



Aahana speaks out
Actor Aahana Kumra criticises filmmakers for preferring influencers over actors, creating challenges for outsiders

LEISURE | P2



N-missile in frontline
North Korea marks the delivery of 250 nuclear-capable missile launchers to frontline military units

INTERNATIONAL | P9



Services growth eases
India's services sector growth records another month of robust expansion in July, albeit at a slightly slower pace than in June

BUSINESS | P10



Crucial match
India will eye victory over Germany to ensure a medal when the two sides clash in the hockey semifinals at Paris

SPORTS | P12

2 schoolkids among 3 killed in accident
Joda, August 5: Three persons, including two minor schoolchildren, were killed when a speeding truck hit the motorcycle on which they were travelling from behind on the connecting road to a flyover on State Highway no 2, here in Keonjhar district Monday. After the accident, the truck driver drove away from the spot. The deceased were identified as Krishna Bhusal, his son Nikit Bhusal, 5, and Ganesh Sharma, 9, son of Santosh Sharma, a neighbour of Krishna—all residents of Azad Basti area in the town. Nikit was studying in UKG and Ganesh was a Class I student at DAV Public School here. According to information, at around 7 am, Krishna took the two kids on his motorcycle to drop them at the school. While they were on their way, a speeding truck hit the two-wheeler from the rear near the connecting road to the flyover on State Highway no 2. The truck dragged the riders for 50 metres, killing them all on the spot. The impact of the accident was so severe that broken parts of helmets worn by Krishna, plastic water bottles, school bags and the body parts of the deceased lay scattered on the road. Angry locals staged a road blockade following the accident demanding a host of safety measures on the road. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced ₹30,000 as immediate assistance to the next of kin of the deceased, apart from ₹2 lakh compensation to each under the solatium scheme. The Joda police has registered a case (232/24) and launched a hunt for the absconding truck driver, said IIC, Lokesh Sahu.

POST NEWS NETWORK

TURMOIL IN BANGLADESH

New Delhi, August 5: Embattled Bangladesh leader Sheikh Hasina landed at the Hindon airbase on the outskirts of Delhi Monday, hours after she resigned as the prime minister following weeks of deadly anti-government protests that killed nearly 300 people. Hasina arrived in India as part of her plan to travel to London, multiple diplomatic sources said shortly after the C130J military transport aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force that carried the Awami League leader touched down at Hindon in Ghaziabad. But that plan appeared uncertain Monday night after British Foreign Secretary David Lammy said in London that the people of Bangladesh "deserve a full and independent UN-led investigation into the events of the past few weeks". National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, accompanied by senior officials, met Hasina at the Hindon airbase and is understood to have conveyed India's position on the developments in Bangladesh, sources said. It is learnt that Hasina has been moved to a safe location after the meeting and it is unlikely that she would leave India Monday night. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar briefed Modi about the situation in Bangladesh. Jaishankar also apprised the



ON THE BOIL: Protesters celebrate beside a defaced portrait of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after news of her resignation, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Monday, PTI

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi about the developments in the neighbouring country. The sources said Hasina's plan was to leave for London. However, "certain issues" have come up bringing uncertainty to the plan.

India is yet to make any comment on the developments in Bangladesh. It is expected that Jaishankar will make a statement in Parliament Tuesday on the situation in the neighbouring country. Hasina, 76, who ruled the South Asian country with an

iron hand for 15 years, resigned as the prime minister following the massive protests that initially began as an agitation against a job quota scheme but weeks later morphed into a mass movement demanding her ouster from power. The controversial quota system

provided for 30 per cent reservations in civil services jobs for the families of veterans who fought the 1971 liberation war. India decided to provide a safe passage through the Indian airspace to Hasina's aircraft following a request from Dhaka,

PM chairs CCS meet
New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) Monday night as the government's top brass was briefed about the situation in Bangladesh. The meeting came as Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled her country and landed in India on her way to London. Modi was joined by other members of the CCS, including Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. They were briefed by officials on the situation in the neighbouring country, official sources said.

the sources cited above told PTI. Indian government sources said New Delhi is closely following the fast-paced developments in Dhaka. In Dhaka, Bangladesh Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman said Hasina has resigned and an interim government is taking over the responsibilities. "I'm taking all responsibility (of the country). Please cooperate," he said in a televised address. The Army chief said he had met political leaders and told them the Army would take over responsibility for law and order. **More P9**

Coaching centres have become 'death chambers': Apex court

New Delhi, August 5: Coaching centres have become "death chambers" and are playing with the lives of students, the Supreme Court said Monday as it issued notices to the Centre and the Delhi government on three IAS aspirants drowning in the basement of an institute here. Taking suo motu cognisance of the matter, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan said the incident was an eye-opener for all. On July 27, three civil services aspirants drowned in the basement library of Rau's IAS Study Circle in the Old Rajinder Nagar area here after it was flooded following heavy rain. Seven people, including Rau's IAS Study Circle CEO Abhishek Gupta and coordinator Deshpai Singh, have been arrested in the case. "This is horrible what we are reading. If need be, we will even close down these coaching centres. For the time being, the coaching should go online, unless there is meticulous com-



pliance of building regulations and other safety norms. "These places (coaching centres) have become death chambers. Coaching centres are playing with the lives of these aspirants who have come from different parts of the country with dreams and are working hard," the bench said. "The recent unfortunate in-

cident which took away lives of three young aspirants who joined the coaching centres for their career is an eye-opener for one and all. We, therefore, deem it appropriate to expand the scope of proceedings and issue notice to the Centre and the NCT of Delhi to show cause as to what safety norms have been prescribed so far and what is the effective mechanism evolved to ensure compliance," he said. The top court took cognisance of the matter while hearing a petition filed by an association of coaching centres challenging a December 2023 Delhi High Court order which had directed the city's fire services and the civic body to inspect all coaching centres here to ascertain if they are complying with the fire safety norms. Terming the plea frivolous, the apex court dismissed the appeal while imposing a cost of ₹1 lakh on the association and said no coaching centre should be allowed to operate unless there is compliance with fire safety norms and other requirements.

₹8,263cr GST collected on health insurance premiums

New Delhi, August 5: The government has collected ₹8,263 crore towards GST on health insurance premiums in 2023-24 fiscal, Parliament was informed Monday. The Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said the government has received representations requesting for exemption or reduction in the rate of GST on life insurance and health insurance. Since its inception, GST @18 per cent rate is levied on premiums paid towards health insurance, the Minister of State said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha. However, certain insurance schemes catering to poor sections of the society and differently-abled, such as Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), Universal Health Insurance Scheme, Jan Arogya Bima Policy and Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme are exempted from GST. In 2023-24, the GST collection from health insurance premi-

ums stood at ₹8,262.94 crore, while ₹1,484.36 crore was collected on account of GST on health reinsurance premiums. Meanwhile, several Opposition parties are planning to stage a protest in the Parliament complex Tuesday to press for the rollback of 18 per cent GST on life and health insurance premiums. Sources said Monday that Opposition parties were coordinating on the issue for a joint protest to pile pressure on the government during the ongoing Budget session. Trinamool Congress MPs have raised the issue in Parliament and party supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on the matter. Union minister Nitin Gadkari also wrote to Sitharaman and urged her to consider withdrawing the GST which, he said, amounted to taxing uncertainties of life and restricting the industry's growth.

Stock market carnage: Investors lose ₹15.32L-cr

New Delhi, August 5: Stock market investors lost a whopping ₹15.32 lakh crore Monday following a crash in Indian equities triggered by a sharp plunge in Japanese and other global markets. The 30-share BSE benchmark plummeted 2,222.55 points or 2.74 per cent to settle at over a month's low of 78,759.40, marking its worst single-day retreat since June 4, 2024. During the day, it tanked 2,686.09 points or 3.31 per cent to 78,295.86. Following the sharp decline in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms dropped by ₹15,32,796.1 crore to ₹41,84,150.03 crore (USD 5.27 trillion). "Domestic equity indices came under the grip of global markets carnage as a host of external factors like recession fears in the US on the back of weak jobs data, interest rate hike in Japan leading to impact on Yen-carry trade and a raging Middle East conflict triggered massive sell-off across the board," Prashanth Tapsee, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled sharply lower. Japan's benchmark stock index plunged 12.4 per cent Monday, compounding a global market rout set off by investor concerns that the US economy could be headed for recession. A report Friday showing hiring by US employers slowed last month by much more than expected convulsed financial markets, vanquishing the euphoria that had taken the Nikkei 225 to all-time highs of over 42,000 in recent weeks. On Monday, the Nikkei closed down 4,451.28 points at 31,458.42. It had dropped 5.8 per cent Friday, making this its worst two-day decline ever. **More 10**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL
It's time to reconsider our Akhand Bharat dream. These people are even bigger Andolanjevis

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	78759.40 ↓ 2,222
NIFTY	24055.60 ↓ 662.10
DOLLAR	84.18 ↑ ₹0.36
EURO	92.10 ↑ ₹1.35
GOLD	₹69,330 ↓ ₹459
SILVER	₹79,792 ↓ ₹2,701

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	32.7°C	33.0°C
Min Temp	26.4°C	24.0°C
Humidity	92%	95%
Rainfall	43.9	19.4

FORECAST
PARTLY CLOUDY SKY

Netaji's painting among Presidents' gifts on auction

New Delhi, August 5: A shell craft painting of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Lord Buddha's statue are among the selected 250 gifts, received by President Droupadi Murmu and former presidents, available for bidding that began Monday. Interested persons can place their bids for these exquisite gifts via <https://upahaarrashtrapati bhavan.gov.in/> -- a dedicated portal launched by Murmu recently. Encased in an elegant frame with intricate detailing, Netaji's painting which "commemorates a pivotal moment" in the history of the country is the most expensive item available for bidding with the base price of ₹4,02,500. "The painting features a metic-

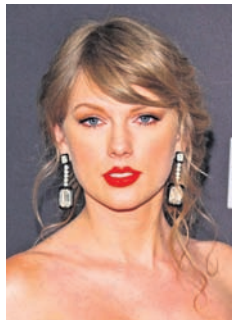
ulously crafted depiction of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, created entirely from delicate shell pieces. He is portrayed in his iconic military uniform, standing resolutely, embodying strength and determination. "The craftsmanship captures every detail, from the folds in his uniform to the intensity in his gaze, using a unique combination of shell textures and colours," read the description of the painting that weighs 14.15 kg. At the top of the frame, the memento marks the 75th anniversary of the historic act of hoisting the Indian Tricolour by Netaji for the first time in Port Blair December 30, 1943. "This event holds immense historical significance as a symbol of struggle for Indian Independence and Netaji's un-



wavering commitment to the cause," it said. Another item available for e-auction is a statue of Lord Buddha seated under a tree. This gift was received by President Murmu from the Mahabodhi Temple, an ancient Buddhist temple located in Bodhi Gaya, Bihar. "It holds immense historical and spiritual significance as the sacred place where the Buddha is believed to have attained enlightenment. With a vibrant yellow backdrop, this Buddha statue with a golden-coloured drape, is portrayed in the serene dhyan mudra, symbolising deep meditation and inner peace," read the gift's description. The tree, crafted with intricate hues of green, yellow, orange, and brown, stands unique in its artistry. The roots of the tree el-

egantly embrace the stone on which Buddha is seated, adding a profound touch to the overall composition of the culture. This memento is also available for bidding with a base price of ₹82,500. An elegant trophy, received by former president Pranab Mukherjee, is also open for auction with a base price of ₹2,700. The base of the trophy is sturdy and solid, providing a firm foundation that contrasts beautifully with the delicate and transparent globe above, reads the description of the gift, which is the lowest priced item. The bidding, which started on Monday, is open till August 26. After the conclusion of the bidding period, the items will be delivered to the highest bidders.

leisure



SWIFT'S TORTURED POETS RETURNS TO NUMBER 1 SPOT

Pop icon Taylor Swift's latest album, *The Tortured Poets Department*, has reclaimed the Number 1 spot on the Billboard 200. This marks the album's 13th non-consecutive week at the top. Swift's 11th album, released on April 19, spent its first 12 weeks at Number 1 until Eminem's *The Death of Slim Shady*.

BLAKE LIVELY FEELS GUILTY ABOUT GOING TO WORK

Actress Blake Lively has admitted she sometimes feels guilty for working and having to take time away from her kids James, Inez, Betty, and Olin, with husband Ryan Reynolds, reports *Entertainment Tonight*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will want to catch up with old friends that you have been neglecting for some time. The stars suggest that you will enjoy yourself. Your excitement will brighten up your activities. Your frankness and honesty are what set you apart from others, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
You will be very sensitive about the image you project socially and professionally. Ganesh sees you treating this very seriously and doing everything you can to make this right impression. Today, you will remain decent, dignified and fussed-in all that you do. Do not be too eager to please others.

GEMINI
A hectic and busy day awaits you, which will probably leave you feeling bored and listless. Find creative ways to beat the boredom, or take a break and do things which appeal to you today, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will begin the day with a definite plan for a bright future. You will resolutely implement plans that you have made thoughtfully. Such methodical decisions will save you a lot of time in the future. Ganesh says that you will succeed in every endeavour today.

LEO
Your decisions today will be not only be correct, but also resolute and steadfast. Your health will be fine. At the work-place, things ought to proceed as usual. However, you will concentrate more on work today. In personal relationships, some minor arguments could crop up.

VIRGO
Opening up to your beloved about your whims and fancies as well as your goals shall be the key today. And, why not, urges Ganesh. Your intimate relations should be built on trust and mutual compatibility. Your energy levels will hit the sky. Make the most of this spurt by finishing in leftover mundane chores.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that you shall soon be able to travel or plan a trip, not for family or business matters, but for getting away from the mundane life. You will pay more importance to your professional matters as opposed to your personal matters. Today you will be able to attain success in every thing you do with the blessings of Ganesh.

SCORPIO
Today, you are like a balloon that may burst any time. You may vent out all the sweet and bitter experiences and feel much lighter. Or it may have adverse effects on your health, says Ganesh. You prefer to stay in your cocoon, in the warmth of your near and dear ones.

SAGITTARIUS
Determined and dedicated, that's what you are when it comes to work. Well, this may even find you amidst heaps of files and loads of work. No wonder you become a workaholic. You are likely to enjoy during the latter half of the day. Have a fun-filled evening!

CAPRICORN
Your interests are guarded by the Almighty, so don't worry about them. Not that you are not ambitious, but you are satisfied with what you have and gained. You have set some realistic goals for yourself and you are making sincere efforts to achieve them.

AQUARIUS
You are close to your family, and now is the time to enjoy the company of your loved ones at home. You will take them out for shopping, go with them on picnics and pamper them in every possible way, says Ganesh.

PISCES
Ganesh feels that you will sympathize with people today. This will help you get people's good wishes. You can prove to be a good boss, co worker, husband or wife and son or daughter. Ganesh advises you to carry on with these virtues.

Aahana flags up actors' dilemma

Mumbai: Actress Aahana S Kumra reacts to filmmakers moving on from actors to influencers, creating an unfillable void in the industry and the disadvantage of being an outsider

"When I started out, there wasn't this kind of pressure to look a certain type on social media and keep doing reels and dance videos. A lot of casting today is happening on the basis of social media followers. It's very difficult and excruciatingly painful to get work in today's time. Even filmmakers who you want to work with are moving towards people with social media clout, the so-called 'influencers'. So, actors are left wondering, should I become an influencer and start dancing on social media to get a job? Should I start ranting, do mimicry or

be like a Dilli ki aunty? Is this how you are going to get a job? Because I don't think those people will be able to do anything more than that," she insisted.

"It is a very brutal and difficult industry. It won't give you a second chance as an outsider, though as an insider, you'd get 20-30 films to ruin before you figure out how to perform. Young kids from film families are being groomed from as early as they are five years old to be in the industry. It's a bit clannish in today's time. We will be lacking actors in our industry after a point in India. If you are being told to make a social media reel every day and dance to get cast, who's going to act?" she ended.



Rimi shuts down plastic surgery rumours

Mumbai: Actor Rimi Sen, who has been a part of films such as *Dhoom*, *Golmaal- Fun Unlimited* and *Johnny Gaddaar* reacts to the recent plastic surgery rumours after her Instagram pictures went viral.

She's been out of the limelight for years now, but a random Reddit post brought the actress right back into it. She trended for a whole day, after her latest pictures started circulating on social media. Her altered looks led people to believe she has gone under the knife.

During a chat with a media portal, she said, "Agar logon ko aisa lag raha hai ki maine plastic surgery karvai hai... if it's in a good way, it's very good for me. Bina plastic surgery karaye bina hi log bol rahe hain. I have only got fillers, Botox, PRP treatment done, nothing else."

She added, "One shouldn't need to get plastic surgery done unless someone is on the run after committing any crime! There are so many good doctors outside India, who are very good at facelifts. I too want to get it done, but I will think about it after I cross the age of 50. Abhi inn sab se kaam chal raha hai."

Sen goes on to say that she currently has two doctors she consults and gets treatment done from, "They help me a lot to look good. Shayad logon ko meri latest pics mein skin achha lag raha hoga mera. Anyone can look good by using these things, and having discipline. But if you are calling what I have done bad, then tell me how can I correct it, so I can tell my doctors where they are going wrong. I can say isko correct kar do."

Fardeen credits genetics for his evergreen looks



Mumbai: Post the success of *Jungle* back in early 2000s, actor Fardeen Khan had become the talk of the town. He was considered to be one of the most looking actors in the business and the clothing brand that he endorsed saw its profits jump manifold. But there also came a time post the death of his father that he gave up on his career and his health took a backseat and ended up putting a lot of weight.

But a few years ago, he decided to come back to acting and he was seen on screen after a gap of 14 years with Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Heeramandi-The Diamond Bazaar*. He played the role of Wali Mohammed in this historical drama. Post the success of *Heeramandi*, Fardeen teamed up with his friends Akshay Kumar and Mudassar Aziz for *Khel Khel Mein*, which is releasing in theatres on August 15.

During an exclusive conversation, we asked Fardeen if he was ageing in reverse, given how he looks exactly the same as he looked in the early 2000s. Modestly the actor refused to believe it at first and quipped, "Just genetics... I thank my mother and my father (smiles)." He also added that he has just made some lifestyle changes and began to look after himself.

On the work front, Fardeen will also be seen in *Housefull 5* with Akshay and Sanjay Gupta's *Visfoot*.

Neha shares her health disorders



Mumbai: Singer Neha Bhasin, the voice behind hit film songs such as *Kuch Khaas Hai*, *Dhunki*, and *Asalaam-e-Ishqum*, said her nervous system is broken as she revealed her diagnoses with premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD), obsessive-compulsive personality disorder (OCPD) and fibromyalgia.

The 41-year-old penned a lengthy note on Instagram detailing her health struggle, challenges and symptoms. She wrote, "After Years of knowing something is off. Finally with more awareness medically today comes the Diagnosis (on paper since 2 years, I have known since I was 20) which helps get the right treatments for the mental and hormonal illnesses and with all of this comes major realisation and then THE acceptance that At least for now my nervous system feels broken. My monthly PMDD still finds a way to throw me in an old dark hole or dig many new ones. Is this my failure? Asks my OCPD...Flares up what my DR calls Fibromyalgia which now I am finally ACCEPTING too...I have worked out. Danced, performed through pain for years thinking am just tight so stretch more. My therapist says for sometime do NOTHING. REST."

In the post, Bhasin said she has monthly fatigue, body pains, mental pain, anxiety, monthly depression and past traumas. Fixing an unhealthy relationship with food and body, sleep hygiene and therapy are some of the ways to manage her condition. The singer, concluded she was in a lot of pain but was trying to be more grateful.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

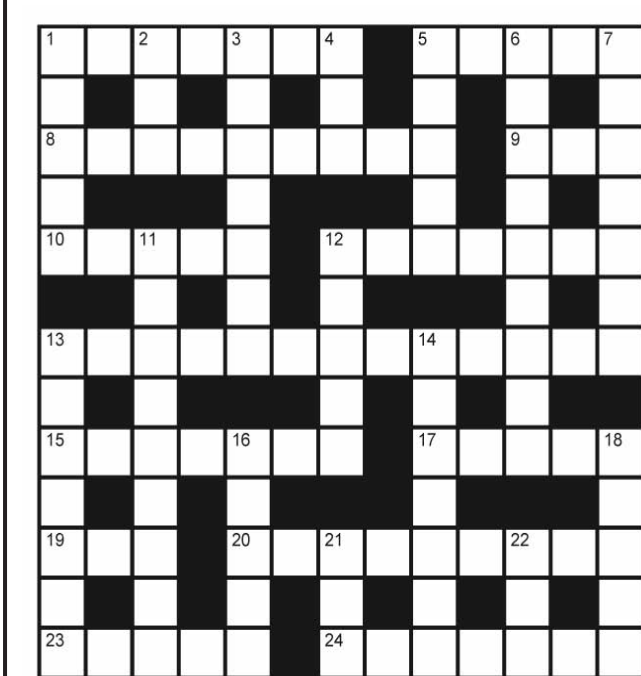


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 English Channel city (2,5)
 - 5 Floral leaf
 - 8 Comedian's gag ender (5,4)
 - 9 Female swan
 - 10 Common sense
 - 12 Farmer's yield
 - 13 Study of fossils
 - 15 Put on a pedestal?
 - 17 Long stories
 - 19 Goof
 - 20 Japanese port city
 - 23 House style
 - 24 Wildcats
 - 6 Pizza topper
 - 7 Extended
 - 11 North American wild flower
 - 12 Door part
 - 13 Block
 - 14 Supervise
 - 16 Loathe
 - 18 Great balls of fire
 - 21 Greek consonant
 - 22 Bachelor's last words

