video statement saying she was being framed and that she was not absconding but hiding. "A lot of defamatory news about me is being circulated about me in the media of which even 10% is not true. The media conducted my trial and hanged me even before courts started the legal process," she said. She added she was ready to surrender. Assam Police have been probing the online trading scam involving duping of people by promising huge returns on

investments. They issued a lookout notice for the couple and their two relatives after they failed to appear for questioning over their alleged role in the scam.

The scam came to light when Bishal Phukan, 22, whose company duped people worth several hundred crores, was arrested last week. Phukan told police that he spent crores on a destination wedding in Rajasthan, foreign trips, and gifts for Sumi Bora. The probe into the scam was handed over Crime Investigation Department, which formed the STF. So far 59 people have been arrested and 28 cases registered across Assam.

Honda India Foundation launches “Project Buniyaad - Aathmanirbharta Ka Aadhar”

Bengaluru: Amazon India is set to launch its much-anticipated Great Indian Festival (AGIF) on September 27, 2024, with exclusive early access for Prime members. This year's event promises substantial savings, exciting new product launches, and a wide array of deals across categories.

The festival will feature fresh launches in smartphones, fashion, home appliances, and more, with attractive offers from top brands. Shoppers can explore a diverse selection from over 14 lakh sellers, including unique products from Indian SMBs. The event supports eight languages, ensuring a personalized shopping experience. Customers can avail themselves of special discounts, including

a 10% instant rebate with SBI debit and credit cards, and 5% cashback with the Amazon Pay ICICI Bank credit card. Amazon is also reducing selling fees across multiple product categories, effective September 9, 2024, to aid sellers. Business customers will benefit from Amazon Business's bulk discounts and exclusive deals. According to Ipsos Research, over 73% of respondents view Amazon as their preferred online shopping destination



for festive needs, highlighting its reliability and broad selection. Saurabh Srivastava, Vice President of Amazon India, stated, "We are thrilled to offer a dynamic festival experience with exceptional deals, fast delivery, and a variety of new products."

BLS E-Services and Aditya Birla Health Insurance partner to expand health coverage in Assam

Guwahati: BLS E-Services has partnered with Aditya Birla Health Insurance (ABHICL) to offer critical health insurance products in Assam, including Group Hospital Cash and Personal Accident policies. The Group Hospital Cash benefit provides ₹1,000 daily for hospital stays, doubling to ₹2,000 for ICU admissions, with coverage for up to four family members. The Personal Accident Insurance offers financial protection starting at ₹2 lakh, covering accidental death and disability.

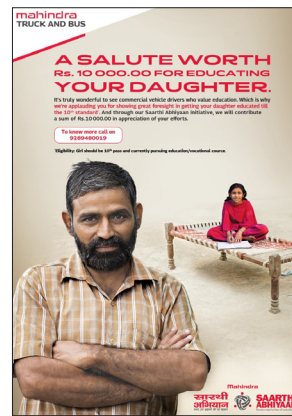
This partnership is expected to have a significant impact on Assam's healthcare sector, particularly in Guwahati, where the demand for affordable health coverage is growing. With rising healthcare costs, these insurance products aim to provide financial security, allowing families to focus on treatment without financial worry.

Shikhar Aggarwal, Chairman of BLS E-Services, emphasized the collaboration's role in bringing essential insurance services to millions, ensuring better financial protection for families across the state.

Mahindra's Saarthi Abhiyaan: 1000 scholarships for truck drivers' daughters announced

Guwahati: Mahindra Truck and Bus Division (MTBD) has unveiled its latest phase of the Saarthi Abhiyaan, offering 1000 scholarships worth Rs. 10,000 each to the daughters of truck drivers who have completed their 10th grade and are pursuing further education in FY 2025. Launched in 2014, this initiative has already empowered 10,029 young women, regardless of their fathers' vehicle brand.

Marking Drivers Day 2024, Mahindra reaffirms its commitment to transforming lives through education. Scholarships, accompanied by certificates, will be distributed between February and March 2025 across 75+ transport hubs in India. In Guwahati, the



announcement is expected to resonate strongly with the local trucking community. The scholarships offer a significant boost to families, supporting the educational aspirations of their daughters and enhancing their future prospects in a market where educational support is highly valued.

Amazon Great Indian Festival 2024; Prime deals and new launches kick off September 27

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Godrej Professional launches surreal collection: A fusion of global trends and Indian hair care

Guwahati: Godrej Professional, a leading name in professional hair care under Godrej Consumer Products Limited (GCPL), has introduced its Surreal Collection, a pioneering range of hair colors inspired by breathtaking natural wonders. This collection includes four unique shades: Moffee Marvel, Tangerine Dream, Roselet Bliss, and Moonlit Mist, each reflecting the beauty of iconic global landscapes with a focus on enhancing Indian skin tones. In Guwahati, the Surreal Collection is anticipated to create a significant buzz as it aligns with local trends and festive demands. The collection's global inspiration combined with advanced Dimension and Colour Play technologies ensures vibrant, long-lasting colors while promoting hair health—key selling points for Guwahati's style-conscious consumers. Shailesh Moolya, National Technical Head, praised the collection's blend of nature's hues with cultural vibrancy, while Yianni Tsapatori, Creative Director, emphasized its appeal to both Indian and international tastes. This launch reaffirms Godrej Professional's commitment to innovation in the beauty industry.

Operation Sadhbhavana: India delivers essential aid to Typhoon Yagi-hit Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos

Guwahati: India has launched 'Operation Sadhbhavana,' a significant humanitarian initiative aimed at assisting nations devastated by Typhoon Yagi. Announced by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar on X, the operation delivers crucial relief to Myanmar, Vietnam, and Laos, reinforcing India's role as a leading global aid provider.



The Indian Navy's INS Satpura has transported 10 tons of relief materials, including dry rations, clothing, and medicines, to Myanmar. Meanwhile, the Indian Air Force is deploying 35 tons of aid to Vietnam, featuring water purification systems, water containers, blankets, kitchen utensils, and solar lanterns. For Laos, the mission includes 10 tons of aid, encompassing generators, water purification systems,

sanitation supplies, mosquito nets, blankets, and sleeping bags. The Indian Embassy in Laos reported the successful delivery of aid via an Indian Air Force aircraft, with materials handed over by Indian Ambassador Prashant Agrawal to Laos' Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare. The Ministry of External Affairs highlighted that Operation Sadhbhavana aligns with India's 'Act East Policy' and its ongoing commitment to humanitarian aid and disaster relief (HADR) in the ASEAN region, further solidifying India's strategic and supportive role in global crises.

Shri Jayant Chaudhary unveils an array of skill development initiatives in Ranchi

Guwahati: In a transformative effort to uplift local communities and promote sustainable livelihoods, National Skill Development Corporation, under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, has launched several skill development initiatives in Ranchi, aimed at empowering women and youth in the region. These programs are designed to enhance skills, foster entrepreneurship, and create economic opportunities, ultimately contributing to the holistic development of the community. The launch event was graced by Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Min-



ister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Shri Sanjay Seth, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Defence. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill De-

velopment and Entrepreneurship, said, "On the auspicious occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti and the Hon'ble Prime Minister's birthday, we are launching these initiatives that symbolize our commitment to empowering communities through skills and entrepreneurship." At the occasion, Shri Sanjay Seth, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Defence, said, "Jharkhand, with its rich tribal heritage, has a long-standing tradition of millet-based diets." An initiative of the NSDC, this specialised bus provides accessible, hands-on training in mobile classrooms with modern tools, facilities, and certified trainers.

Britain fail to reach Davis Cup Finals after losing to Canada



Bologna: Britain failed to qualify for the last eight of the Davis Cup Finals after losing to Canada 2-1 in its last group-stage tie, while Novak Djokovic helped Serbia secure a place in next year's qualifiers.

The British needed a 3-0 win against the Canadians in Manchester, but Dan Evans lost 6-0, 7-5 to Denis Shapovalov to end Britain's hopes in the opening match in front of a crowd of 15,700 at the AO Arena, the biggest for a Davis Cup tie on British soil, according to organizers.

Felix Auger-Aliassime then defeated Jack Draper 7-6 (8), 7-5 to seal Canada's victory and first place in Group D. England won the final doubles match. Evans hinted this may have been his last Davis Cup appearance.

"I've probably had my fair share now. It could be and probably will be (the end)," he said. "I need to have a think. If I don't feel capable of playing, I won't come back." Canada and Argentina advanced from Group D. Finland was the other team

eliminated. Four groups have been playing in four cities to qualify for the eight-team Finals in Malaga, Spain, in November. The top two in each four-team group advance.

In Valencia, Spain defeated Australia 2-1 to win Group B with both having already qualified. France and the Czech Republic were eliminated. In Bologna, the Netherlands won the closing doubles match to clinch its spot in the Finals despite a 2-1 loss to Italy in Group A. The Dutch needed a single win to advance but had lost the first two matches.

The decisive win came with Wesley Koolhof and Botic van de Zandschulp defeating Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori 7-6 (6), 7-5. Brazil would have advanced had the Netherlands lost 3-0 to group-winner Italy. Belgium had already been eliminated. In Group C, Chile beat Slovakia in a match in Zhuhai, China between already eliminated nations. The United States and Germany had advanced from the group.

India edge past China to win Asian Champions Trophy

New Delhi: For the last couple of years, the Indian men's hockey team has barely had any competition in Asia. The only team to medal in the last two Olympics, Harmanpreet Singh and Co breezed past every opposition at the 2023 Asian Champions Trophy. A month later, the world No.5 outfit demolished every team at the Hangzhou Asian Games with huge margins to race away with the gold. Despite not being in full strength in the Chinese city of Hulunbuir, India still managed to defend their Asian Champions Trophy crown on Tuesday by winning the continental title for the fifth time in eight editions. Only this time, it wasn't without a fight.

The lowest ranked outfit at No.23 in the six-team competition, China forced India to work hard and go 51 minutes without scoring a goal – something that hadn't happened before the final – until defender Jugraj Singh (51st) finally converted in the fourth quarter to hand India a 1-0 win. Though they didn't start the tournament well, losing three round-robin games including a 0-3 defeat to India in the opener.

India continued with their unbeaten streak at the ongoing Chess Olympiad

Indian men crush Azerbaijan, women beat Kazakhstan



Budapest : Backed by the two in-form stars in World Championship challenger D Gukesh and Arjun Erigaise, the Indian men scored a 3-1 victory over Azerbaijan in the fifth round of the 45th Chess Olympiad here. It seems like Gukesh and Arjun can do nothing wrong in this Olympiad as they overpowered Aydin Sulemanli and Rauf Mamedov respectively with their white pieces in quick time.

Praggnanandhaa played another draw on board two to only ensure an Indian victory while Vidit Gujrathi played out a draw with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov in

a marathon game to complete the triumph. After scoring the fifth victory on the trot, the Indian men maintained a clean slate on ten points and they were joined by Vietnam who continued with their impressive show and downed Poland 2.5-1.5. The other two teams that joined the leaders' pack were China and Hungary who scored identical 2.5-1.5 victories over Spain and Ukraine respectively. With six rounds still to come in the biggest chess event, Magnus Carlsen's Norway and Iran are the only two teams sharing the fifth spot on 9 points apiece. Norway

defeated a talented Turkey team by a 3-1 margin while Iran made most of the opportunities to down Canada 3.5-0.5. In the women's section, Grandmaster D Harika suffered a shock defeat to give Kazakhstan an early lead. Better for most of the game, Harika misplayed after many pundits believed her position to be winning against Bibisara Assaubayeva. On the fourth board Vantika Agarwal yet again played the anchor and won a clean game with white pieces against Alua Nurman while Xeniya Balabayeva split the point with Divya Deshmukh. With the scores tied at 2-2 it was Vaishali's turn to come up triumphs for the team and she outwitted Meruert Kamalidenova. Team India joined Armenia and Mongolia in the lead on ten points. Armenia halted the Chinese party for now handing them a 2.5-1.5 defeat while Mongolia proved superior to United States with a similar score.

No more over-reliant on spin B'Desh look to challenge India in Tests

New Delhi: Bangladesh is known for producing high-quality finger spinners, left-arm spinners to be precise. From Mohammad Rafique, Shakib Al Hasan, Taijul Islam to Enamul Haque Jr, their spin-attack has given opponents headaches especially when the Tigers play at home. But Bangladesh have mostly struggled overseas, especially where pitches aren't conducive to spin-bowling.

Bangladesh's pace-attack lacked bite big time due to which they found it tough to compete abroad. The fact that none of their pacers has taken more than 80 wickets in Tests shows the lack of growth in their pace attack. Mustafizur Rahman did emerge, but it was mostly on spin-friendly pitches that he succeeded as he depended on cutters and was not an out-and-out speedster. But in the last two years, Bangladesh cricket has started to broaden their horizons.



The results showed when Ebadot Hossain's six-wicket haul helped the Tigers through to a famous win against New Zealand at Mount Maunganui in 2022. Recently, Najmul Shanto's men took down Pakistan in the latter's backyard, and although Mehidy Hasan won the Player of the Series award, the pacers did their job diligently. Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Shoriful Islam and Nahid Rana picked up 21 wickets, six more than their spin duo of Shakib and Mehidy. Their pacers were good enough to the extent that Bangladesh had the cour-

age to keep Taijul Islam, their second-highest Test wicket-taker, on the bench. The Tigers also had the bench strength to fill in for Shoriful, who did not play the second Test due to a groin injury.

But their task is going to get tougher when they face India in the two-match Test series. Compared to Pakistani batters, India are much more accomplished and experienced as far as playing in the purest format is concerned. However, Bangladesh fast bowlers are good enough to ruffle a few feathers if they are able to hit the right channels.

Real Madrid's Andriy Lunin extends deal until 2028

Madrid: Real Madrid have reached an agreement with goalkeeper Andriy Lunin over a new contract which will run until 2028, multiple sources have told. Lunin, 25, starred for Madrid last season as part of the team that won a LaLiga and Champions League double, with first-choice keeper Thibaut Courtois sidelined through injury for much of the campaign.

There had been suggestions that Lunin would seek to leave the Bernabéu following Courtois' return to fitness, but the Ukraine international has now agreed to a new deal which will



see a contract due to expire in 2025 extended by another three years. Negotiations between the parties began in March, and an agreement in principle had been reached. However, one of the issues of disagreement was over the new contract's duration. Madrid's offer was a one-year extension, until 2026, while Lunin was keen to receive a longer-term deal. Madrid were delighted

with Lunin's attitude and performances last season, sources said. When Courtois tore his anterior cruciate ligament in August 2023, the club brought in Kepa Arrizabalaga from Chelsea on loan as an experienced alternative. Lunin's new deal means Madrid no longer risk losing him on a free transfer at the end of this season in that case, and instead would be able to negotiate his departure for a significant fee.

The goalkeeper is represented by agent Jorge Mendes, and sources told ESPN that he has received interest from the Premier League and Serie A.