

MARINE SAFETY NEWS

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

Everyone is a genius at least once a year. The real geniuses simply have their bright ideas closer together. - Georg C. Lichtenberg

INFOTAINMENT DVD 46

- Learn about the latest 'Save Our Seafarers' campaign launched to tackle the menace of piracy. Interviews of leading maritime personalities are also available in DVD 46 as they speak at great length about the subject.

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- Don't be the odd one out. Learn new languages now available on DVD 46. Also go through the Language Tips Section to brush up on your English grammar. Our sample papers give you the opportunity to test your English-language skills.

Pakistan Says J&K Not Integral Part Of India

NEW YORK (PTI): In provocative comments, Pakistan on Tuesday claimed that J&K has never been an "integral part" of India and sought a UN-led plebiscite to determine the will of the Kashmiri people, evoking an angry rebuttal by India which termed the remarks as "unwarranted".

"J&K is neither an integral part of India, nor has it ever been so," Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Counsellor at Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the UN, said during a debate at the General Assembly.

Raising New Delhi's hackles Pakistan's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Raza Bashir Tarar said: "In South Asia, the inalienable right to self-determination of the people of J-K had been recognised by a number of Security Council resolutions... Indeed, the UN decolonisation agenda would be incomplete

without resolution of the J-K dispute."

He, however, said Pakistan was committed to finding a peaceful resolution to the J&K dispute, which would lead to "durable peace and stability" in South Asia.

Responding to the statement, Indian representative R Ravindra (First Secretary) said the reference made by the Pakistani official to J&K "is unwarranted and completely irrelevant to the work of this Committee."

"I would like to remind the distinguished representative of Pakistan that J&K is an integral part of India. The Indian Constitution guarantees the fundamental rights to all its citizens. The people of J&K have expressed their free will by participating in free and fair elections held at regular intervals," Ravindra said in exercise of the right of reply.

SC Suspends Kasab's Death Sentence

NEW DELHI (PTI): The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday suspended the death sentence awarded to Pakistani terrorist Ajmal Kasab in the 26/11 Mumbai attack case, saying that it would like to hear his plea challenging capital punishment at length as "due process of law" has to be followed, even though many feel that the appeal should be outrightly "rejected".

While staying Kasab's death sentence and agreeing to deal with the appeal expeditiously, a special bench of justices Aftab Alam and C K Prasad also permitted him to amend his Special Leave Petition and furnish additional grounds to challenge the sentence awarded to him by the special court and confirmed by the Bombay High Court.

While staying the execution, the bench also complimented senior counsel and amicus curie Raju Ramchandran for taking up the 2008 terror attack case and agreeing to assist the court.

"In our country many people are of the view that the appeal should be rejected (outrightly) and should not be heard at all but we are happy that you have decided to assist the court as amicus," the bench told Ramchandran.

Advani Begins 38-Day Jan Chetna Yatra

SITABDIARA (PTI): Senior BJP leader LK Advani on Monday began his 38-day Jan Chetna Yatra from Sitabdiara to take on the UPA government on corruption and to press for repatriation of black money.

"I am formally launching my Jan Chetna Yatra against corruption and for bringing back black money stashed in foreign banks," Advani said at a public meeting at Gandhi Maidan where his yatra was flagged off by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

In a homage to Jayprakash Narayan, Advani said the socialist had organised all non-Congress parties - save the Communists - together against the "corrupt" Congress government in the 1970s.

Drawing a parallel between the circumstances prevailing then and now, he said: "Corruption should end in this country. We need not just a change of leadership but also a change in the system. Today, people have lost faith in the potential that this country has. The biggest achievement of this yatra would be to restore that faith."

Advani further said the inspiration for his yatra had come from the initiatives of Jayprakash Narayan. The 84-year-old leader also emphasised that the yatra was aimed at seeking good governance and clean politics, as also addressing the issues of Lokpal and repatriation of black money stashed abroad.

Hyderabad Must Remain Integral Part Of Telangana: KCR

HYDERABAD (PTI): Asserting that Hyderabad should remain an integral part of Telangana, TRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao on Monday demanded that the separate state be carved out as it had existed prior to the formation of Andhra Pradesh.

"We want Telangana that existed as on October 31, 1956," he said while addressing a meeting in Adilabad district where TDP MLA Jogu Ramanna joined TRS.

On November 1, 1956, the States Reorganisation Act formed Andhra Pradesh by merging Telugu-speaking areas of Hyderabad State (Telangana) and the already existing Andhra state.

The TRS president condemned the reported remarks of Chief Minister N Kiran Kumar Reddy that some anti-social elements have crept into the separate Telangana agitation. Meanwhile, Telangana supporters continued the 'sakala janula samme' (strike by all sections of people), which began on September 13, resorting to various forms of protest.

India-France Joint Military Exercise Begins

NEW DELHI (PTI): India and France on Monday began the first-ever joint Army exercise to share their expertise in counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations.

"The two-week exercise is aimed at enhancing combat skills, promoting mutual understanding and inter-operability between the two armies. 60 troops from French 13 Mountain Battalion and an equal number of soldiers from 2 Bihar regiment are participating in the exercise which is being held in Chaubattia in Ranikhet," an official release said in New Delhi.

During the exercise codenamed "Shakti 2011", the troops from the two countries will practice basic combat tactics related to various aspects of counter-terrorism operations in detail and exchange their combat techniques and skills, it said.

"The training syllabus also includes sharing of each other's experiences and lessons drawn from operations undertaken by the two great armies," the release said.

Mathai Raises Issue Of Tamil Fishermen With Lanka

COLOMBO (PTI): Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on Monday met Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa and raised the issue of frequent attacks on fishermen from Tamil Nadu during his talks with authorities in Colombo underlining that there was no room for violence.

Concluding his three-day visit to the Island, Mathai said that he had taken up the issue of fishermen with his Lankan government.

MARINE NEWS SUMMARY

CONTAINER VESSELS: NEXT-GENERATION WILL BE LARGEST EVER

If the need is for greater efficiency for road and rail freight during an economic slowdown, standard operating procedures might be to downgrade to smaller and lighter means of overland transport. Shipping lines, however, have a different approach: they build bigger ships. The reason, they say, is better economies of scale, costing them less to send a string of three or four huge new ships across the oceans instead of a larger fleet of smaller vessels. These bigger and newer ships will also have more efficient engines and lower emissions, which also means lower fuel costs, as the company hopes an everlasting impression on its customers. One shipping giant is reportedly spending USD 1.9 billion on 10 new ships, each of which will carry 18,000 TEUs. The new Ultra Large Container Ships (ULCS) will be more than 1,312 feet long and more than 193 feet wide, and will outdo cargo capacity of the world's largest container vessel currently afloat, by 16%. The company's chief executive said that building ULCSs was not only a top priority for the firm but also for its customers, who are heavily dependent upon this in their supply chain. Five years ago, the world's largest container ship had a TEU capacity of 9,500. According to a Paris-based maritime research firm, the container carriers' answer to challenges of sustainable shipping and reduction of emissions is to build ever-larger ships, whose sizes have doubled over a decade.

He was told that Lankan Navy were not involved in the attacks and that the Navy was under strict instructions not to attack Indian fishermen.

In Jaffna, where he travelled on Sunday, local officials made a presentation on how local fishermen were suffering due to alleged poaching by Indian fishermen in their waters.

Mathai told them that since the issue was one of livelihood there was no room for violence. Representatives of the fishermen of the two sides should meet for talks to thrash out the issues, he said.

Entertainment: Bollywood Pays Tribute To Jagjit Singh

MUMBAI (PTI): Bollywood actors and directors paid rich tribute to ghazal maestro Jagjit Singh, describing his death as the loss of a "true legend". From contemporaries like Mahesh Bhatt and Shabana Azmi to admirers like Karan Johar and Shah Rukh Khan, Bollywood personalities mourned the demise of the ghazal king.

Bhatt said that his national award winning film 'Arth' attained such heights because of its music, which was composed by Singh and his wife Chitra.

"My film 'Arth' would not have touched the hearts of millions of people without the contribution of Jagjit Singh. Thank you friend. Thank you," Bhatt wrote on Twitter.

Shabana Azmi, who starred in 'Arth', said: "Jagjit Singh no more. His contribution to the ghazal in India is unparalleled. Big loss."

Khan also expressed his grief over the demise of the music legend.

"Uff so sad to hear of the demise of Jagjit Singhji. May Allah bless his soul," he tweeted.

"I grew up listening to the brilliance of Jagjit Singh. My mother was a big fan and then made me one. RIP sir!!! Loss of a true legend," Johar said. Filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar said: "Terribly shocked to hear the sad demise of Jagjit Singhji, in you I have lost a dear friend, your soulful songs will remain till eternity."

REGIONAL NEWS

South India in Focus

News from around South India over the past seven days. (In tomorrow's issue: Metro India)

State Transport Employees In AP Withdraw Strike

HYDERABAD (PTI): In a relief to the people, employees union of state-run Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) on Monday ended its participation in the ongoing strike in support of separate statehood demand, but the move met with resistance from Telangana supporters who insisted on continuing with the strike.

The breakthrough came after leaders of the National Mazdoor Union (NMU) held talks with Transport Minister and state Congress President Botsa Satyanarayana. "People are inconvenienced due to the strike. The organisation has suffered. I thank the Union leaders for ending the strike," Satyanarayana told reporters.

Stating that the decision to end the strike that started on September 19 was taken in the interest of common people and also the financial health of APSRTC, NMU leader Syed Mehmood also announced dissolution of Telangana forum in the NMU.

Cong Confident Of Going It Alone In Next LS Polls: Thangakabalu

MADURAI (PTI): Congress is seeing an awakening and enthusiasm among its workers in Tamil Nadu after its decision to contest the local body elections on its own and is confident it could go it alone in the next Lok Sabha polls also, senior Congress Leader K V Thangakabalu said.

The party was not able express its views "openly and frankly" when they had alliance with DMK or AIADMK.

"Now we want to contest alone from panchayat to Parliament," Thangkabalu told reporters in Madurai. Congress should become a force that would lead a front in Tamil Nadu, he said. Congress did not contest the Tiruchirappalli (West) assembly byelection in respect to "alliance dharma".

Top Int'l Writers To Attend Hay Festival Kerala

LONDON (PTI): Top poets and writers from around the world will head to Kerala this November for the three-day Hay Festival, as the State plays host to its second edition of the British literary event.

The line-up for the event, called 'Hay Festival Kerala' at Thiruvananthapuram includes what is described as a 'stellar line-up' of poets, novelists, journalists, film makers and performers from India and across the world. The festival will this year begin on November 17.

The Hay Festival began 24 years ago in Wales and has since built in scale to become the largest festival of ideas in the UK, also running 10 festivals around the world from Mexico and Colombia to Kenya and Beirut.

This will be the second festival in Kerala following an outstanding launch last year, organisers said. For the second festival in Kerala, Hay, in collaboration with Teamwork Productions, has programmed poets working in languages from around the world - Spanish, Tamil, Malayalam, Hindu, Welsh, Icelandic and English.

Karnataka Police Asked To Submit Report On Jayalalithaa Security On Oct 17

BANGALORE (PTI): A special court trying the disproportionate assets case against Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa directed Karnataka Police to submit on October 17 its final report about security arrangements being made for her appearance before it on October 20.

Special Public Prosecutor B V Acharya placed before the court the correspondence the state police was having regularly with the High Court regarding security, which was handed over to him by Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central Division) G Ramesh who was present in the court.

"Though the state government is in constant touch with the High Court and has agreed to make all the requisite security arrangements in this regard, it is yet to arrive at a decision about the venue of the trial, which has to be taken in concurrence with the High Court", Acharya, who is also the Advocate General, submitted.

He further sought time till October 17 for the state police authority to submit its final report.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Syria Must Move Faster To Implement Reforms: China

BEIJING (AFP): China urged Syria on Tuesday to move faster to implement reforms, a week after Beijing infuriated the West by blocking a UN resolution against President Bashar al-Assad's deadly crackdown on protests.

It is the first time that China has veered away from its long-standing policy of non-interference in the affairs of Syria, which has been rocked by anti-government protests and violence since earlier this year.

"We believe the Syrian government should move faster to honour its reform pledges and swiftly start to push forward the inclusive political process with the broad participation of all parties in Syria," Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin told reporters.

His comments came as Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin visits Beijing.

Myanmar To Free Thousands Of Prisoners: Media

YANGON (AFP): Myanmar will grant an amnesty to more than 6,300 prisoners, state media announced on Tuesday, without saying whether political detainees would be included.

The news came just hours after a government-appointed human rights panel called for a pardon for the country's "prisoners of conscience", who are estimated by rights groups to number about 2,000.

The National Human Rights Commission said freeing prisoners "who do not pose a threat to the stability of state" would allow them to participate in "nation-building", according to an official English-language newspaper.

According to state television, 6,359 prisoners will receive an amnesty starting from Wednesday.

Bhutan Counts Down To Royal Wedding

THIMPHU (AFP): Bhutan's king, an Oxford graduate and "prince charming of the Himalayas", is set to marry on Thursday at what promises to be an emotional moment for the 700,000 adoring subjects of his isolated nation.

Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, 31, a mountain-biking fanatic and Elvis fan crowned in 2008, will wed a photogenic student 10 years his junior called Jetsun Pema, the daughter of an airline pilot.

The main wedding ceremony takes place on Thursday in a stunning 17th-century fortress surrounded by mountains and built at the confluence of two fast-running rivers in the ancient capital Punakha.

FINANCIAL NEWS

STOCK INDEX

Sensex closed at 16,536.47 on Tuesday, 20.76 points below the previous closing. Nifty closed at 4,974.35 on Tuesday, 5.25 below the previous closing.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

INR / 1 USD: 49.0333

INR / 1 EUR: 66.8029

INR / 1 GBP: 76.5998

INR / 100 JPY: 63.9300

INR / 1 SGD: 38.3936

RBI Reference Rate

The newly-weds appear in public for the first time on Saturday at a sports stadium in the sleepy present-day capital Thimphu, where thousands of Bhutanese are expected to turn out in colourful national dress.

Bangladesh Approves SAARC Disaster Response Agreement

DHAKA (Xinhua): The Bangladeshi Cabinet on Monday approved a proposal for signing South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) agreement on rapid response to natural disasters, aimed at creating a common ground for member states to combat calamities.

The approval was given at the regular meeting of the Cabinet held in capital Dhaka with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, Abul Kalam Azad, press secretary to the PM, told journalists.

He said the SAARC agreement on rapid response to natural disasters, if signed, will help its member states better support each other in the event of any calamity.

Sargent, Sims Win Nobel Economics Prize

STOCKHOLM (AP): Americans Thomas Sargent and Christopher Sims won the Nobel economics prize on Monday "for their empirical research on cause and effect in the macro-economy," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

The prize committee said the winners have developed methods for answering questions such as how economic growth and inflation are affected by a temporary increase in the interest rate or a tax cut.

Messrs. Sargent and Sims-both 68 years old-carried out their research independently in the 1970s and '80s. "Today, the methods developed by Sargent and Sims are essential tools in macroeconomic analysis," the citation said. Sargent is a professor at New York University and Sims is a professor at Princeton University.

 WEATHER

Del hi : 21-33c Clear
 Kol kata: 26-34c Mostly Clear
 Mumbai : 28-34c Isolated T-storms
 Chennai : 24-31c Scattered T-storms.

 SPORTS NEWS

Never Met, Don't Know Majeed: Harbhajan, Yuvraj

NEW DELHI (PTI): Top Indian cricketers Yuvraj Singh and Harbhajan Singh on Tuesday rubbished the reported claims of a London-based bookie Mazhar Majeed that he had "accessed" them, saying that they had never even met him.

Majeed made the claims during his conversations with the now-closed 'New of the World' undercover reporter Mazhar Mehmood, who conducted a sting operation on the alleged bookie and players' agent.

The recording of the conversation were played to a jury and the judge during the criminal trials of Pakistani cricketers, accused of spot-fixing.

While Harbhajan threatened action, Yuvraj simply ridiculed the report of his name cropping up during the trial.

"I don't know who this person is, I have never met him. We will definitely take some action against him."

"I don't know whether it will be a legal action or whatever," said Harbhajan in Nagpur where he is currently playing in the Challenger Series. "But I will definitely bring it to BCCI's notice and I am sure that they will take the right kind of action against these kind people who are trying to spoil the game," added the feisty off-spinner. Yuvraj took to Twitter to rubbish the report. "...And who is majid!! absolute rubbish! Don't no never met!" he wrote. "The problem in India is if some one says a rooster has given an egg it will become news !! Whether its true or not its doesn't matter," he fumed.

According to media reports, Majeed named these two Indian cricketers along with a host of other international players, who have also rejected the reported claims.

Anand Slips To Last Spot In Final Masters Chess

BILBAO (PTI): World Champion Viswanathan Anand was shocked by Levon Aronian of Armenia in the ninth and penultimate round of the fourth Final Masters as he slipped to the last spot with just one round to go in the category-22 super tournament in Bilbao.

World number one Magnus Carlsen of Norway completed his second victory in as many games against tournament leader Vassily Ivanchuk of Ukraine to emerge as the joint leader on 14 points in the soccer-like scoring system being used here.

Ivanchuk, who enjoyed a three-point lead coming into this round, ran into a determined Carlsen who came with some imaginative manoeuvres to jump to joint lead after being wayward in the first half of the tournament played at Sao Paulo in Brazil.

The shocker of the day came from none other than lowest ranked Francisco Vallejo Pons of Spain who proved yet again that he is no-mug when it comes to handling "big boys" of the game.

Pons, who had earlier beaten Carlsen and Ivanchuk in the tournament, perplexed Hikaru Nakamura of the US, who was declared lost on time on move 40 in a position, which was quite defensible.

Vijender, Suranjoy Inspired Others Even In Their Loss: Sandhu

NEW DELHI (PTI): The big shots of Indian boxing may not have clicked at the World Championships but national Coach Gurbax Singh Sandhu on Tuesday said the likes of Vijender Singh and Suranjoy Singh made up for the debacle by inspiring and quite often training those who qualified for the London Olympics from the event in Azerbaijan.

Faced with tough opponents in the initial rounds itself, Asian Games gold-medallist Vijender (75kg) lost in the first round, while Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Suranjoy (51kg) exited in the second round. But the duo put behind their own disappointment to inspire their teammates, four of whom - L Devendro Singh (49kg), Jai Bhagwan (60kg), Manoj Kumar (64kg) and Vikas Krishan (69kg) - qualified for the Olympics.

Among them, Vikas clinched a bronze emulating Olympic hero Vijender's feat two years ago in Milan.

Sandhu said the two established boxers took the debacle in their stride and focussed on helping their teammates.

"I give credit to Vijender for keeping the morale of the team up. I am sure he will come back strongly in the Asian Olympic Qualifiers next year. And no praise is enough for Suranjoy. He was there with Devendro all through, helping him and training him. He forgot about his own defeat and helped this young boy immensely," said Sandhu.

Pune Int'l Marathon On Dec 4

PUNE (PTI): The city is all set to host the 26th edition of the Pune International Marathon on December 4, which will see participants vying for a total prize purse of Rs 25 lakhs in three different categories. One of the country's oldest events will feature men's half and full marathons besides women's half-marathon.

The registration for the event will start on October 21. Participants can register for the championship against a fees of Rs 500, to be paid in the Hi tech branch of Bank Of Maharashtra. No entries will be entertained after November 6

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3 More Athletes Test Positive For Steroid Use

NEW DELHI (PTI): The doping menace continued unabated in Indian athletics, with three more track and field competitors returning positive for steroids in the tests conducted during the National Open Championships held in Kolkata last month.

The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) conducted tests on 93 urine samples during the September 10-13 Championships, out of which three returned positive for multiple substances, including banned steroids and stimulant methylhexaneamine.

"A total of 93 urine samples of athletes of track and field events were collected during 51st National Open Athletics Championships at Kolkata during September 10-13. Out of the reports of 91 samples received so far from National Dope Testing Laboratory, three samples were found positive and the first notices had been issued," NADA Director General Rahul Bhatnagar said in a release.

Balbir Singh To Present A Plan On Revival Of Hockey

NEW DELHI (PTI): Triple Olympic gold medallist Balbir Singh Senior has apparently "prepared a blueprint" to revive the national game and will present it to Union Sports Minister Ajay Maken during his next visit to India.

"I was shocked, when India failed to qualify for Beijing Olympics. That rude shock prompted me to prepare a plan to Revive Indian Hockey," Balbir Sr, who now resides in Canada's Vancouver, told PTI Bhasha over telephone.

"One of the important elements of this plan is that from players and coaches to administrators, everyone should be accountable. There should be total transparency in the system," he said.

Balbir Sr said that he hasn't been able to present his blueprint last time round due to the two warring factions. "I could not present it on my last visit because of the continued tussle between Hockey India and Indian Hockey Federation. I will present it to the union sports minister in December."