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

				1	7	6		
5	6				2			9
		1			4			7
3		5				1		
			9				2	
4	2			6				
				2	6			
	4	8			5	2		
								1

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

P	E	C	K	P	R	I	C	E	A	R	
E	I	T	I	Y	R	E	E	A			
R	E	V	E	R	I	E	O	R	B	I	T
C	I	R	S	S	E						
E	C	C	L	E	S	I	A	S	T	I	C
I	V	E	R	S	T	C					
E	V	E	R	E	M	O	T	E	E	R	A
V	E	R	N	C	T						
M	A	S	S	H	Y	S	T	E	R	I	A
A	C	E	R	B	T	R	O	L	L	E	L
L	I	N	E	L	U	N	A	S			
C	O	N	V	E	R	G	E	C	Y	S	T

SUDOKU

1	5	3	6	2	4	7	9	8
9	2	8	5	7	3	4	1	6
6	4	7	9	1	8	2	3	5
7	1	9	8	5	6	3	2	4
8	3	2	7	4	9	6	5	1
4	6	5	1	3	2	8	7	9
3	7	6	4	9	1	5	8	2
2	9	4	3	8	5	1	6	7
5	8	1	2	6	7	9	4	3

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

OBCC ADDL CHIEF ENGINEER WITH 42 PLOTS UNDER VIG LENS

BHUBANESWAR: Vigilance sleuths Monday carried out simultaneous searches at 12 places related to Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation (OBCC) Limited Additional Chief Engineer Pradeep Kumar Rath on allegations of amassing disproportionate assets (DA) and claimed to have unearthed huge assets, including 42 plots in prime locations, from the possession of the senior officer and his family members.



HOUSE AT PANDARA IN CITY

BJD forms panel to oversee party activities across state

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 5: The Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Monday constituted a 15-member committee that will coordinate with various district-level organisations of the party and oversee their activities across the state.

The committee will be headed by former BJD senior vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra, said Patnaik, the Leader of Opposition and party chief, in a notification.

Though the BJD's district-level organisations are functional, the party had suspended its state-level committee after the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, sources said.

The new committee will also work as a bridge between the state party president and its district chiefs.

"We have been asked to oversee the activities of the party



"We have been asked to oversee the activities of the party in every nook and corner of Odisha, beginning from the highest level to the grass-root level. The committee will coordinate with all those working in the field"

DEBI PRASAD MISHRA | SENIOR BJD LEADER

The 15-member committee will be headed by former BJD senior vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra

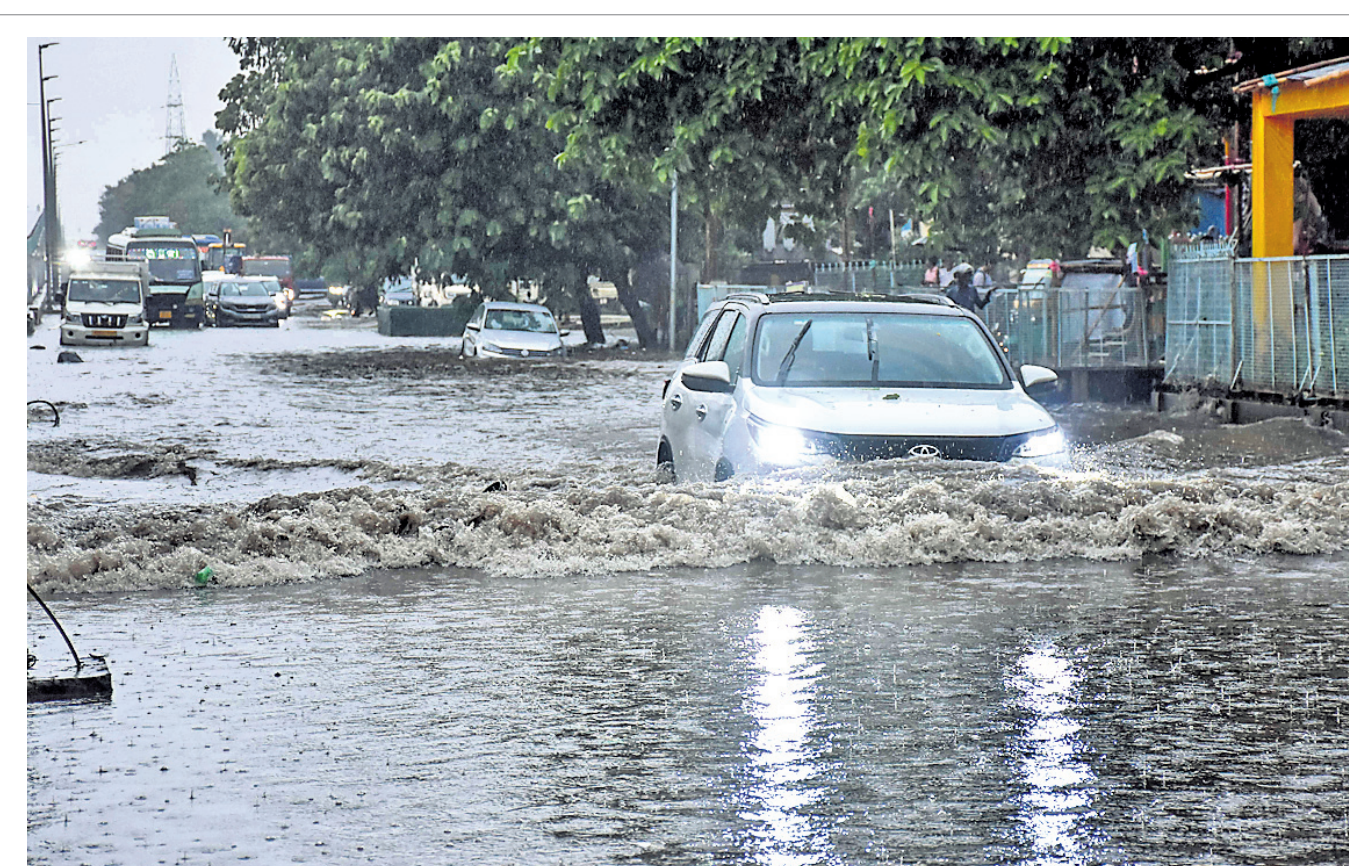
The other members of the panel include senior party leaders Pramila Mallik, Niranjan Pujari, Bikram Keshari Arukha and Pratap Keshari Deb

in every nook and corner of Odisha, beginning from the high-

level to the grass-root level. The committee will coordinate with all those working in the field," Mishra said.

The other members of the panel include senior party leaders Pramila Mallik, Niranjan Pujari, Bikram Keshari Arukha and Pratap Keshari Deb.

The committee has representation of senior leaders from different regions of the state, he added.



PERENNIAL ISSUE: Vehicles pass through a waterlogged road in front of ISKCON temple in Nayapalli area of Bhubaneswar as rain lashed the City, Monday
PIC: MANORANJAN MISHRA

Nod for Ratna Bhandar laser scanning

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, August 5: The Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee (SJTMC) Monday approved the standard operating procedure (SOP) for conducting scanning of the Ratna Bhandar (treasury) of Srimandir here with the latest scientific tools.

The Ratna Bhandar was reopened last month after 46 years for an inventory of valuables and the repair of its structure. It has two chambers - inner and outer.

A section of the people believes that more chambers or tunnels may be inside the inner chamber though, they are not seen by the naked eye, SJTMC said.

"In order to clear the doubts from people's mind, the SJTMC approved scientific or laser scanning of the Ratna Bhandar before its repairs," a member of the committee said after a meeting in which the SOP was approved.

Another SOP for shifting empty cupboards and chests from the inner Ratna Bhandar before its repairs also



got the SJTMC's approval, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Chief Administrator Arabinda Padhee told reporters.

The SJTMC's approval will be informed to the state government, he said.

Padhee, an IAS officer, said five to six proposals were discussed in the Monday's emergency meeting.

"All ornaments and valuables from the inner and outer chambers of Ratna Bhandar have been shifted to the temporary strongroom. Old articles like cupboards are still inside the inner chamber and those have to be shifted before the repair work," he said.

The SJTA chief administrator said that the SJTMC also approved the

draft Shree Jagannath Temple Land Management Rules, 2024 and it will be implemented after getting the government's nod.

Referring to another issue, Padhee said the temple administration had received 35 air-conditioned mini e-buses under a government scheme.

"These were provided by Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation Limited. The meeting decided to move the government to hand over the buses to the Transport department or any other agency for their management," he said.

On rice collected from devotees through 'Arpana Raths' during the tenure of the previous BJD government, Padhee said the managing committee has asked him and the district Collector to hold discussions with different groups of servitors and submit a proposal with regard to it to the state government.

Padhee also said that the Puri SP has suggested upgrading of the Singhadwar police station into a model police station.

Grievance hearing: 5K meet CM, mins on 3rd day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 5: More than 5,000 people met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and other ministers with their complaints at the CM Grievance Cell here, Monday, the third day of hearing public grievances since July 1.

As many as 2,403 grievances were registered at the cell between 10am and 5pm Monday, Chief Minister's

Office (CMO) sources said.

Deputy CM Pravati Parida and Ministers Nityananda Gond, Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, Bibhuti Bhusan Jena, Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia, Mukesh Mahaling and Krushna Chandra Patra heard the public grievances, they said.

General Administration department Additional Chief Secretary Surendra Kumar, SSEPD department Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethy



and other senior officials were also present during the grievance hearing.

Among those who approached the cell with complaints was Santosh Sahoo, a resident of Tangi in Khurda.

"A differently-abled Sahoo had secured a job following all official procedures. However, he lost the job around eight years back for reasons best known to the employer. After listening to Sahoo, the CM assured him of appropriate measures," they said.

Punjab & Sind Bank
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

(In terms of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act -2002)

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Punjab & Sind Bank under the SARFAESI Act 2002 in exercise of powers conferred u/s 13(12) read with the relevant rules of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued demand notice u/s 13(2) on the dates stated against the account, calling upon the borrower/s to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of notice. As the borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) have failed to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice. Notice is hereby given to the following borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the Authorized Officer has taken possession of the property in exercise of powers conferred on Authorized Officer u/s 13(4) of the said Act read with relevant rules. Pursuant to the possession taken by the Authorized Officer under SARFAESI Act 2002 for recovery of the secured debts of Punjab & Sind Bank mentioned against borrower(s) detailed hereunder and interest thereon from date mentioned therein and with cost and charges. Offers are invited by the Authorized Officer in sealed cover for purchase of under noted property on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" AND "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" as per brief particulars given hereunder.

**Date of Sale 22.08.2024, Time of Sale 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM,
Last date of EMD : 21.08.2024 Time upto 5:00 pm
Place of Sale : E-Auction through C-1 India Pvt Ltd**

Sl. No.	1) Name of Branch 2) Name of Borrower/ Guarantor with Address	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/Owner's Name	A) Date of 13(2) Notice B) Date of 13(4) Notice C) Demand Notice Amount	A) Reserve Price B) EMD C) Bid Increase Amount
Authorised Officer Name : Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Phone No. : 82504 76152. Details of NEFT/RTGS for EMD : IFSC : PSIB0000719; A/c. No. 07195040070003				
1.	1) BALASORE 2) 1. Mr. Kulendra Gan (Borrower), S/o. Bhairab Gan, 2. Mr. Shiva Gan (Borrower), S/o. Bhairaba Gan, 3. Dambardhar Gan (Borrower), S/o. Bhairab Gan, 4. Parbati Gan (Guarantor), D/o. Nakul Majhi, 5. Smt. Basanti Gan (Guarantor), W/o. Golak Prasad Majhi all at Madhipur Remuna, Baleshwar, Odisha - 756019 and 6. Bidyadhar Majhi (Guarantor), S/o. Bhikari Majhi at Sunhat, Balashwar Sadar, Sunhat Balashwar, Odisha - 756 002	Equitable mortgage of all that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No 522 In Survey Nol Khata No 662/868 Gharbari - Ac 0.03 dec Gharbari Area AC 0 03 dec Mouza - Madhipur PS- Remuna Tahasil Remuna Balasore City- Balasore within the registration Sub- District - Balasore.	A) 24.07.2023 B) 08.11.2023 C) ₹ 14,68,883.03 (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Three and paise Three only) with interest thereon	A) ₹ 20,91,000/- B) ₹ 2,09,100/- C) ₹ 10,000/-
Authorised Officer Name : Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Phone No. : 82504 76152. Details of NEFT/RTGS for EMD : IFSC : PSIB0000719; A/c. No. 07195040070003				
2.	1) BALASORE 2) M/s Sai Motors Prop: Rajib Das & Rajib Das Guarantors : 1. Runu Rani Das Alias Rubirani Das W/o Lt. Chaitanya Das, 2. Radha Rani Das W/o B K Das, 3. Kalyani Das W/o Harishankar Das, 4. Subhasmita Das W/o Rajib Das	Equitable Mortgage of all that part and parcel of Land & Building situated at Khata No-256/184, Plot No-45/1130 admeasuring an area 0.037 Decimal & Khata No-256/184, Plot No-46/1131 adm-easuring an area 0.013 Decimal (Total Area = 0.050 Decimal) (Gharabari) Mouza- Sovarampur, Tehsil-Balasore, P.S- Town Unit No-3, City-Balasore, Dist-Balasore.	A) 26-04-2023 B) 24-07-2023 C) ₹ 40,95,770.48 (Rupees Forty Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy and paise Forty Eight only) with interest thereon	A) ₹ 56,92,000/- B) ₹ 5,69,200/- C) ₹ 10,000/-

Date and Time of inspection : 16.08.2024 between 10.00 AM to 3.00 PM.

Terms & Conditions:

- The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount (inclusive of EMD) immediately after the auction on the same day of the sale in cash or DD drawn as above and the balance bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale or such extended period as may be agreed in writing by the Authorized Officer not exceeding three months. In case of default, all amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold.
- The successful bidder should bear statutory dues/taxes/fees payable for conveyance such as stamp duty, registration fees etc as applicable as per Laws and Income Tax Laws.
- The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject tender or bid any or all the offers and for adjournment/postponement/ cancel the auction without assigning any reason thereof and also to modify any terms and conditions of this sale without any prior notice.
- The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank.
- This publication is also 30 days notice to all above borrower(s)/Guarantor(s).

For further details on the subject, please refer to the link provided in : (1) <https://www.bankeauctions.com> (2) <https://punjabandsindbank.co.in/module/sarfaesi-list>. The sale will be conducted through <https://www.bankeauctions.com>.

Date : 06.08.2024 Place : Balasore Authorised Officer, Punjab & Sind Bank

For details visit our website : <http://www.punjabandsindbank.co.in>

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national

of the day quote

There are many problems and 'this collectors' conference will set the tone for the reconstruction of the state. This will be a historical conference. We have to revive the damaged brand and at the same time we have to prove that the Andhra administration is one of the best

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | CM, ANDHRA PRADESH

As a Cabinet we have advised the Governor to withdraw his show-cause notice and to reject the petition seeking Siddaramaiah's prosecution by activist T J Abraham. I'm hopeful and don't feel that the Governor will do it (sanction prosecution), despite the Cabinet's advice along with facts

G PARAMESHWARA | KARNATAKA HOME MINISTER

It is the unanimous stand of all the legislators that Puducherry should become a state so that decisions of the government could be implemented fast and the wellbeing of people would also be promoted without delay

N RANGASAMY | CM, PUDUCHERRY

SHORT TAKES

Security beefed up at B'desh High Commission

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has beefed up security at the Bangladesh High Commission here in the wake of Sheikh Hasina's resignation as prime minister and an imminent takeover by an interim government in the neighbouring country. Police have also tightened security outside the Indira Gandhi International Airport, in case Hasina lands in the national capital, an officer said. Several senior police officers, including New Delhi district's Deputy Commissioner of Police Devesh Kumar Mahla, visited the high commission to check the security arrangements, an informed source said.

Body of Pakistani intruder repatriated

Jammu: Body of an intruder, who was recently shot dead by the BSF while attempting to illegally sneak into India, was repatriated to Pakistan along the International Border here Monday, officials said. The unarmed intruder was gunned down after he ignored repeated warnings and attempted to cross the border fence through the Khora border outpost in the Samba district on the night of July 31. The body was returned to Pakistani Rangers by the BSF at border outpost Octroi in the Suchetgarh sector of the Jammu district, the officials said.

Nine Kanwariyas electrocuted to death

Hajipur (Bihar): At least nine Kanwar Yatra pilgrims were electrocuted to death and two others sustained injuries when the vehicle they were travelling in came in contact with a high-tension overhead wire in Bihar's Vaishali district, a senior official said Monday. The incident took place in Sultanpur village in Industrial police station area around 11.15 pm Sunday.

Amoebic brain fever: 3 persons diagnosed

Thiruvananthapuram: Three persons who bathed in a pond in this South Kerala district have been diagnosed with amoebic meningoencephalitis, State Health Minister Veena George said Monday. In a statement, she revealed that a recent death in Thiruvananthapuram was also confirmed to have been from the deadly disease, commonly known as amoebic brain fever.



Today marks five years since the historic abrogation of #Article370 and 35A under PM Shri @narendramodi Ji's leadership. This transformative decision has ushered in a new era of empowerment for marginalised sections and strengthened grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

NEW WORLD RECORD OF PLAYING DAMRU SET IN MP'S UJJAIN

A new Guinness World Record was created in Madhya Pradesh Monday under the 'largest damru ensemble' category as nearly 1,500 persons played the small power drums on the Mahakaleshwar temple campus in Ujjain, officials said. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav congratulated the people for setting the new world record



EXCISE 'SCAM'

HC grants liberty to Kejriwal to move trial court for bail

The high court noted that when Kejriwal had filed the bail plea before it, the charge sheet was not filed in the trial court in the case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: The Delhi High Court Monday granted liberty to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to approach a trial court with his plea seeking bail in the CBI corruption case stemming from the alleged excise policy scam, noting the change in circumstances of the case. The high court noted that when Kejriwal had filed the bail plea before it, the charge sheet was not filed in the trial court in the case.

However, now the CBI has filed its charge sheet before the special judge and it would be in the benefit of the AAP leader to first approach the trial court for his bail, the court said. In a separate judgment, the high court also dismissed Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest by the CBI in the case. The high court had July 17 reserved its order on his plea challenging his arrest by the CBI.

Hearing the bail plea, Justice Neena Bansal Krishna said though there is no quarrel about the proposition that the district courts and the high court have concurrent jurisdiction but at the same time it has been held time and again by the Supreme Court that the party must first approach the court of first instance. "In the present case, it is more in the benefit of the petitioner (Kejriwal), considering the complexity and the web of the facts and the material on record, to comprehensively determine the role of the petitioner in this al-



leged conspiracy to determine if he is entitled to bail. "It may also be noted that when the bail application was filed before this court, the charge sheet had not been filed. However, in the changed circumstances, when the charge sheet has already been filed before the special judge, it would be in the benefit of the petitioner to first approach the court of sessions judge," the high court said. It disposed of the bail plea with the liberty to Kejriwal to approach the special judge for the relief. The high court had reserved the order on Kejriwal's bail plea July 29 after hearing the arguments of the counsel for the AAP leader and the central agency. The CBI prosecutor had submitted that the charge sheet has been filed in the trial court July 29 and the proprietary demands that the bail plea be first considered by the special judge. He had submitted that there

were voluminous records not only pertaining to the petitioner but to the other co-accused in this conspiracy and it may not be possible to bring forth the entire circumstances in this bail plea in the first instance before the high court as the records are available with the trial court. While opposing the bail plea, the CBI had said Kejriwal was the "sutradahaar" of the excise scam and there was evidence to show his involvement in the offence. The CM's counsel had opposed the CBI's submission to go to the trial court and submitted that the law recognises concurrent jurisdiction of the trial court and the high court to consider the bail plea. He had said there was nothing which prevented the high court from hearing the bail plea in the first instance and Kejriwal was willing to forego his first step of the ladder and suffer the consequences of missing out the option of filing the plea before the trial court.

BSF orders 'high alert'; DG visits India-WB border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Kolkata, August 5: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Monday issued a high alert across all its formations along the 4,096-km India-Bangladesh border in the wake of the developments in the neighbouring country, officials said. BSF Director General (Acting) Daljit Singh Chawdhary and other senior commanders toured the front in West Bengal to review the security situation. The DG landed in Kolkata around 10.30am on a flight from Delhi.

Chawdhary along with senior officers toured the remote North 24 Paraganas district and the Sunderbans riverine area to review preparations, a spokesperson for the South Bengal Frontier of the force headquartered in Kolkata said. The force has directed all its field commanders to be on ground and deploy all personnel on border duty immediately as part of the high alert, a senior officer told PTI on the condition of anonymity. The South Bengal Frontier spokesperson said, "In view of the changed situation in Bangladesh, the BSF has issued alert all along Indo-Bangladesh border and the number of troops deployed along the border has been increased."

He added, "The DG was apprised of the role of BSF in maintaining national security along the sensitive international border." The BSF chief is expected to be in the region for the next few days. A Delhi-based BSF spokesperson said the situation on the Bangladesh border is normal as of now. Troops are aware and alert about the recent development and situation across the IB is being closely monitored to deal any unforeseen situation, he said.

'Wayanad disaster result of illegal human habitat expansion, mining'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: The Kerala government allowed "illegal human habitat expansion and mining" in the state's fragile region which resulted in the devastating landslides in Wayanad district, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said Monday. Yadav told PTI Video that the consultation with the states on the notification of eco-sensitive zone in the Western Ghats should be finalised soon. The environment ministry has issued six draft notifications, including one issued July 31, since March 10, 2014, to declare over 56,800 square kilometres of the Western Ghats across six states as eco-sensitive but the final notification is pending amid objections from states.

is with the states, we had asked them to submit their objections and suggestions to the committee headed by former director general of forest Sanjay Kumar. There should be consultation with local stakeholders too. Instead of doing this, illegal human habitat expansion and mining were allowed (in Kerala) which resulted in this natural disaster (in Wayanad)," he told PTI Video. "The Western Ghats is one of the most fragile regions in the country like the Himalayas. Serious efforts must be made to prevent disasters in such regions and the Kerala government is also responsible for ensuring the same," he said.

Scientists from the state and beyond attributed the disaster to a deadly mix of forest cover loss, mining in the fragile terrain and climate change

Last week, the Centre issued a sixth draft notification to declare over 56,800 square kilometres of the Western Ghats across six states, including 13 villages in Kerala's landslide-hit Wayanad, Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA), inviting suggestions and objections within 60 days.

ART 370 ABROGATION ANNIVERSARY

Cong and PDP protest, BJP celebrates



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar/Jammu, August 5: The fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, which provided special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was marked by contrasting reactions across the region with mainstream regional party leaders kept "locked" inside their homes. The day underscored the ongoing political divide in Jammu and Kashmir, with regional parties calling for the reinstatement of rights they argue were stripped away, while the ruling

BJP party celebrated the government's decision as a step towards greater integration. While a handful of activists of the BJP celebrated in Srinagar, Congress and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) held protests in Jammu, declaring the day a "black day" for the region. The day was marked by claims of repression from regional party leaders as former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti announced on social media that she had been placed under house arrest and calling August 5, 2019, a "dark day" for both Jammu and Kashmir and Indian democracy. "I have been placed under house arrest while the PDP office has been locked," Mehbooba said. "The day when a semi-autonomous state was disempowered and robbed of everything special," she lamented.



Children play on a flooded street after monsoon rainfall, in Guwahati, Monday

PTI PHOTO

Majority of employed rural youth want to switch job

THE SURVEY FINDINGS INDICATE THAT MORE THAN HALF OF THE MALE YOUTH AGED 18-25 ARE EMPLOYED, WHEREAS ONLY A QUARTER OF THE FEMALE YOUTH IN THE SAME AGE BRACKET ARE WORKING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: Around half of rural men aged 18 to 25 are employed while only a quarter of the women in the same age bracket are working, according to a survey involving 5,169 youths across villages of the country, the report of which was released Monday. The report added that 70-85 per cent of the youth said they wanted to change their jobs. The State of Rural Youth Employment 2024, brought out by the Global Development Incubator (GDI), Global Opportunity Youth Network (GOYN), Development Intelligence Unit (DIU), and Transform Rural India Foundation (TRI), is based on interviews with 5,169 rural youths between 18 and 35 years of age. The survey findings indicate that more than half of the male

Rural India makes up 70 per cent of the country but contributes only 46 per cent towards the country's GDP

youth aged 18-25 are employed, whereas only a quarter of the female youth in the same age bracket are working. Among those aged 26-35, about 85 per cent of men are employed, and nearly 10 per cent are currently unemployed after having worked earlier. In contrast, 40 per cent of women in this age group are employed, while a quarter had exited the workforce, and a third had never been employed. "These findings highlight a gender disparity where most employed individuals were male, while a majority of those who



had never worked were female," a statement on the report said. According to the report, 70 to 85 per cent youth currently employed expressed a desire to change their jobs, seeking new opportunities. "Among those aiming for a ca-

reer change, a majority of both genders and age groups showed interest in starting small manufacturing, retail, or trading ventures. However, younger women stood out with a preference for securing salaried positions in government roles," the report said. The report stressed on finding out what the rural youth wants. "Rural India makes up 70 per cent of the country but contributes only 46 per cent towards the country's GDP. Rural India is also home to two-thirds of India's 378 million youth, with agriculture and allied activities employing 80 per cent of these youth. However, with low productivity and decreasing returns, overall low value-added economic activity in rural areas, and seasonal distress migration, hidden/under employment is a critical challenge in the country," the report said. The report also said women seeking salaried positions showed a strong preference for teaching roles, followed by clerical positions like accounting and customer-facing jobs at front desks, with sales and market-

ing roles being less favoured. Men seeking salaried employment favoured teaching, accounting/clerical roles, and factory work. "These preferences reflect growing demand for these occupations in rural India and the increasing popularity of gig work," the report said. It also highlighted that vocational work is not widely seen as aspirational, necessitating efforts to restore dignity, fair practices, and pride in manual labour to unlock local and profitable opportunities for youth. "Younger women (aged 18-25) favour government jobs while older women (aged 26-35) show increasing interest in self-employment. This shift may indicate that as women age, they prefer self-employment, possibly due to increasing social and domestic responsibilities," the report added.



She has turned Bangladesh around. When she took over power, it was considered a failing state. It was a poor country. Until today it was considered one of the rising tigers of Asia. She's very disappointed
SAJEEB WAZED JOY | SON OF SHEIKH HASINA

Rahman's statue vandalised
Mobs vandalised a statue of former Bangladesh President and the country's independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of Sheikh Hasina, in Dhaka



Hasina's fall from grace

FROM RECORD FOURTH CONSECUTIVE TERM TO DRAMATIC OUSTER

Dhaka, August 5: Sheikh Hasina, who resigned as Bangladesh's Prime Minister and fled the country Monday following weeks of protests, has been one of the dominant figures in its politics since the assassination of her father, independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, nearly a half-century ago.

Her flight came less than seven months after she celebrated a fourth straight term in power and fifth overall, by sweeping a national election in January that was boycotted by the main opposition.

The 76-year-old was flown in a military helicopter Monday with her sister to take refuge in India, media reports said.

Hasina, who provided stability to the once military-ruled Bangladesh but at the same time criticised as an autocratic leader by opponents, was among the world's longest-serving female heads of government.

Protests began in June after student groups' demands for the scrapping of a controversial quota system in government jobs escalated into a movement seeking the end of her rule.

Her political career was rooted in bloodshed. Her father, who led Bangladesh's fight for independence from Pakistan in 1971, was assassinated with most her family in a military coup in 1975. She was fortunate



to have been visiting Europe at the time. She returned to Bangladesh from India, where she lived in exile, in 1981 and was elected head of the Awami League.

INCREASINGLY AUTOCRATIC RULE
Hasina first led the Awami League party to victory in 1996, serving one five-year term before regaining power in 2009, never to lose it again.

As time went on, she became increasingly autocratic and her rule has been marked by mass arrests of political opponents and activists, forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

Rights groups warned of a virtual one-party rule by the Awami League. Zia, herself a former Prime Minister and the widow of Ziaur Rahman, a former President of Bangladesh who was assassinated in 1981, was jailed in 2018 on graft charges that the Opposition says have been trumped up. She was barred from political activity.

BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) and rights groups say Hasina's government arrested 10,000 Opposition party workers on trumped up charges in the lead-up to the January election, which the Opposition boycotted.

Hasina refused BNP demands to resign and allow a neutral authority to run the election.

Both she and her rivals accused each other of trying to create chaos and violence to jeopardize the democracy that has yet to take firm root in the country of 170 million people.

Despite criticism of her years in power, Hasina was credited with turning around the economy and the massive garments industry, while winning international praise for sheltering Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution in neighbouring Myanmar.

A history of upheaval and coups

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation after weeks of violent protests, announced Monday in a televised address by the army chief, has brought focus once more to the country's history of political upheaval and coups

- 1975: The country's first Prime minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Hasina's father, was assassinated along with most of his family members in a military coup that brought in a long period of military rule. Two more coups in the same year ended with General Ziaur Rahman seizing power in November.
- 1981: Ziaur Rahman was assassinated by rebels who stormed into a government guest house in Chittagong city where he was residing. The violence was believed to be the act of a small group of army officers, but the army itself remained loyal and suppressed the rebellion.
- 1982: Rahman's successor, Abdus Sattar, was ousted in a bloodless military coup led by Hussein Muhammad Ershad, who took over as chief martial-law administrator and later assumed the office of president.
- 2007: The army chief staged a military coup and backed a caretaker government that ruled the country for the next two years until Hasina took power in 2009.
- 2009: Unhappy with their wages and living conditions, revolting paramilitary forces killed more than 70 people in the capital Dhaka, most of whom were army officers. The mutiny, as it was called, which had spread to nearly a dozen towns, ended after six days as the angry guards surrendered following a series of discussions.
- 2012: The Bangladesh army said it had foiled a coup attempt by retired and serving officers that was driven by a campaign to introduce Sharia, or Islamic law, throughout the country.
- 2024: Bangladesh's Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman said Hasina had resigned following violent anti-quota protests and an interim government would be formed to lead the country.

INDO-BANGLA TRADE HALTED AMID CRISIS

Kolkata: Indo-Bangladesh trade 'halted' Monday afternoon amid unrest in the neighbouring country due to large-scale protests that resulted in President Sheikh Hasina resigning Monday, according to traders. On Sunday, the Bangladesh government announced a three-day trade holiday, excluding essential services, through a notification. West Bengal Exporters Coordination Committee secretary Ujjal Saha said that due to lack of clearance from Bangladesh customs at their land ports, export and import activities were stalled in all land ports. There had been some movement in the morning, but later it stopped, he said. Trade was disrupted following violent protests against the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh in the last two days.

AIR INDIA CANCELS FLIGHTS

New Delhi: National carrier Air India Monday announced it has cancelled flights to and from Dhaka with immediate effect, amid the growing unrest in the neighbouring country. "In view of the emerging situation in Bangladesh, we have cancelled the scheduled operation of our flights to and from Dhaka with immediate effect," Air India posted on X.

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Bangabandhu Museum damaged

DHAKA: An unruly mob Monday damaged the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) and the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum located at the Dhanmondi area in the Bangladesh capital, eyewitnesses said. The protesters Monday afternoon set fire to several key locations in Dhaka, including



Bangabandhu Bhaban, also known as the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, at Dhanmondi 32, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. The museum was dedicated to Hasina's father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who was assassinated while serving as president in 1975. The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre located in the same area was also damaged by the unruly mob, according to eyewitnesses.

Just over a month after he became Bangladesh's army chief, General Waker-Uz-Zaman has been thrust into the limelight, announcing the

resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who fled the country Monday Zaman said in a televised address that after discussions with "all political parties", it was decided that an interim government would be formed.

Spotlight on B'desh army chief

It was not clear if the army would play a role, but Zaman said, "We will now go to the president of the country, where we will discuss about the formation of the interim government, form the interim government, and manage the nation," he said.

Bangladesh has been engulfed by protests and violence that began last month after student groups demanded scrapping of a contro-



sial quota system in government jobs. That escalated into a campaign to seek the ouster of Hasina, who has been in power for 15 years and most recently swept to a fourth straight term in January.

Nearly 250 people have been killed in the violence. Zaman, 58, assumed the duties of army chief June 23 for a period of three years - the normal tenure for the position.

Born in Dhaka in 1966, he is married to Sarahnaz Kamalika Zaman, the daughter of General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, who was army chief from 1997 to 2000.

Zaman holds a Masters degree in Defence Studies from the National University of Bangladesh and a Master of Arts in Defence Studies from King's College, London, according to the Bangladesh Army website.

Prior to becoming the army chief, he served as the Chief of General Staff for little over six months - a role in which he oversaw, among other things, military operations and intelligence, Bangladesh's role in UN peacekeeping operations, and budget.

Israel confiscates Palestinian tax funds

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Israel, August 5: The country's far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has ordered the seizure of 100 million shekels (\$26 million) of tax funds intended for the Palestinian Authority, saying it would be used to pay for Israeli victims of terrorism.

In a statement issued late Sunday, the finance ministry said the confiscation of funds was "part of measures to combat terrorism".

The statement quoted Smotrich as accusing the Palestinian Authority, which governs parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, of diverting the funds to the "families of terrorists".

Israeli politicians have regularly criticised the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority for granting financial support to the families of Palestinians killed or jailed for acts of violence against Israel.

The finance ministry state-



Starmmer holds emergency meeting

UK PM vows speedy punishment to quell violent protests



REUTERS

London, August 5: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said violent protesters who had targeted Muslim communities would swiftly face the "full force of the law" as he sought to quell days of anti-immigration rioting.

The stabbing to death of three young girls in the northwest English town of Southport last week has been seized on by anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim groups, with disinformation spread online and amplified by high-profile far-right figures to spark disorder in towns and cities.

"Whatever the apparent motivation, this is not protest, it is pure violence and we will not tolerate attacks on mosques or our Muslim communities," Starmer said Monday after an emergency meeting with police and prison chiefs.

"The full force of law will be visited on all those who are iden-

tified as having taken part."

The violence erupted last Tuesday after social media posts said the suspected attacker in Southport was a radical Islamist who had just arrived in Britain and was known to intelligence services.

Police say the 17-year-old suspect was born in Britain and they are not treating it as a terrorist incident.

Protests, mostly involving a few hundred people, have continued in towns and cities across the country, with bricks thrown at police officers, shops looted and mosques and Asian-owned businesses attacked. Cars have been set on fire and some unverified videos on social media have shown ethnic minorities being beaten up.

Interior minister Yvette Cooper said rioters had felt "emboldened by this moment to stir up racial hatred".

She promised a reckoning to

those involved, saying the government would back punishments ranging from jail sentences to travel bans. