

Thought of the Day

And, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.

- Paulo Coelho



Srettha to Lead Deep South Visit This Week

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Australia PM Pledges 'Whatever Support' Needed as Wild Fires Destroy Homes

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Belarus' Lukashenko Says He'll Run for President in 2025

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Zelenskyy Says

31,000 Ukrainian Troops Killed Since the Start of Russia's Full-Scale Invasion

• **Kyiv (Ukraine)**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday that 31,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed in action in the two years since Russia launched its full-scale

invasion. Zelenskyy said that the number was far lower than estimates given by Russian President Vladimir Putin's government. "31,000 Ukrainian military personnel have been killed in this war. Not 300,000, not 150,000, not whatever Putin and his

deceitful circle have been lying about. But nevertheless, each of these losses is a great sacrifice for us", Zelenskyy said at the "Ukraine. Year 2024" forum in Kyiv. The Ukrainian leader said that he wouldn't disclose the

number of troops that were wounded or missing. He also said that "tens of thousands of civilians" had been killed in occupied areas of Ukraine, but said that no exact figures would be available until the war was over.

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US, British Forces Carry Out More Strikes Against Houthis in Yemen

• **Washington (U.S.A.)**

U.S. and British forces carried out strikes against more than a dozen Houthi targets in Yemen on Saturday, officials said, the latest round of military action against the Iran-linked group that continues to attack shipping in the region.

The United States has carried out near daily strikes against the Houthis, who control the most populous parts of Yemen and have said their attacks on shipping are in solidarity with Palestinians as Israel strikes Gaza. The strikes have so far failed to halt the Houthis' attacks, which have upset global trade and raised shipping rates.

A joint statement from countries that either took part in the strikes or provided support, said the military action was against 18 Houthi targets across eight locations in Yemen including underground weapons and missile storage facilities, air defense systems, radars and a helicopter.



Contd. on Page 2

At Least 15 Catholic Worshippers Were Killed in an Attack During a Service in Northern Burkina Faso

• **Abuja (Nigeria)**

At least 15 Catholic worshippers were killed in a Burkina Faso village on Sunday when gunmen attacked a community as they gathered for prayers in the country's conflict-hit northern region, church officials said.

The violence in the village of Essakane was a "terrorist attack" that left 12 of the Catholic faithful dead at the scene, while three others died later as they were being treated for their wounds, according to a statement issued by Abbot Jean-Pierre Sawadogo, vicar-general of the Catholic Diocese of Dori, where the attack happened.

No further details were provided about the attack, which no group claimed responsibility for. But suspicion fell on jihadis who have frequently attacked remote communities and security forces, especially in the northern region. "In this painful circumstance, we invite you to pray



Contd. on Page 2

Unveiling the Shadows: Understanding Cyber Fraud in the Digital Age

In an era where the digital realm intertwines with almost every aspect of our lives, the specter of cyber fraud looms larger than ever before. From financial institutions to individual users, the threat of cyber fraud poses a significant risk, both in terms of financial loss and compromised personal information. Understanding the nature of cyber fraud, its methods, and how to protect oneself is paramount in navigating the intricate landscape of the internet safely.

The Landscape of Cyber Fraud
Cyber fraud encompasses a myriad of deceptive practices orchestrated by malicious actors to exploit vulnerabilities in digital systems. These schemes can range from phishing attacks and identity theft to ransomware and business email compromise (BEC). The motives behind cyber fraud are often financial gain, data theft, or sabotage, and the perpetrators can be individuals, organized crime groups, or state-sponsored entities.

Common Techniques

1. Phishing Attacks:

Phishing remains one of the

most prevalent forms of cyber fraud. In a phishing attack, perpetrators impersonate legitimate entities through emails, messages, or websites to deceive users into divulging sensitive information such as login credentials, credit card numbers, or personal details. These attacks often prey on human psychology, leveraging urgency or curiosity to prompt users to act hastily without verifying the authenticity of the communication.

2. Ransomware:

Ransomware is a type of malicious software designed to block access to a system or encrypt files until a ransom is paid. Perpetrators typically distribute ransomware through phishing emails or exploiting vulnerabilities in software systems. Once infected, victims are faced with the dilemma of either paying the ransom to regain access to their data or enduring potentially catastrophic losses.

3. Identity Theft:

Identity theft involves the unauthorized use of someone else's personal information for fraudulent purposes, such as making purchases, accessing



Dr. Piyush Raja

financial accounts, or applying for loans. Cybercriminals employ various methods, including data breaches, social engineering, and malware, to obtain individuals' sensitive information and perpetrate identity theft, leaving victims to deal with the repercussions for years to come.

4. Business Email Compromise (BEC):

BEC is a sophisticated form of fraud targeting businesses and organizations. In a BEC scheme, perpetrators compromise legitimate email accounts or impersonate high-ranking executives to deceive employees into transferring funds, disclosing sensitive information, or initiating wire transfers under false pretenses. These attacks often exploit trust and authority within an organization's hierarchy to bypass traditional security measures.

Mitigating the Risks

1. Education and Awareness: Education is the first line of defense against cyber fraud. By fostering awareness among users about common tactics used by cybercriminals and promoting best practices for cybersecurity hygiene, individuals and organizations can mitigate the risk of falling victim to fraudulent schemes. Training programs, simulated phishing exercises, and regular security updates are essential components of a proactive cybersecurity strategy.

2. Robust Security Measures: Implementing robust security measures is crucial for safeguarding against cyber fraud. This includes deploying antivirus software, firewalls, and intrusion detection systems to detect and prevent malicious activities. Additionally, employing encryption protocols, multi-factor authentication, and access controls can help fortify digital defenses and thwart unauthorized access to sensitive information.

3. Vigilance and Verification: Vigilance and verification are paramount when navigating the digital landscape. Users should exercise caution when

interacting with unsolicited emails, messages, or websites and verify the authenticity of communications from unfamiliar or suspicious sources. Verifying the identity of individuals requesting sensitive information or financial transactions, especially in business settings, can help prevent falling victim to BEC and similar scams.

Cyber fraud poses a significant threat in an increasingly interconnected world, where the boundaries between the physical and digital realms continue to blur. By understanding the tactics employed by cybercriminals, implementing robust security measures, and fostering a culture of awareness and vigilance, individuals and organizations can mitigate the risks associated with cyber fraud and navigate the digital landscape with greater resilience and confidence. In an age where the stakes are higher than ever, staying informed and proactive is paramount in safeguarding against the pervasive threat of cyber fraud.

:- Dr. Piyush Raja

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मनाली में भारी बर्फबारी...क्या करें?



पिछले चार दिनों से मनाली में हो रही है बर्फबारी! दूर-दूर से पहुंच रहे हैं सैलानी! मनाली के सोलंग वैली में पिछले चार दिनों से हो रही है बर्फबारी! जिसमें प्रशासन के काम में कमी नजर आई! भारी बर्फबारी के कारण सोलंग वैली पहले दिन (सोमवार) को 5 घंटों का लगा लंबा जाम! इस जाम के कारण सैलानियों को करना पड़ा बहुत मुश्किलों का सामना! कई सैलानी कुछ दूरी तक के लिए वहां से पैदल ही निकल गए अपने-अपने होटल और अपनी गाड़ियों तक जाने के लिए! क्योंकि बर्फबारी के कारण गाड़ियों को

सोलंग वैली तक ऊपर जाने नहीं दिया जा रहा था! और जो ऊपर थी गाड़ियां उन्हें ऊपर ही रोक दिया गया! यानी कुल मिलाकर पांच घंटों तक गाड़ियों को आवाजाही रोक दी गई! अगर आप भी अपनी फैमिली के साथ मनाली बर्फबारी में घूमने जा रहे हैं अपनी पूरी तैयारी के साथ जाए! क्योंकि ऐसे लंबे जाम में आप कभी फस सकते हैं! तो आपके पास अपना छाता और रेनकोट जरूर होना चाहिए! क्योंकि वहां बर्फबारी और बारिश का सामना करना पड़ सकता है! और कुछ दूरी या फिर बहुत दूरी तक आपको पैदल

चलना पड़ सकता है! ताकि आप अपने होटल तक (जहां भी आप ठहरे हुए हो) पर ठीक-ठाक समय पर पहुंच सकें! इसलिए आप जब भी बर्फबारी में घूमने जाए पूरी तैयारी के साथ जाए! और अपनी फैमिली के साथ फुल इंजॉय करें!

लेखिका - राजवीर फलवरिया

Followers of "Zulfia"

It is natural that you hear some news about the support of women in all fields in the Republic of Uzbekistan almost every day. For many years, women who are active on all fronts, who serve as an example to their peers, who help themselves and others to achieve results, have been awarded the Zulfia state award. This award is given to women aged 14 to 30 in 7 categories. A lot of work goes into getting this award. The state award named after Zulfia is not given to everyone. It is given to girls who contribute to the development of their country, promote humanitarian ideas, are active in all aspects, have their place in the international arena, are winners of events and contests, know many languages, and are grateful to lend a helping hand.

Shokhida Yusupova is the winner of international competitions, the head of the Shine Academy for Girls, the laureate of the state award named after Zulfia. Shokhida Yusupova is from the Khorezm region of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Shokhida received the state award named after Zulfia exactly 5 years ago. He greeted every spring with tears until he received the award. Shokhida Yusupova thought about her demandingness, knowing many lan-



Rakhimova
Risliqoy

guages, and going to the end, and at the age of 5, she became a laureate of the state award named after Zulfia.

Muhlisa Mamajonova is a laureate of the state award named after Zulfia,

winner of international competitions, from Uchkurgan district, Namangan region of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Muhlisa Mamajonova was not only awarded with the state award named after Zulfia. Muhlisa got "Zulfia" when she was 6 years old. In 6 years, he has been subjected to various comments and negative comments. But due to his invincibility and courage, he was awarded the state award named after Zulfia.

The state award named after Zulfia is awarded annually to 28 most talented girls who have taken pride of place at the district, regional, and republic levels. There are no words to describe the excitement and fear in the hearts of girls who are eagerly waiting for the month of March. Every girl has the right to receive "Zulfia". Every woman deserves such awards. This year, I also have the goal of applying for the state award named after Zulfia. It is one of my biggest dreams to become the recipient of the In Shaa Allah Zulfia State Award.

:- Rakhimova Risliqoy

Contd. from Page No. 1 ...

31,000 Ukrainian Troops ...

"We don't know how many of our civilians they killed. We don't," he said.

It's the first time that Kyiv has confirmed the number of its losses since the start of Russia's full-scale war on Feb. 24, 2022.

Russia has provided few official casualty figures. The most recent data from the Defense Ministry, published in January 2023, pointed to just over 6,000 deaths, although reports from U.S. and U.K. officials put that number significantly higher.

A U.S. intelligence report declassified in mid-December 2023 estimated that 315,000 Russian troops had been killed or wounded in Ukraine. If accurate, the figure would represent 87% of the roughly 360,000 troops Russia had before the war, according to the report.

Independent Russian news outlet Mediazona said Saturday that about 75,000 Russian men died in 2022 and 2023 fighting in the war.

A joint investigation published by Mediazona and Meduza, another independent Russian news site, indicates that the rate of Russia's losses in Ukraine is not slowing and that Moscow is losing about 120 men a day.

US, British Forces Carry ...

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the strikes were meant "to further disrupt and degrade the capabilities of the Iranian-backed Houthi militia."

"We will continue to make clear to the Houthis that they will bear the consequences if they do not stop their illegal attacks, which harm Middle Eastern economies, cause environmental damage and disrupt the delivery of

humanitarian aid to Yemen and other countries," Austin said.

The strikes were supported by Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands and New Zealand.

Al Masirah TV, the main television news outlet run by the Houthi movement, said on Saturday that U.S. and UK forces carried out a series of strikes in the capital, Sanaa.

It quoted an unnamed Houthi military source as saying the renewed raids were "a miserable attempt to prevent Yemen from providing support operations to the Palestinian people in Gaza."

Earlier this week the Houthis claimed responsibility for an attack on a UK-owned cargo ship and a drone assault on a U.S. destroyer, and they targeted Israel's port and resort city of Eilat with ballistic missiles and drones.

The group's strikes are

disrupting the vital Suez Canal shortcut that accounts for about 12% of global maritime traffic, forcing a longer, more expensive route around Africa.

No ships have been sunk nor crew killed during the Houthi campaign. However there are concerns about the fate of the UK-registered Rubymar cargo vessel, which was struck on Feb. 18 and its crew evacuated. The U.S. military has said the Rubymar was carrying more than 41,000 tons of fertilizer when it was hit, which could spill into the Red Sea and cause an environmental disaster.

The European Union has launched a naval mission to the Red Sea "to restore and safeguard freedom of navigation".

The United States has a parallel coalition, Operation Prosperity Guardian, aimed at safeguarding commercial traffic in from attacks by the Houthis.

At Least 15 Catholic Worshippers ...

for the rest in God for those who have died in faith, for the healing of the wounded and ... for the conversion of those who continue to sow death and desolation in our country," Sawadogo said in a statement. About half of Burkina Faso is outside government control as jihadi groups have ravaged the country for years. Fighters have killed thousands and displaced more than 2 million people, further threatening the stability of the country that had two coups in 2022.

The country's junta has struggled to restore peace in violence hot spots since the first coup in January 2022, the number of people killed by jihadis has nearly tripled compared with the 18 previous months, according to a report by the Africa Center for Strategic Studies in August.

30 Airlines Join TAT's 'Air-mazing Thailand' Campaign

Page 3 News

• Bangkok / 25 Feb.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has launched the "Air-mazing Thailand" campaign, attracting 30 international airlines to explore the capabilities of selected airports and untapped markets within the country. Running from April 2 to 5, the campaign aligns with the government's strategy to boost tourism in second-tier provinces and establish Thailand as a premier global tourism destination.

Tourism and Sports Minister Sudawan Wangsuphakkijkosol expressed hopes that the initiative would encourage airlines to recognize the potential of Thai airports in the post-pandemic world



and to consider establishing additional routes that include both major and emerging provincial destinations. By directing international flights to less congested airports beyond the three largest ones, including Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, and Phuket, the effort aims to distribute tourism income more evenly across the country and alleviate overcrowding at urban airports. TAT will later guide airline representatives on tours of two sets of airports. One tour will visit Chiang Mai and U-Tapao international airports, while the other will explore Krabi, Surat Thani, and Samui airports. Thailand boasts 39 airports in total, with 10 classified as international, including those in major cities and key tourist destinations.

Srettha to Lead Deep South Visit This Week

Page 3 News

• Bangkok / 25 Feb.

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin is set to lead a delegation on a three-day tour from February 27 to 29 to promote tourism in Thailand's southern border provinces, an event dubbed "Travel to the South with All Your Heart." The trip will be taken with the aim of boosting tourism activities and economic vibrancy in the Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat provinces.

The tour is scheduled to kick off in Pattani, where the prime minister will explore the local community market and engage with community leaders and residents. His itinerary



includes visits to key cultural and tourist attractions, such as the historic Baan Khun Phithak Raya and the culturally significant Leng Chu Kiang shrine, alongside attending the Pattani ASEAN Tourism Festival 2024. The following day, in Yala Province, the Prime Minister's engagements include a visit to the Yala

Learning Park and an inspection of local initiatives to promote regional specialties such as the "Pluangchompoo fish upstream of Halabala forest" and 'Nile tilapia Sai Nam Lai Betong' to national GI status. His visit also involves the Betong Cold Climate Flower Garden, the Betong Mongkhonrit Tunnel, and Skywalk Aiyerweng. The visit concludes in Narathiwat province, where the prime minister plans to visit the Islamic Cultural Heritage Museum and engage with the local Islamic Committee. He will also lead a discussion on strategies to develop tourism further in these provinces.

PM Srettha Conducts 2nd Surprise Airport Visit

Page 3 News

• Bangkok / 25 Feb.

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin made a surprise visit to Suvarnabhumi Airport to inspect its service systems, marking his second unannounced visit. This trip was conducted during the evening to contrast his previous inspection in the morning, aiming to evaluate the airport's operations during high passenger traffic. During his inspection, the prime minister timed the complete passenger journey, from arrival at the airport and navigating through the check-in and security processes to reaching the terminal and boarding. The same level of scrutiny was applied to the procedures for arriving passengers, including disembarking, pro-



ceeding through immigration, and the overall management of these systems. It was found that these processes were time-consuming, which raised concerns about efficiency. Later, the prime minister discussed with the airport staff the possibility of resolving the issues related to timing, encouraging officials from both the Port Authority and Immigration to conduct

personal inspections during peak hours to pinpoint and remedy specific issues. Srettha also urged airport staff to show a strong commitment to service and pay close attention to tourists, with the goal of creating a positive first impression upon their arrival in Thailand, believing this approach can turn challenges into opportunities to enhance the country's tourism industry.

Thai Airways Targets 2025 Exchange Listing

Page 3 News

• Bangkok / 25 Feb.

Thai Airways International (THAI) has announced it is on a path to exit its rehabilitation plan on schedule and targets listing on the stock exchange in the first half of 2025. The airline reported a significant revenue increase in 2023, with a total of 161,067 million baht, up 53.3% from 2022, predominantly from its passenger services.

According to the airline's debt rehabilitation administrator's chairman, Piyasvasti Amranand, THAI plans to undertake a capital structure adjustment through a debt-to-equity swap later this year, aiming for a complete restructure by year-end, followed by a stock market listing application in the second quarter of 2025. Thai Airways will also start repaying 400 million baht in ticket debts to passengers in March, thanks to its improved operational revenue.

Piyasvasti credited the airline's turnaround to the hard work of its employees, which was achieved without government aid, which spurred significant internal transformation



and competitive strengthening. In fiscal 2023, Thai Airways and its subsidiaries witnessed an 87% revenue increase over pre-pandemic levels in 2019, driven by a 79.3% surge in passenger services. Looking forward, THAI CEO Chai Eamsiri detailed plans to acquire 45 new aircraft to refresh the fleet and support ambitions to become a regional aviation hub. The acquisition strategy will be flexible, focusing on streamlined fleet models to cut costs.

With a current fleet of 70 aircraft, Thai Airways intends to expand its destinations to 61 worldwide in the summer of 2024, introducing new routes and increasing fleet size to 79 this year and 90 next year. The company aims to boost its market share at Suvarnabhumi International Airport from 27% to 35% by the end of the year.

Betong to Seek Runway Expansion for Tourism Boost

Page 3 News

• Bangkok / 25 Feb.

The Betong District Tourism Association has announced a plan to propose an expansion of the Betong International Airport's runway to Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin during his visit to the district this week. The association's deputy president, Narin Ruangwongsa, announced the plan, which aims to extend the runway from 1.8 kilometers to 2.5 kilometers. This expansion would enable the airport to accommodate larger aircraft, potentially increasing the number of visitors to the area



by making travel more affordable. Srettha, along with Cabinet members, including Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, Transport Minister Suriya Jungprungreangkit, Tourism Minister Sudawan

Wangsuphakkijkosol, Justice Minister Pol Col Tawe Sodsong, and Culture Minister Sersak Phongpanich, will be concentrating efforts on enhancing tourism in the deep South region, which includes the provinces of

Yala, Pattani, and Narathiwat. Last year, Yala province attracted over 1.6 million visitors to the Betong district alone, generating significant revenue. The proposed runway extension is part of a broader plan to increase tourism by promoting the district's historical sites, cultural diversity, and natural beauty. The plan also involves organizing activities, such as "Betong Trail Running" and "Ecotourism Route Cycling," in addition to highlighting Thai-Muslim cultural festivities and other local celebrations.

SRT's 127th: Historic Steam Train Ride

Page 3 News
• Bangkok / 25 Feb.

The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) is celebrating its 127th anniversary by offering a unique steam train journey from Bangkok to Ayutthaya on March 26, 2024. This special trip will give passengers the opportunity to travel aboard a historic Pacific steam locomotive

featuring the numbers 824 and 850 from the World War II era. The journey, which commences from Hua Lamphong Station, allows travelers to explore the ancient capital of Ayutthaya for six hours before returning to Bangkok. The excursion train, identified as Train No. 901/902, is scheduled to depart from Bangkok at 8.10 a.m., arriving in

Ayutthaya at 10.20 a.m., with the return journey set to leave Ayutthaya at 4.40 p.m. and arriving back in Bangkok at 6.50 p.m. Passengers have the convenience of boarding or disembarking at intermediate stops, including Sam Sen, Bang Sue, Don Mueang, and Rangsit stations. Ticket bookings for this unique experience are available via the D-Ticket

mobile application, SRT's official website (www.dticket.railway.co.th), or at ticket booths located at SRT stations nationwide. Pricing for the round trip varies, with third-class seats at 329 baht, second-class air-conditioned at 529 baht, and sleeper and special air-conditioned cars at 799 baht, inclusive of snacks and drinks.

PM Modi Inaugurates Projects Worth Rs. 48,100 Crore In Gujarat's Rajkot

Page3News

• Rajkot / 25 Feb.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs. 48,100 crore, in Rajkot.

In a significant step towards strengthening tertiary health care in the country, PM Modi dedicated to the nation five All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Rajkot (Gujarat), Bathinda (Punjab), Rae Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh), Kalyani (West Bengal) and Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh).

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation more than 200 Health Care Infrastructure Projects worth more than Rs. 11,500 crore across 23 States and union territories.

The PM dedicated the Medical College of JIPMER at Karaikal, Puducherry and



the 300-bed Satellite Centre of Post Graduate Institute of Medical and Educational Research (PGIMER) in Sangrur, Punjab, among others.

In addition to these, under the National Health Mission and Prime Minister-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), the Prime Minister also inaugu-

rated, dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone of 115 projects.

In a step to boost the production of renewable energy in the region, PM

Modi laid the foundation stone of various renewable energy projects including the 300 MW Bhuj-II Solar power project; Grid Connected 600 MW Solar PV Power Project; Khavda Solar Power Project; 200 MW Dayapur-II Wind Energy Project among others. The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the New Mundra- Panipat pipeline project worth over Rs. 9000 crore.

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Uttarakhand To Table Bill For Recovery Of Property Damages From Protestors

Page3News

• Dehradun / 25 Feb.

The Uttarakhand government is set to table the 'Uttarakhand Public and Private Property Damage Recovery Bill' in the assembly during the upcoming budget session commencing on February 26 (Monday) to deal strictly with miscreants damaging government and private property during protests.

Under this bill, the losses incurred during protests and strikes will be recovered from the accused involved in the disturbance. To compensate for the loss, a tribunal will be constituted under the chairmanship of a retired



district judge.

The neighbouring Uttar Pradesh government has already passed a similar bill in 2020.

He emphasized that the legislation benefits every section of society, asserting that a government promise to the people has been fulfilled.

The Uniform Civil Code

(UCC) Bill was passed with a comfortable majority during a special session of the Uttarakhand assembly on February 7.

The Uniform Civil Code, which proposes similar or uniform laws for all communities, was tabled during the special session by the Chief Minister.

Got No Ration, Say People In Churachandpur Relief Camps; Aid Trucks Set On Fire, Says Government

Page3News

• Imphal / 25 Feb.

Two of 12 trucks and buses set on fire by protesters in Manipur's Churachandpur district on February 15 contained relief material for internally displaced people, the state government said in a statement on Saturday, amid protest by people in the camps over shortage of ration.

The protesters had ransacked the offices of the district commissioner (DC) and the superintendent of police (SP) after a head constable from their community was suspended for allegedly train-

ing members of a hill-based armed group, who call themselves "village defence volunteers".

Thousands of people living in the relief camps in Churachandpur, in a symbolic "empty pot" protest - showing empty bowls to the media - have alleged that ration supplied by the Centre stopped reaching them after the February 15 incident. Two members of the Kuki-Zo tribes were killed in the protest.

"... Due to rumours spread by antisocial and irresponsible elements in Churachandpur, a mob of 800 to 1,000 people ransacked and burnt the DC and SP offices on

February 15. Twelve trucks and buses parked in the office complex were vandalised and burnt, two of which were carrying relief material for camps in Churachandpur district," Manipur Joint Secretary (Home) Mayengbam Veto Singh said in the statement. The DC has always ensured that all relief material and food items such as rice, dal, vegetables and other consumables reach the relief camps on time, the state government said in the statement. The protesters at some relief camps held placards that read "Denying food is the worst form of violence."

Seat Pact With 2 Key Allies Sealed, But Congress's Troubles Far From Over

Page3News

• New Delhi / 25 Feb.

The Congress may have managed to secure its alliances with the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), but its troubles are far from over. The main Opposition party is racing against time to reach a seat-sharing understanding in Bengal and Maharashtra. The general election is just a few months away, and the INDIA bloc is yet to begin its campaign against the BJP's formidable election machinery.

In Bengal, the Congress faces an uphill task to get Trinamool Congress back to the table. Trinamool chief and Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had earlier declared that she would go solo after talks with the Congress over seat-sharing fell through. The state Congress unit, helmed by veteran leader Adhir Ranjan

Chowdhury, is learnt to have bargained for about 10 seats, but the Trinamool offered just two.

Following Mr Chowdhury's outburst against the Trinamool chief, in which he called her "opportunist", Ms Banerjee said last month that the Congress had rejected all her proposals. "We have decided to fight the elections in Bengal alone," she said, adding that any decision on an alliance will be taken after the polls. Since then, the Congress leadership has been trying to get Ms Banerjee back on board, with Rahul Gandhi saying that Mr Chowdhury's sharp remarks against the Trinamool chief "won't matter". The two parties have not been able to reach an understanding on seats so far. Mr Chowdhury continues to target the Trinamool and has claimed that there are difference within the party on whether to ally with

India, Maldives, Sri Lanka Hold 'Dosti' Exercises In Indian Ocean



Page3News

• Male / 25 Feb.

Seeking to enhance maritime security and interoperability, coast guard personnel from India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka have embarked on a four-day trilateral exercise to identify emerging maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean Region. Indian Coast Guard ship Samarth and ICGS Abhinav along with Sri Lanka Naval Ship Samudura reached here on Thursday for the exercise 'DOSTI-16' that is being held between February 22 and 25. Bangla-

desh is participating as an observer.

Coast guard helicopter ICGS Dornier too is part of the trilateral exercise 'Dosti', which Sri Lanka said aims to enhance cooperation, strengthen friendship, improve mutual operational capability, and develop interoperability among the Coast Guard personnel of India, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka. The Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) late Thursday evening extended a warm welcome to ADG S Paramesh, Additional Director General of the Indian Coast Guard.

"I've Served People": Trinamool MP Breaks Silence Over Sandeshkhali Row

Page3News

• New Delhi / 25 Feb.

Drawing fire for her absence and silence on the raging Sandeshkhali issue, Lok Sabha MP and actor Nusrat Jahan has said she has "genuinely served the people" in her constituency and followed her party's guidelines. The Trinamool MP from Basirhat said West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is taking all necessary steps to ensure peace on the island that has made headlines after allegations of land grab, extortion and harassment by local Trinamool leaders. The 34-year-old MP made the remarks in a post on X. She also shared a cutout of a newspaper report that quoted Sandeshkhali residents as saying that she had forgotten them. "It is heart-wrenching waking up to such allegations," Ms Jahan wrote. She said there is a need to come

together "to help create peace and not commotion". As a woman, as a public representative, I have always followed my parties guidelines and served the people. With the Sandeshkhali incident raging, Our Hon CM has already send Help.. and necessary steps are being taken for the welfare of the people. We are not above the law.. thus abiding by it and supporting the administration is what one needs to do. I have genuinely served the people in my constituency, in times of joy, in times of trouble.. I act in accordance with the guidelines of my party.. and I believe we must have faith in the state govt and administration, what is wrong shall always be condemned. We must refrain from targeting each other and come together to help create peace and not commotion. People's security and welfare is our top priority. Rest who says what about whom does not matter.

युवाओं के साथ 'पाप' करने वाले न घर के रहेंगे न घाट के : योगी आदित्यनाथ

- - मुख्यमंत्री की उपस्थिति में विभिन्न पदों पर चयनित करीब 18 सौ अभ्यर्थियों को सौंपा गया नियुक्ति पत्र
- - विभिन्न विभागों में पारदर्शी ढंग से पूरी हुई चयन प्रक्रिया, यूपी पाँवर कॉरपोरेशन में सर्वाधिक 852 पदों पर हुई भर्ती

पेज 3 न्यूज़ / पीयूष त्रिपाठी

● लखनऊ / 25 फरवरी

पुलिस भर्ती परीक्षा में कथित प्रश्नपत्र लीक मामले में सीएम योगी ने ऐसे तत्वों को खुली चेतावनी दी है जो युवाओं के भविष्य के साथ खिलवाड़ करने से बाज नहीं आ रहे हैं। सीएम योगी ने दो टूक कहा है कि युवाओं के भविष्य के साथ खिलवाड़ करना राष्ट्रीय पाप है और इसमें लिप्त लोगों को ऐसा सबक सिखाया जाएगा कि वो ना घर के रहेंगे ना घाट के। ऐसे तत्वों के खिलाफ होने वाली कार्रवाई भविष्य के लिए नज़ीर के रूप में याद रखी जाएगी। रविवार को लोकभवन में विभिन्न विभागों में करीब 18 सौ पदों पर निष्पक्ष और पारदर्शी ढंग से चयनित अभ्यर्थियों को नियुक्ति पत्र सौंपने के उपरान्त सीएम योगी आदित्यनाथ कार्यक्रम को संबोधित कर रहे थे।

न घर के रहेंगे न घाट के, कार्रवाई ऐसी होगी कि जो दूसरों के लिए नज़ीर बनें उन्होंने कहा कि हमारा पहले दिन से ही संकल्प है कि नियुक्ति की प्रक्रिया अगर ईमानदारी से आगे नहीं बढ़ पा रही है तो ये युवाओं के साथ खिलवाड़ है और अपनी प्रतिभा को पलायन के लिए मजबूर करता है। अगर युवा के साथ अन्याय होता है तो यह राष्ट्रीय पाप है। पहले दिन से ही हमने तय किया है कि युवाओं के जीवन और भविष्य के साथ जो भी खिलवाड़ करेगा हम जोसो टॉलरेंस की नीति अपनाकर उन तत्वों से उतनी ही सख्ती और कठोरतर तरीके से निपटने का काम करेंगे। हमारे युवाओं के भविष्य के साथ खिलवाड़ करने की कोशिश करने वालों के खिलाफ सरकार पहले भी कार्रवाई करती रही है और एक बार फिर



कड़ी कार्रवाई करने जा रही है। सीएम योगी ने कहा कि हम सभी तकनीक का उपयोग करते हैं, इसी तरह ऐसे तत्व भी तकनीक का उपयोग गलत कार्य के लिए करते। कई बार सोचता हूँ कि वो लोग तकनीक का इस्तेमाल करके अच्छे काम करते तो आगे बढ़ते और खुशहाल होते। मगर अब वे न घर के रहेंगे न घाट के और सरकार की कार्रवाई ऐसी होगी कि जो दूसरों के लिए नज़ीर बनेंगे। निष्पक्ष चयन प्रक्रिया सरकार की शीर्ष प्राथमिकता* मुख्यमंत्री ने अलग अलग विभागों में चयनित युवाओं को प्रदेश की सेवाओं में आने के

लिए शुभकामनाएं दीं। उन्होंने कहा कि पीएम मोदी का विजन ही डबल इंजन सरकार का मिशन भी है। निष्पक्षता और पारदर्शी तरीके से हर नौजवान को उसका अधिकार प्राप्त हो सके, सरकार इसके लिए पूरी प्रतिबद्धता से कार्य कर रही है। उसी का परिणाम है कि पिछले 7 साल में 6 लाख से अधिक युवाओं को अबतक प्रदेश के शासकीय विभागों में नौकरियां प्रदान की गई हैं। नियुक्ति की प्रक्रिया सभी आयोगों और बोर्डों के माध्यम से निरंतर जारी है। एक तरफ सरकारी विभागों में पूरी सुविधा और पारदर्शिता पूर्ण

तरीके से नियुक्ति की प्रक्रिया को संपन्न किया जा रहा है, वहीं नौकरी और रोजगार की नई संभावनाओं के लिए जो प्रयास प्रारंभ किये गये हैं उनके सार्थक परिणाम हों देखने को मिल रहे हैं। 34 लाख युवाओं को रोजगार देना 10 लाख करोड़ का निवेश* सीएम योगी ने यूपी ग्लोबल इन्वेस्टर्स समिट 2023 के दौरान मिले 40 लाख करोड़ के निवेश प्रस्ताव और ग्राउंड ब्रेकिंग सेरेमनी 2024 के दौरान 10 लाख 24 हजार करोड़ के निवेश के शिलान्यास को प्रदेश की बदलती तस्वीर के रूप में

पेश किया। उन्होंने कहा कि इन निवेशों की वजह से प्रदेश के 34 लाख नौजवानों को सीधे सीधे नौकरी और रोजगार के अवसर मिलेंगे। ये 34 लाख युवा पहले नौकरी और रोजगार की तलाश में महाराष्ट्र, दिल्ली, बेंगलूरु, तमिलनाडु जाता, मगर आज उसे कहीं जाने की जरूरत नहीं है, उसे अपने जिले और अपने प्रदेश में नौकरी मिल रही है। इस अवसर पर कैबिनेट मंत्री स्वतंत्र देव सिंह, एके शर्मा, राज्यमंत्री डॉ. दयाशंकर मिश्र 'दयालु', मयंकेश्वर शरण सिंह, दिनेश खटीक, रामकेश निषाद, अपर मुख्य सचिव ऊर्जा महेश कुमार गुप्ता, अपर मुख्य सचिव नियुक्ति एवं कार्मिक देवेश चतुर्वेदी सहित प्रदेश के विरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारीगण एवं नवचयनित युवा मौजूद रहे। इन विभागों में इतने पदों पर चयनित हुए अभ्यर्थी* उत्तर प्रदेश लोक सेवा आयोग, उत्तर प्रदेश अधीनस्थ सेवा चयन आयोग एवं विद्युत सेवा आयोग द्वारा निष्पक्ष एवं पारदर्शी भर्ती प्रक्रिया के अंतर्गत 1782 चयनित अभ्यर्थियों को नियुक्ति पत्र सौंपा गया है। इसमें उत्तर प्रदेश पावर कॉरपोरेशन के विभिन्न पदों पर 852, दंत चिकित्सक (चिकित्सा विभाग) के लिए 141, आयुर्वेद चिकित्सा अधिकारी (आयुष विभाग) के लिए 391, समीक्षा अधिकारी हिंदी/उर्दू (उत्तर प्रदेश सचिवालय) के लिए 14, सहायक अभियोजन अधिकारी (गृह विभाग) के लिए 42, अवर अभियंता (आवास विभाग) के लिए 123, अवर अभियंता (सिंचाई विभाग) के लिए 210 निरीक्षक (राजकीय कार्यालय निरीक्षणालय, प्रयागराज) के लिए 9 पदों पर अभ्यर्थियों का चयन हुआ है।

भारत जोड़ो न्याय यात्रा की राजस्थान में एंट्री:

राहुल गांधी ने जनसभा को किया संबोधित, कहा- भाजपा सरकार में अन्याय बढ़ गए हैं

पेज 3 न्यूज़ / मोहम्मद शाहिद

● जयपुर / 25 फरवरी

राहुल गांधी की भारत जोड़ो न्याय यात्रा रविवार शाम को धौलपुर जिले के बोथपुरा गांव पहुंची। इस दौरान उनके साथ कांग्रेस की राष्ट्रीय महासचिव प्रियंका गांधी वाड़ा भी मौजूद रहीं। वहीं, यात्रा का राज्य के पूर्व सीएम अशोक गहलोत, पूर्व डिप्टी सीएम सचिन पायलट, पीसीसी चीफ गोविंद सिंह डोटासरा और प्रदेश प्रभारी सुखविंदर सिंह रंधावा ने स्वागत किया। इसके बाद आयोजित कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए राहुल गांधी ने केंद्र की मोदी सरकार पर जमकर निशाना साधा। उन्होंने कहा कि देश में आर्थिक, सामाजिक, किसान व महिलाओं के साथ अन्याय हो रहा है। केंद्र पर राहुल का प्रहार :

राहुल गांधी ने कहा असम से शुरू हुई भारत जोड़ो न्याय यात्रा राजस्थान के धौलपुर जिले में पहुंची है। इस यात्रा के तहत न्याय शब्द जोड़ा गया है।



राजस्थान के बाद मध्यप्रदेश, गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र में यात्रा पहुंचेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि देश में अलग-अलग तरीके के अन्याय हो रहे हैं। सामाजिक, आर्थिक और किसानों के साथ अन्याय किया जा रहा है। इसके अलावा महिलाओं के साथ भी अन्याय हो रहा है। आगे उन्होंने केंद्र की मोदी सरकार पर प्रहार करते हुए कहा कि देश में सिर्फ कुछ लोगों को फायदा पहुंचाया जा रहा है। किसान, मजदूर और

युवाओं की अनदेखी की जा रही है। अपने संबोधन के आखिर में उन्होंने जनता का धन्यवाद किया। वहीं, प्रियंका गांधी, पूर्व सीएम अशोक गहलोत, प्रदेश अध्यक्ष गोविंद सिंह डोटासरा और पूर्व डिप्टी सीएम सचिन पायलट ने भी सभा को संबोधित किया। सभा में दो मिनट बोले राहुल : राहुल गांधी ने सिर्फ दो मिनट अपनी बातें रखीं। उसके बाद उन्होंने जनता को धन्यवाद ज्ञापित किया और फिर वहां

से निकल गए। वहीं, कार्यक्रम हुई देरी के कारण ज्यादातर कार्यकर्ता सभा स्थल से लौट गए थे। ऐसे में सभा की अधिकांश कुर्सियां खाली रहीं। दरअसल, राहुल गांधी को 3:30 बजे सभा स्थल पर पहुंचना था, लेकिन लेकिन वो शाम 6 बजे धौलपुर पहुंचे। ऐसे में सभा में शामिल होने के लिए आए अधिकांश पार्टी कार्यकर्ता व समर्थक अपने घरों को लौट गए।

2 मार्च से फिर शुरू होगी यात्रा : धौलपुर के बोथपुरा गांव पहुंची राहुल गांधी की भारत जोड़ो न्याय यात्रा को फिलहाल विराम दिया गया है। वहीं, धौलपुर से राहुल और प्रियंका गांधी वापस दिल्ली के लिए रवाना हो गए। साथ ही बताया गया कि 2 मार्च को धौलपुर से ही भारत जोड़ो न्याय यात्रा की शुरुआत होगी। शहर के राजाखेड़ा बाइपास से सागरपाड़ा चेक पोस्ट तक गरीब ढाई किलोमीटर तक पैदल यात्रा निकाली जाएगी और यहां से यात्रा मध्यप्रदेश के मुरैना जिले में प्रवेश कर जाएगी।

वेदान्त इंटरनेशनल स्कूल में हुआ रोबोट्स 3.0 का आयोजन

पेज 3 न्यूज़ / अखतर खान

● भीलवाड़ा / 25 फरवरी

आज द वेदान्त इंटरनेशनल स्कूल भीलवाड़ा ओर लिलिल इंजीनियर रोबोटिक्स अकैडमी के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में विज्ञान व रोबोटिक्स प्रदर्शनी "रोबोट्स 3.0" का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यक्रम के मुख्य अतिथि माननीय नगर परिषद सभापति श्रीमान राकेश जी पाठक ने दीप प्रज्वलित कर बच्चों द्वारा बनाये विभिन्न विज्ञान और रोबोटिक्स पर आधारित प्रस्तुतियों का अवलोकन कर बच्चों का उत्साहवर्धन किया। कार्यक्रम के गणमान्य अतिथियों में माणिक्य लाल वर्मा टेक्सटाइल महाविद्यालय के प्रिंसिपल श्री मान डॉ. बी. एन. व्यास, पार्षदा श्री मति मंजू पोखराना, माहेश्वरी महिला मंडल अध्यक्ष श्रीमती राखी जी राठी, रक्षमण जी टिकयानी, सुनील जी वासवानी ने विद्यार्थियों द्वारा बनाये



मॉडल्स का निरीक्षण किया तथा बच्चों के कार्य की प्रशंसा की। रोबोट्स 3.0 में बच्चों ने मैग्नेटिक ट्रेन, वन्दे ग्राफ जेनरेटर, सोलर हीटर, एप्पल से इलेक्ट्रिसिटी जेनरेशन, ब्लड ग्रुप टेस्ट, गुड और बेड कंडक्टर, एक्शन रिएक्शन कैनन, ट्रैफिक लाइट, चंद्रयान 3, वाटर प्यूरीफायर, स्मार्ट डस्ट बिन, आटोमेटिक फायर एक्सटिंगुइशर, स्मार्ट रूफ, आटोमेटिक पौषण पूर्णतः नहीं हो पता है, जिसको लेकर रसोइयों ने मानदेय में बढ़ाव की मांग की।

बिहार में मध्यान भोजन योजना के निदेशक का पुतला दहन

पेज 3 न्यूज़ / शाहीन सबा

● चंपारण / 25 फरवरी

बिहार राज्य विद्यालय रसोईया संघ एटक पश्चिमी चंपारण की ओर से मध्यान भोजन योजना के निदेशक मिथिलेश मिश्रा का पुतला दहन किया गया। 20 - 21 फरवरी को पटना के गर्दनीबाग मैदान में दो दिवसीय धरना प्रदर्शन किया गया। जहां प्रदर्शनकारी में भागीदारी निभाते हुए बेतिया के रसोइयों पर मध्यान भोजन निदेशक के द्वारा एक पत्र जारी किया गया। जिसमें बताया गया कि हर रसोइयों के मानदेय से प्रत्येक दिन का 100 रुपया काटने का निर्देश जारी किया गया, जो बिल्कुल गलत है जो रसोइया प्रतिदिन 53 रुपए पर काम करती है जिससे उसके परिवार का भरण पोषण पूर्णतः नहीं हो पता है, जिसको लेकर रसोइयों ने मानदेय में बढ़ाव की मांग की।

आवाज बुलंद कर रही हैं रसोइयाओं पर ऐसे हमले करना कहीं से भी वाजिब नहीं है। रसोइयों की मांग है 1650 रुपए में दम नहीं 18 हजार से कम नहीं। साथ ही उन्होंने राज्य कमी का दर्जा होने का भी मांग किया है इन सभी मांगों को लेकर बिहार राज्य मध्यान भोजन योजना के निदेशक का पुतला दहन किया गया। मौके पर बिहार राज्य विद्यालय संघ रसोइया एटक के प्रदेश अध्यक्ष ओमप्रकाश क्रांति, बिहार राज्य विद्यालय संघ के पश्चिमी चंपारण जिला सचिव बीना देवी, बिहार राज्य विद्यालय संघ के पश्चिमी चंपारण जिलाध्यक्ष लाल बाबू राम, रिकू देवी, शारदा देवी, गोदावरी देवी, मुन्नी देवी, गिरिजा देवी, शीला देवी, शांति देवी, गीत देवी, गायत्री देवी, विक्रम भगत, भुटकुन चौधरी, मोतीलाल पटेल, होरिल पासवान, प्रभु यादव आदि कई रसोइया कर्मी सहित कार्यकर्ता शामिल हुए।

पत्रकार और पत्रकारिता का स्वरूप दिन प्रति दिन बदलता जा रहा है - भारतीय ऑल मीडिया पत्रकार संघ

पेज 3 न्यूज़ / संवाददाता

● बेतिया / 25 फरवरी

बिहार राज्य स्थित पश्चिम चंपारण जिला मुख्यालय बेतिया स्थित सूचना भवन के फर्स्ट फ्लोर सभागार में पत्रकारों के दर्जनों समस्या को लेकर भारतीय ऑल मीडिया पत्रकार संघ के द्वारा शनिवार को पत्रकार और पत्रकारिता समस्या पर कान्फ्रेंस का भव्य आयोजन किया गया।

इस समारोह का उद्घाटन मुख्य अतिथि भारतीय ऑल मीडिया पत्रकार संघ के राष्ट्रीय महासचिव सह बेतिया प्रेस क्लब के अध्यक्ष डॉ अमानुल हक ने दीप प्रज्वलित कर किया। इस अवसर पर अपने संबोधन में वरिष्ठ पत्रकार अमानुल हक ने आह्वान किया कि पत्रकार व समाचार पत्र दोनों मिलकर भावी

पीढ़ी का चारित्रिक विकास करें, तभी अच्छा समाज बनेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारा रिस्क टा ह्य उदार चरित्र तानाम, वस्तु धैव कुटुम्बकमह की है और इन्हीं विचारों के अनुरूप हमें अपने पत्रकारिता और समाज को विकास करना चाहिए। आज के समय में पत्रकार और पत्रकारिता का स्वरूप दिन प्रति दिन बदलता जा रहा है इसमें पत्रकार साथी को खरा उतरना होगा तभी हमारा फोर पिलर बचेगा। एस के शुक्ला, अजीत कुमार, श्री गणेश सहित दर्जनों पत्रकारों व संघ के पदाधिकारियों ने अपने संबोधन में कहा कि क्वालिटी पत्रकारिता से ही समाज में रचनात्मक परिवर्तन आयेगा। समाज में सार्थक और रचनात्मक विकासोन्मुख परिवर्तन हेतु पत्रकार को सामाजिक विकास से जोड़ना ही होगा।

कानपुर में अदाणी का हथियार प्लांट तैयार, बनेंगे ड्रोन, मिसाइलें और तोप, सीएम योगी करेंगे उद्घाटन

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करीब आठ साल पहले तक आयातक के तौर पर पहचाना जाने वाला भारत आज डॉनरिन्ग-228, 155 एमएम एडवॉन्स टोप आर्टिलरी गन्स (एटीएजी), ब्रह्मोस मिसाइल, आकाश मिसाइल सिस्टम्स, रडार, सिमुलेटर, माइन प्रोटेक्टेड व्हीकल्स, आर्मर्ड व्हीकल्स, पिनाका रॉकेट और लॉन्चर, एम्युनिशन, थर्मल इमेजर, बॉडी आर्मर, सिस्टम, लाइन रिप्लेसिबल यूनिट्स और एवियोनिक्स और स्मॉल आर्म्स जैसे बड़े प्लेटफॉर्म का निर्यात करता है। दुनिया में एलसीए तेजस, लाइट कॉम्बैट हेलीकॉप्टर, एयरक्राफ्ट कैरियर की मांग बढ़ रही है।



कानपुर डिफेंस कॉरिडोर में अदाणी समूह की डिफेंस इकाई तैयार हो गई है। 200 हेक्टेयर में बनी इस इकाई में तोप से लेकर ड्रोन, हथियार और गोला बारूद बनेंगे। यहां शॉर्ट रेंज मिसाइलें भी बनाई जाएंगी। 26 फरवरी को मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ इस प्लांट का उद्घाटन करेंगे। ये एशिया की सबसे बड़ी गोला-बारूद निर्माण इकाई है। इस अवसर पर अदाणी ग्रुप के एमडी और गौतम अदाणी के बेटे करण अदाणी भी मौजूद रहेंगे। रक्षा क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भरता के लिए कानपुर साइड स्थित डिफेंस कॉरिडोर में अदाणी डिफेंस एंड एयरोस्पेस की पहली

यूनिट तैयार हो गई है। करीब 1500 करोड़ से तैयार इस स्मॉल कैलिबर एम्युनिशन मैनुफैक्चरिंग प्लांट में मार्च से तोप-गोले और हैंड ग्रेनेड का उत्पादन शुरू हो जाएगा। प्लांट की पहली यूनिट में सबसे पहले राइफल लाइट मशीन गन (एलएमजी) एके-47 और कारबाइन की गोलियां बनेंगी। अगले चरण में आर्टिलरी गन गोला-बारूद तोपें और हैंड ग्रेनेड समेत सेना के लिए अलग-अलग तरह के अस्त्र-शस्त्र व सुविधाओं संबंधित उत्पाद बनेंगे। मार्च तक उत्पादन

शुरू करने का खाका खींचा गया है। भविष्य में यहां टोप तोप की सीरीज बनाने की भी तैयारी है। टोप तोपों का प्रयोग वियतनाम से लेकर रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध तक में हो चुका है। पहली यूनिट का परीक्षण पूरा कर लिया गया है। मेक इन इंडिया के तहत बुलेट प्रूफ जैकेट, ड्रोन, लाइट वीमान, हेलीकॉप्टर व मिसाइल तक यहां बनेगी। डिफेंस कॉरिडोर में गोलियां बनने के साथ भंडारगृह भी बनाया गया है। अभी आसपास और जमीन देखी जा रही है, जिससे रक्षा क्षेत्र से जुड़ी औद्योगिक इकाइयां स्थापित की जा सकें। समूह उन्हें भी काम देगा। झांसी और चित्रकूट स्थित डिफेंस कॉरिडोर नोड से भी सीधे जुड़ाव का फायदा मिलेगा।

भारत आत्मनिर्भरता की ओर तेजी से बढ़ रहा है। वित्त वर्ष 2022-23 में देश ने रक्षा निर्यात में अहम उपलब्धि हासिल की है। वित्त वर्ष 2022-23 में रक्षा निर्यात 16 हजार करोड़ के अब तक के उच्चतम स्तर पर पहुंचा, जो 2016-17 की तुलना में 10 गुना से ज्यादा है। भारत आज 85 से ज्यादा देशों को निर्यात कर रहा है। रक्षा निर्यात को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार ने पिछले 5-6 वर्षों के दौरान कई नीतिगत पहल और सुधार किए हैं। कई देशों से निर्यात के अनुरोध को वास्तविक समय के आधार पर ऑनलाइन पोर्टल से पंजीकृत भारतीय रक्षा निर्यातकों तक पहुंचाया जाता है, ताकि वे निर्यात अवसरों पर प्रतिक्रिया देने में सक्षम हो सकें।

सीएम के एंटी डेमो वाहन से टकराई कई गाड़ियां, दो की मौत, कई जरख्मी

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अर्जुनगंज बाजार में शनिवार शाम को सीएम के काफिले के आगे रूट को क्लियर करते चल रहे एंटी डेमो वाहन का एक पहिया कुत्ते पर चढ़ गया। जिससे वाहन अनियंत्रित होकर दाहिने तरफ जाकर एक के बाद एक दो कारों से टकराया। हादसे में 6 पुलिसकर्मियों समेत 14 लोग घायल हो गए। रविवार की सुबह इन घायलों में से दो की मौत हो गई। 14 साल की प्रिया और 35 वर्ष की नीलम ने इलाज के दौरान तोड़ दिया है। सिपाही विजय कुशवाहा की हालत बेहद गंभीर है। घायलों में महिलाएं और बच्चे भी शामिल हैं। सीएम योगी घायलों से मिलने अस्पताल पहुंचे, जहां उन्होंने प्रभावित परिवारों से भी मुलाकात की। घायलों को अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया गया था। प्रमुख सचिव गृह संजय प्रसाद, डीजीपी प्रशांत कुमार, पुलिस कमिश्नर एसबी शिरोडकर व ज्वाइंट पुलिस



कमिश्नर उपेंद्र अग्रवाल व अन्य अधिकारी तत्काल अस्पताल पहुंच घायलों की हालत के बारे में जानकारी ली। शाम करीब पौने आठ बजे सीएम का काफिला एयरपोर्ट से पांच कालिदास मार्ग आ रहा था। रूट को क्लियर कराने के लिए काफिले से करीब दो किमी आगे चल रही इंटरसेप्टर गाड़ी ने सड़क पर कुत्ता आने की जानकारी वायरलेस पर दी। सूचना मिलते ही इसके पीछे चल रहा एंटी डेमो वाहन (टाटा सुमो) का चालक सतर्क हुआ लेकिन फिर भी निकलते-निकलते उसका एक पहिया कुत्ते पर चढ़ गया। पहिया चढ़ते ही वाहन अनियंत्रित होकर तेजी से सड़क की दूसरी तरफ जाकर दो कारों से टकरा गया। एक कार में बैठा पूरा परिवार घायल हो गया। जबकि पास में खड़ी मां-बेटी, कैंट थाने का एक सिपाही व अन्य तीन लोग भी उसकी चपेट में आ गए। इलाकाई लोगों की मदद से सभी घायलों को अन्य पुलिस वालों ने तत्काल सिविल अस्पताल पहुंचाया। कुछ को ट्रामा तो कुछ को लोहिया अस्पताल रेफर किया गया। सभी का इलाज जारी है।

राहुल गांधी से पहले सिंधिया के गढ़ में शाह, बैठक कर बनाएंगे जीत की राणनीति, खजुराहो सीट खास क्यूँ

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लोकसभा चुनाव 2024 में ज्यादा से ज्यादा सीटें जीतने के लिए राजनीतिक पार्टियां रणनीति बनाने और मतदाताओं को लुभाने में लगी हुई हैं। राहुल गांधी की भारत जोड़ो न्याय यात्रा और भाजपा के बड़े नेताओं के दौरे के कारण मप्र का सिवासी पारा चढ़ा हुआ है। न्याय यात्रा लेकर चल रहे राहुल गांधी दो मार्च को ग्वालियर चंबल अंचल में प्रवेश करेंगे। लेकिन, राहुल गांधी को घेरने की रणनीति बनाने के लिए आज गृहमंत्री अमित शाह मध्य प्रदेश के दौरे पर हैं। सबसे पहले जानिए अमित शाह का कार्यक्रम केंद्रीय गृहमंत्री अमित शाह दोपहर 12.05 बजे ग्वालियर एयरपोर्ट पहुंचें और एक निजी होटल जाएंगे। 12.20 पर ग्वालियर व चंबल क्लस्टर की प्रबंध समिति की बैठक को संबोधित करेंगे। 1.35 पर ग्वालियर से रवाना होकर 2.25 पर छतरपुर जिले के खजुराहो



पहुंचेंगे। यहां 2.40 पर खजुराहो के मेला ग्राउंड में लोकसभा बृथ समिति सम्मेलन को संबोधित करेंगे। 3.55 पर खजुराहो से चलकर शाम 5 बजे भोपाल एयरपोर्ट पहुंचेंगे। 5.15 बजे अमित शाह कुशाभाऊ ठाकरे सभागार में आयोजित वृहद् प्रबुद्धजन सम्मेलन को संबोधित करेंगे और स्व. कुशाभाऊ ठाकरे की प्रतिमा का अनावरण करेंगे। इसके बाद 6.20 बजे भोपाल एयरपोर्ट से दमन के लिए रवाना होंगे। मप्र दौरे पर आ रहे अमित शाह ग्वालियर क्लस्टर की चारों लोकसभा

ACB और EOW की 12 से ज्यादा ठिकानों पर छापा, छह हजार करोड़ शराब घोटाला मामले में कार्रवाई

पेज 3 न्यूज़ / आनन्द पाठक
रायपुर / 25 फरवरी

एंटी करप्शन ब्यूरो और ईओडब्ल्यू ने छत्तीसगढ़ के बहुचर्चित शराब घोटाला मामले में 12 से ज्यादा ठिकानों पर छापेमारी की है। रायपुर, बिलासपुर, दुर्ग समेत कई जिलों में एसीबी और ईओडब्ल्यू ने सुबह तड़के छह हजार करोड़ के शराब घोटाले मामले में शामिल लोगों के यहां दबिश दी है।



एजेंसी अपना काम कर रही है। जांच में जो भी दोषी होंगे, उन पर कार्रवाई होगी। सबूतों के आधार पर कार्रवाई। वहाँ डिप्टी सीएम अरुण साव ने कहा कि ईडी हो या ईओडब्ल्यू, जांच एजेंसिया सबूतों के आधार पर ही कार्रवाई करती हैं। जहाँ-जहाँ सबूत मिलेगा, वो वहाँ-वहाँ कार्रवाई करेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि लोकसभा चुनाव को लेकर समीक्षा की गई है। इस चुनाव में पार्टी योग्य और जितने वाले उम्मीदवारों को ही मौका देगी। पार्टी सभी चुनाव को गंभीरता से लेती है। लोकसभा चुनाव को लेकर पार्टी

ईओडब्ल्यू के दर्ज एफआईआर में अनिल टुटेजा, अरुणपति त्रिपाठी और अनवर डेबर को शराब घोटाला का मास्टरमाइंड बताया गया है

एफआईआर में शामिल बाकी आईएस और अन्य सरकारी अधिकारी और लोग सहयोग किये थे। शराब घोटाला से होने वाली आमदनी का एक बड़ा हिस्सा इन्हीं तीनों को जाता था। टुटेजा आईएस ऑफिसर हैं, जब घोटाला हुआ तब वे वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग विभाग के संयुक्त सचिव थे। दूरसंचार सेवा से प्रतिनियुक्ति पर आए त्रिपाठी आबकारी विभाग के विशेष सचिव और छत्तीसगढ़ मार्केटिंग कॉर्पोरेशन के एमडी थे। वहीं अनवर डेबर रायपुर के मेयर एजाज डेबर के बड़े भाई और शराब कारोबारी हैं। पूर्व मुख्य सचिव विवेक ढांड के आवास पर कार्रवाई जारी 100 लोगों के खिलाफ नामजद एफआईआर



पेज 3 न्यूज़ / संवाददाता
अहमदाबाद / 25 फरवरी

प्रधानमंत्री ने गुजरात में ओखा मुख्य भूमि और बेट द्वारका द्वीप को जोड़ने वाले सुदर्शन सेतु का उद्घाटन किया। प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने आज ओखा मुख्य भूमि और बेट द्वारका द्वीप को जोड़ने वाले सुदर्शन सेतु का उद्घाटन किया, जिसे लगभग 980 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से बनाया गया है। लगभग 2.32 किलोमीटर लंबा यह सेतु का देश का सबसे लंबा केबल-आधारित सेतु है। सुदर्शन सेतु एक अनूठे डिजाइन वाला सेतु है, जिसमें दोनों ओर श्रीमद्भगवद् गीता के श्लोकों और भगवान कृष्ण के चित्रों से सजा

हुआ एक फुटपाथ है। इस सेतु के फुटपाथ के ऊपरी हिस्से पर सौर पैनल भी लगाए गए हैं, जिससे एक मेगावाट बिजली पैदा होती है। यह सेतु परिवहन को आसान बनाएगा और द्वारका एवं बेट-द्वारका के बीच यात्रा करने वाले श्रद्धालुओं की यात्रा में लगने वाले के समय में काफी कमी लाएगा। इस सेतु के निर्माण से पहले, तीर्थयात्रियों को बेट द्वारका तक पहुंचने के लिए नौका परिवहन पर निर्भर रहना पड़ता था। यह प्रतिष्ठित सेतु देवभूमि द्वारका आने वाले पर्यटकों के लिए एक प्रमुख आकर्षण भी होगा। इस अवसर पर, प्रधानमंत्री के साथ गुजरात के मुख्यमंत्री श्री भूपेन्द्र पटेल और सांसद श्री सी आर पाटिल भी उपस्थित थे।

Russia Says Its Forces Take Better Positions Near Avdiivka and Donetsk

Page3News

• Moscow / 25 Feb.

Russia said on Sunday that its forces had taken more advantageous positions near Avdiivka and Donetsk after President Vladimir Putin ordered the military to push further into Ukraine after two years of full-scale war.

Russia's defence ministry said its troops had pushed back Ukrainian forces near Klishchiivka, Dyleyevka and Kurdiuivka in the Donetsk region and taken better positions near Avdiivka which fell to Russia earlier this month. "In the Donetsk direction, units of the Southern grouping of troops improved the situation along the front line and defeated formations of the 22nd, 28th and 92nd mechanised brigades of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the areas of the settlements of Klishchiivka, Dyleyevka and Kurdiuivka," it said.



"In the Avdiivka direction, units of the Centre group of forces occupied more advantageous lines and positions, and also defeated manpower and equipment of the 3rd Assault Brigade of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the 107th Air

Defence Brigade." The ministry said Russian troops had repelled seven Ukrainian counter-attacks in the area. A total of 77 Ukrainian drones were destroyed, the ministry said. Reuters was unable to immedi-

ately verify battlefield accounts from either side in the war. Putin said on Tuesday Russian troops would push further into Ukraine to build on their success on the battlefield after the fall of the town of Avdiivka where he said Ukrainian troops had been

forced to flee in chaos. Putin sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine in February 2022, triggering full-scale war after eight years of conflict in eastern Ukraine between Ukrainian forces on one side and pro-Russian Ukrainians and Russian proxies on the other. Along the 1,000 km (600-mile) front line, Russian troops are dug in behind deep mine fields patrolled by drones and guarded by heavy artillery. Russia currently controls a little under one fifth of territory internationally recognised to be Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy says he will not rest until every last Russian soldier is ejected. Russia says the territory its forces control is part of Russia and that it will never be given up. The West has committed about 250 billion euros (\$271 billion) worth of aid to Ukraine in an attempt to defeat Russian forces.

Israel, Hamas Skirmish Throughout Gaza as Talk of Truce Resurfaces

Page3News

• Jerusalem / 25 Feb.

Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen clashed throughout the Gaza Strip over the weekend, both sides said on Sunday, as mediating countries sought common ground for a possible ceasefire that would release hostages held by Hamas.

Prospects for securing any truce looked uncertain, however, with Israel saying it was, in parallel, planning to expand its sweep to destroy Hamas, while the Islamist faction stood firm on its demand for a permanent end to the nearly five-month-old war. Residents said Israeli forces shelled several areas of the enclave as tanks rolled into Beit Lahiya and soldiers and gunmen waged running battles in the Zeitoun sec-

tor of Gaza City - both in the north, which had been conquered early in the offensive.

At least 86 Palestinians were killed in Israeli strikes since Saturday, medics said. Israel's military said two soldiers died in fighting in southern Gaza and that its forces had killed or captured several Palestinian gunmen in Zeitoun and elsewhere. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convened his war cabinet for a briefing late on Saturday by intelligence chiefs who returned from a meeting with Qatari, Egyptian and U.S. mediators in Paris about a possible second Gaza ceasefire.

TRUCE TALKS

The first pause in fighting, in November, saw the release of around half of the 253 people Hamas seized during an Oct. 7

cross-border killing spree that sparked the war. In that deal, Israel freed three times the number of Palestinians from its security prisons and admitted more humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Israeli media, citing unnamed officials, carried reports of a framework for the return of around a third of the 130 hostages still in Gaza over a six-week truce covering the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. There was no formal confirmation from either side.

Palestinian officials said Hamas was insisting on Israel calling off the offensive and withdrawing forces under any deal. Israel signalled intent to move into one of the last towns where Hamas, which is sworn to its destruction, has intact forces.

Israeli Media Report Progress on Reaching a Temporary Truce in Gaza and a Hostage-Prisoner Exchange

Page3News

• Tel Aviv / 25 Feb.

Mediators are making progress on an agreement for a weeklong cease-fire between Israel and Hamas and the release of dozens of hostages held in Gaza as well as Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, Israeli media reported Sunday. Israel's War Cabinet met to discuss the proposal late Saturday, but there was no official word on what they had decided. Several Israeli media outlets, citing unnamed officials, said it tacitly approved the deal and that Israel would send a delegation to Qatar for further discussions. Hamas says it has not yet been involved in the latest proposal developed by the United States,

Egypt and Qatar, but the reported outline largely matches its earlier demands for the first phase of a truce. Hamas' top political leader, Ismail Haniyeh, was in Cairo last week. Israel is meanwhile developing plans for expanding its offensive to the southernmost city of Rafah, on the Gaza-Egypt border, where more than half the territory's population of 2.3 million have sought refuge in squalid tent camps, packed apartments and overflowing shelters. Aid groups have warned of a catastrophe and the U.S. and other allies of Israel have said it must avoid harming civilians. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he'll convene the Cabinet this week to "approve the operational plans for action in Rafah,"

including the evacuation of civilians. Heavy fighting is still underway in parts of northern Gaza, the first target of the offensive, where the extent of the destruction is staggering. Residents have reported days of heavy fighting in the Zaytoun neighborhood of Gaza City, which continued into Sunday morning. "We're trapped, unable to move because of the heavy bombardment," said Ayman Abu Awad, a resident of the area. He said starving residents have been forced to eat animal fodder and to search for food in demolished buildings. Northern Gaza has been largely cut off from aid deliveries since the start of the war, and the U.N.'s World Food Program suspended deliveries last week.

Ukraine Tripled Weapons Production Last Year, Minister Says

Page3News

• Kyiv / 25 Feb.

Ukraine tripled its weapons production last year and 500 companies are now working in the country's defence sector, Kyiv's strategic industries minister said on Sunday. Kyiv is searching for ways to strengthen its defences against Moscow's two-year-old invasion, including by boosting domestic arms production and innovation. Oleksandr Kamyshin said during a televised conference in Kyiv that 100 state and 400 private companies were involved the effort, and that Ukraine this year plans "to considerably increase ammunition production." In a separate address, Ukraine's digital



minister, Mykhailo Fedorov, said 90% of the drones used on the battlefield against Russian forces were produced in Ukraine. Ukraine's interior minister, Ihor Klymenko, said during the conference that not a single weapon had crossed the border from Ukraine into the European Union during two years of Russia's full-scale invasion.

Belarusians Vote in Tightly Controlled Election Amid Opposition Calls for Its Boycott

Page3News

• Tallinn / 25 Feb.

Polls opened Sunday in Belarus' tightly controlled parliamentary and local elections that are set to cement the steely rule of the country's authoritarian leader, despite calls for a boycott from the opposition, which dismissed the balloting as a "senseless farce."

President Alexander Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus with an iron hand for nearly three decades and on Sunday announced that he will run for the presidency again next year, accuses the West of trying to use the vote to undermine his government and "destabilize" the nation of 9.5 million people.

Most candidates belong to the four officially registered parties: Belaya Rus, the Communist Party, the Liberal Democratic Party and the Party of Labor and Justice. Those parties all support Lukashenko's policies. About a dozen other parties were denied registration last year.

Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who is in exile in neighboring Lithuania after challenging Lukashenko in the 2020 presidential election, urged voters to boycott the elections.

"There are no people on the ballot who would offer real changes because the regime only has allowed puppets convenient for it to take part,"

Tsikhanouskaya said in a video statement. "We are calling to boycott this senseless farce, to ignore this election without choice."

Sunday's balloting is the first election in Belarus since the contentious 2020 vote that handed Lukashenko his sixth term in office and triggered an unprecedented wave of mass demonstrations. Protests swept the country for months, bringing hundreds of thousands into the streets. More than 35,000 people were arrested. Thousands were beaten in police custody, and hundreds of independent media outlets and nongovernmental organizations were shut down and outlawed.

Lukashenko has relied on subsidies and political support from his main ally, Russia, to survive the protests. He allowed Moscow to use Belarusian territory to send troops into Ukraine in February 2022.

The election takes place amid a relentless crackdown on dissent. Over 1,400 political prisoners remain behind bars, including leaders of opposition parties and renowned human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2022. The opposition says the early balloting that began Tuesday offers fertile ground for the vote to be manipulated, with ballot boxes unprotected for five days.

Young Indian Protesters Determined to Secure Agrarian Reforms From Modi Govt

Page3News
• Shambhu / 25 Feb.

Farmers in India's northern Punjab state demanding higher prices for their crops from the national government are relying on young students to ensure the agitation's momentum does not fizzle out.

Eighteen-year-old Simranjeet Singh Mathada is one of thousands of college students who have been waking up at 3 am for almost two weeks to help cook meals at community kitchens, fill tankers with potable water and load tractor trailers with supplies before heading to the protest site some 200 km (125 miles) from the capital, New Delhi.

"The protests are now about safeguarding the country's agrarian economy and farmers of Punjab are determined to bring this reform at all costs," said Mathada.

Protester demands are centred around guaranteed floor prices which will allow Mathada's parents and millions of other farmers to sell their produce at fixed



rates. Even as negotiations between farmer unions and government have been underway, protests have sometimes turned violent. On several occasions, scores of farmers have suffered injuries trying to force their way through concrete blocks and barbed

wires installed by police to prevent them from marching on the capital. Some police officials were also injured in these sporadic clashes. "Our determination to bring about the change helps face the police every day," said Mathada,

who is studying for a degree in Arts. Mathada and his father have been using swimming goggles and a metal shield to protect themselves from thick clouds of smoke and tear gas shells lobbed via drones by the police. "It has been a shocking experi-

ence to see how the police can use force to stop farmers from marching towards Delhi...it has shown me how democracy can fade so quickly," said Mathada. Before the protests, Mathada helped his family cultivate crops on their ancestral land and manage a hardware shop.

"For now, the main occupation is to make sure Modi government accepts our demands," he said, adding that attending college lectures has become secondary for him and some of his classmates.

The protests come just months before elections in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party is seeking a third consecutive term.

Last week, Modi said his government is committed to the welfare of farmers and is on a mission to make them entrepreneurs and exporters.

Mathada will be eligible to vote for the first time but is having doubts.

"I think about democracy and feel a bit disillusioned; I may not even cast my vote this time."

Australia PM Pledges 'Whatever Support' Needed as Wild Fires Destroy Homes

Page3News
• Sydney / 25 Feb.

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese pledged on Sunday to provide whatever support was needed to assist Victoria state in a days-long wildfire emergency that has razed homes after authorities warned extreme heat could fan the blazes this week. "We will provide whatever support is requested from Victoria," Albanese told reporters in the city of Frankston, Victoria, according to a transcript. "It's a reminder of the need for us to be vigilant for us to continue to work and act on the threat that is climate change." The emergency has killed livestock, destroyed six homes and forced more than 2,000 people to



leave western towns and head to the city of Ballarat, 95 km (60 miles) west of the state capital, Melbourne. Australia is in the grips of an El Nino weather pattern, which is typically associated with extreme phenomena such as wildfires, cyclones and droughts. More than 15 bushfires were burning in Victoria

on Sunday, with the most serious blaze, ranked at the second highest danger rating, near several remote towns, according to the state's emergency authority.

State authorities have said there are concerns about the weather this week particularly Wednesday into Thursday when extreme heat is forecast that could further fan the fires.

Around 1,000 firefighters supported by more than 50 aircraft have battled the fires since they started. The last two bushfire seasons in Australia have been subdued compared with the 2019-2020 "Black Summer", when bushfires destroyed an area the size of Turkey, killing 33 people and an estimated 3 billion animals.

UK PM Sunak Says West Should Be Bolder About Seizing Russian Assets

Page3News
• London / 25 Feb.

Western nations should be bolder about confiscating Russian assets which they froze after the country's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said. Sunak, in an article in an early edition of the Sunday Times to mark two years since the start of the conflict, said Ukraine continued to need more long-range weapons, drones and munitions, as well as other assistance. "We must be bolder in hitting the Russian war economy ... And we must be bolder in seizing the hundreds of billions of frozen Russian assets," he said. Last month British Investment Minister Dominic Johnson met U.S. Deputy



Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo to discuss the seizure of frozen Russian assets, but stressed this needed to be done in accordance with international law. The European Union, U.S., Japan and Canada froze some \$300 billion of Russian central bank assets in 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine. Group of Seven countries have been studying a possible seizure of the assets as a

way to have Russia pay for the damage its invasion caused in Ukraine. Sunak also urged the U.S. to continue to provide financial and military support for Ukraine. "We should never underestimate what America has done for Ukraine and for Euro-Atlantic security. I urge them to continue that support, and I am confident they will," he wrote in the article.

Israel Signals Progress in Gaza Truce Talks, Palestinians See Little Movement

Page3News
• Jerusalem / 25 Feb.

Israeli leaders planned to convene on Saturday to hear of possible progress in mediated negotiations on a new Gaza truce to recover hostages held by Hamas, but Palestinians saw little change in polarised positions almost five months into the war.

Israeli delegates met on Friday in Paris with Qatari, Egyptian and U.S. mediators who helped put together the lone ceasefire so far, in November, under which scores of Hamas' captives went free in return for a Palestinian prisoner release.

Israeli National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi said the delegates, who



flew back early on Saturday, would brief the war cabinet in an evening meeting after the Jewish Sabbath ends. Scheduling the briefing "shows that they feel they did not come back empty-handed," he told Israel's Channel 12 TV. "From the tone of what I have been hearing in recent hours, it will be possible to make progress."

Hanegbi did not give further details, but appeared to nod when asked if progress could be made in time for the Muslim fast month of Ramadan, which begins on or around March 10. In past wars, Ramadan was seen as propitious for ceasefire efforts.

There was no immediate comment from Qatari, Egyptian or U.S. officials.

The hostage crisis has riveted Israelis reeling from the surprise Oct. 7 cross-border Hamas rampage in which 1,200 people were killed and 253 taken hostage, according to Israel's tally.

On Saturday, thousands of people held a Tel Aviv vigil for the hostages, a short distance from an anti-government protest where police reported five arrests for disorderly conduct.

Hamas has previously conditioned freeing the 130 hostages it still holds on Israel freeing thousands of jailed Palestinian militants and calling off the Gaza offensive, which medical officials in the enclave say has killed around 30,000 people.

Ukraine's Top General, Defence Minister Visit Posts Near Front Line

Page3News
• Kyiv / 25 Feb.

Ukrainian army chief Oleksandr Syrskyi and Defence Minister Rustem Umerov visited command posts near the front line to analyse the battlefield and boost defences, the top general said on Sunday. Kyiv's military is struggling to stave off Russian forces along the sprawling front line as Moscow's full-scale invasion passes its two-year mark. "We analyzed the current situation in detail and discussed the necessary further steps, primarily the protection of

troops from drones and strikes by aerial bombs as well as the strengthening of certain areas of the front," Syrskyi posted on Telegram along with images of himself and Umerov meeting commanders.

Syrskyi, who did not say when the visit took place, added that "the situation is complex and requires constant monitoring". Russian forces last week captured the strategic eastern Ukrainian city of Avdiivka after a months-long assault and are pressing on several other areas along the front line, Ukrainian authorities say.

Germany Still Discussing Supplying Long-Range Weapons to Ukraine, Foreign Minister Says

Page3News

• Kyiv / 25 Feb.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, in Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odesa on Saturday, said Germany was still discussing whether to supply long-range weapons to Ukraine.

"Of course, everything (in regards to military support) we are delivering is too little," she said at a press conference after paying an unannounced visit to the country.

"We're racking our brains, especially through the past year, about the issue of how to deliver more, including long-range weapons systems," she said at the event, held jointly with her Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba on the second anniversary of Russia's military invasion of Ukraine.



Ukrainian leaders have been pushing their Western counterparts to deliver new weapons systems, above all longer-range

missiles to strike further behind Russian lines, such as U.S. ATACMS and Germany's Taurus cruise missiles.

German lawmakers approved further military support for Ukraine on Thursday, including long-range weapon systems,

but rejected a call by the opposition to deliver Taurus to Kyiv.

German officials have cited concerns that the missiles could escalate the war inside Russian territory and could be seen as more direct German involvement in the conflict.

Western leaders rallied round Kyiv on Saturday, looking to dispel concerns the West is losing interest in the conflict.

"It is totally understandable that people in Ukraine say we need more of everything," Baerbock said.

Kuleba said he would not go into detail about weapons and additional air defences that he said had been discussed, but added there were concrete offers available and Germany would work through them bilaterally with Ukraine or in larger settings.

Belarus' Lukashenko Says He'll Run for President in 2025

Page3News

• Moscow / 25 Feb.

Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko said he would run for president again in 2025, Belarusian state news agency BelTA reported on Sunday.

"Tell them (the exiled opposition) that I'll run," Lukashenko told journalists at a polling station after voting in parliamentary and local council elections.

"No one, no responsible president would abandon his people who followed him into battle."

Lukashenko, 69, has ruled Belarus since 1994 and is one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's



closest allies.

"We're still a year away from the presidential election. A lot of things can change," he said in response to a follow-up question, BelTA reported.

"Naturally, I and all of us, society, will react to the changes that will take place in our society and the situation in which we will approach the elections in a year's time.

Yemen's Houthis Target Fuel Tanker Torm Thor in Gulf of Aden

Page3News

• Cairo / 25 Feb.

Yemen's Houthis targeted MV Torm Thor, a U.S.-flagged, owned, and operated oil tanker, in the Gulf of Aden, the Iran-aligned group's military spokesman Yahya Sarea said on Sunday, as the militants continue to attack shipping lanes in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

The group targeted the tanker with "a number of appropriate naval missiles," Sarea added in a televised speech.

The U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) said the USS Mason, a

guided missile destroyer, on Saturday shot down one anti-ship ballistic missile launched into the Gulf of Aden from Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen that was likely targeting the tanker.

Neither the USS Mason nor MV Torm Thor were damaged and there were no injuries, CENTCOM added in a statement.

The Houthis, who control the most populous parts of Yemen, have launched exploding drones and missiles at commercial vessels since Nov. 19 as a protest against Israel's military operations in Gaza.

The U.S. and Britain have launched strikes on Houthi targets in Yemen and redesignated the militia as a terrorist group.

The turmoil from Israel's war with the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas has spilled over to some extent into other parts of the Middle East. Apart from the Houthi attacks on vital shipping lanes, Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah group has traded fire with Israel along the Israel-Lebanon border and pro-Iran Iraqi militia have attacked bases that host U.S. forces.

Ukraine's Defense Minister Says Delays in Promised Western Military Aid Is Costing Lives

Page3News

• Kyiv / 25 Feb.

Half of promised Western military support to Ukraine fails to arrive on time, complicating the task of military planners and ultimately costing the lives of soldiers, the country's defense minister said Sunday.

Speaking at the "Ukraine. Year 2024" forum in Kyiv, Rustan Umerov said that each delayed aid shipment meant Ukrainian troop losses, and underscored Russia's superior military might.

Commemorations to mark the second anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Saturday brought expressions of continued support, new bilateral security agreements and fresh aid commitments from Ukraine's Western allies. But Umerov said they still needed to deliver on their commitments if Ukraine is

to have any chance of holding out against Russia. "We look to the enemy: their economy is almost 2 trillion dollars, they use up to 15% official and non-official budget (funds) for the war, which constitutes over \$100 billion dollars annually. So basically whenever a commitment doesn't come on time, we lose people, we lose territory," he said. Umerov and Commander-in-Chief Oleksandr Syrskiy toured front-line combat posts earlier Sunday amid a worsening ammunition shortage and dogged Russian attacks in the east. They heard from front-line troops and "thoroughly analyzed" the battlefield situation on their visit, Syrskiy said in a Telegram update. He did not specify where exactly he and Umerov went, but said that "the situation is difficult" for Ukrainian troops and "needs constant control" along many stretches of the front.

US, British Forces Carry Out More Strikes Against Houthis in Yemen

Page3News

• Washington / 25 Feb.

U.S. and British forces carried out strikes against more than a dozen Houthi targets in Yemen on Saturday, officials said, the latest round of military action against the Iran-linked group that continues to attack shipping in the region.

The United States has carried out near daily strikes against the Houthis, who control the most populous parts of Yemen and have said their attacks on shipping are in solidarity with Palestinians as Israel strikes Gaza.

The strikes have so far failed to halt the Houthis' attacks, which have upset global trade and raised shipping rates.

A joint statement from countries that either took part in the strikes or provided support, said the military action was against 18 Houthi targets across eight locations in Yemen including underground



weapons and missile storage facilities, air defense systems, radars and a helicopter.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the strikes were meant "to further disrupt and degrade the capabilities of the Iranian-backed Houthi militia."

"We will continue to make clear to the Houthis that they will bear the consequences if they do not stop their illegal attacks, which harm Middle Eastern economies, cause environmental damage and disrupt the delivery of humanitarian aid to

Yemen and other countries," Austin said. The strikes were supported by Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands and New Zealand.

Al Masirah TV, the main television news outlet run by the Houthi movement, said on Saturday that U.S. and UK forces carried out a series of strikes in the capital, Sanaa.

It quoted an unnamed Houthi military source as saying the renewed raids were "a miserable attempt to prevent Yemen from providing support operations to the Palestin-

ian people in Gaza." Earlier this week the Houthis claimed responsibility for an attack on a UK-owned cargo ship and a drone assault on a U.S. destroyer, and they targeted Israel's port and resort city of Eilat with ballistic missiles and drones.

The group's strikes are disrupting the vital Suez Canal shortcut that accounts for about 12% of global maritime traffic, forcing a longer, more expensive route around Africa.

No ships have been sunk nor crew killed during the Houthi campaign. However there are concerns about the fate of the UK-registered Rubymar cargo vessel, which was struck on Feb. 18 and its crew evacuated. The U.S. military has said the Rubymar was carrying more than 41,000 tons of fertilizer when it was hit, which could spill into the Red Sea and cause an environmental disaster.

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and Umerov went, but said that "the situation is difficult" for Ukrainian troops and "needs constant control" along many stretches of the front.

Ukraine has suffered setbacks on the battlefield, having lost the strategic eastern city of Avdiivka following intense battles this month, and as military aid for Kyiv hangs in the balance in the U.S. Congress.

Syrskiy earlier this month replaced Ukraine's top military commander, Valerii Zaluzhnyi, in the most significant shakeup of

the top brass since the start of the full-scale war, after a long-expected counteroffensive last summer failed to produce major breakthroughs. Russia still controls roughly a quarter of the country.

Russian shelling and rocket strikes on Sunday continued to pummel Ukraine's south and east, as local Ukrainian officials reported that at least two civilians were killed and a further eight suffered wounds in the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson provinces.

A woman was wounded and a railway station turned into a smoldering ruin amid heavy shelling in the eastern city of Kostiantynivka, according to the head of the municipal military administration. Ukraine's public broadcaster, Suspilne, cited local police as saying that the strikes also damaged an Orthodox church, over a dozen residential buildings and dozens of shops, a post office, schools and local government offices.

Russia and Ukraine also continued to trade nightly drone attacks, with Ukraine's air defenses shooting down 16 of 18 Iranian-made Shahed drones launched overnight by Moscow. A Russian drone on Sunday morning struck an unspecified facility in Ukraine's western Khmelnytskyi region, the regional military administration reported without giving details. Meanwhile, Russia's defense ministry on Sunday morning reported it had downed seven Ukrainian drones — four over the Black Sea and three over Russia's southern Belgorod region. It did not immediately mention any casualties or damage.

Convenience Store Stabbing in Japan Kills One, Injures Two, NHK Says

Page3News

• Tokyo / 25 Feb.

One person has died and two more were injured on Sunday morning in a stabbing incident in a convenience store in Sapporo on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, NHK broadcaster reported.

A Seicomart convenience store employee in the regional capital Sapporo told local police a man was behaving aggressively with something looking like a kitchen knife before 0700 local time (2200

GMT), according to NHK. Three employees in their 40s to 60s were stabbed and injured, with a man in his 40s taken to the hospital where he later died. Two others, a man and a woman, remained conscious, NHK said, citing police.

An unemployed 43-year-old local was arrested on the spot on suspicion of attempted murder, NHK added.

In January, three men were injured in a stabbing incident in Akihabara tourism hotspot in Tokyo but public violence remains low in Japan.

Pope Francis Urges Diplomatic Solution to Ukraine War on Anniversary of Invasion

Page3News

• Vatican City / 25 Feb.

Pope Francis on Sunday called for a diplomatic solution to the war in Ukraine that would lead to a just and lasting peace, as the second anniversary of Russia's invasion was marked a day earlier. "So many victims, wounded, destruction, anguish, and tears in a period that is becoming terribly long and whose end is not in sight. It is a war that not only devastates that region but also unleashes global waves of hate and fear", Pope Francis said during his weekly Angelus message.



"I plead for that little bit of humanity to be found to create the conditions for a diplomatic solution in search of a just and lasting peace", he said.

Heads of the Group of Seven major democra-

ties on Saturday pledged to stand by war-weary Ukraine, and Western leaders travelled to Kyiv to show solidarity on the second anniversary of Russia's invasion.

Francis said he was also

concerned about escalating violence in the east region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Last week, violent clashes escalated between the DRC's army and Rwandan-backed M23 Tutsi-led rebels in eastern Congo, killing scores and displacing hundreds of thousands.

"I join the bishops in their call to pray for peace, hoping for an end to the clashes and a search for genuine and constructive dialogue", he said.

Francis reiterated his prayers for Israel, for Palestinians and for "the many war-torn peoples".

Netanyahu's plan calls for Israeli security control over area west of Jordan

Page3News

• Tel Aviv / 25 Feb.

Israel will seek to maintain security control over the entire area west of the Jordan River after the war with Hamas ends, according to a plan submitted by the country's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

The "day after Hamas" paper was submitted to the Israeli war cabinet and released by the country's Foreign Ministry.

"Israel will maintain security control over the entire area west of the Jordan, including Gaza and the land, air and sea to prevent activities of terrorist groups in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip to thwart threats



from them toward Israel," the plan said.

"In the immediate term, the fundamental condition for the transition to a post-war settlement is that the IDF will continue the war until achieving its goals, which are the destruction of the military capabilities and governmental infra-

structure of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the return of the hostages abducted on October 7, and the removal of any security threat from Gaza Strip long-term," the plan said.

Netanyahu proposed that Israel will maintain an indefinite freedom to operate throughout the entire Strip to prevent the resurgence of terror activity. Under his plan, a security buffer zone on the Palestinian side of the Strip's border, will remain in place as long as there is a need for it. The prime minister also called for a "southern closure" on the border between Gaza and Egypt to prevent the revival of terror activity.

Russian forces repel seven counterattacks in Avdeyevka area, moving to better positions

Page3News

• Moscow / 25 Feb.

Russian forces repelled seven enemy counterattacks in the Avdeyevka area in the past day, moving to more advantageous positions, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"In the Avdeyevka area, units of Battlegroup Center moved to more advantageous positions, hitting troops and equipment of the Third Assault Brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces and the 107th Territorial Defense Brigade near Tonenkoye in the Donetsk People's Republic. In addition, seven enemy counterattacks were repelled near

Novgorodskoye, Leninskoye, Lastochkino and Novobakhmutovka in the Donetsk People's Republic," the statement reads.

According to the Defense Ministry, the enemy lost up to 100 troops, four armored combat vehicles, eight motor vehicles, a Grad multiple rocket launcher, a D-30 howitzer and a Bukovel-AD electronic warfare system.

Moreover, Russian aircraft, artillery units and missile forces hit Ukrainian troops and equipment in 127 areas in the past day, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"Russian tactical aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles,

missile forces and artillery units hit enemy troops and equipment in 127 areas," the statement reads.

Russian forces defeated three Ukrainian brigades in the south Donetsk area in the past day, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"In the south Donetsk area, units of Battlegroup East inflicted a fire defeat on troops of the 72nd Mechanized Brigade and the 58th Motorized Infantry Brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces and the 121st Territorial Defense Brigade near Novodonetskoye, Ugledar and Staromayorskoye in the Donetsk People's Republic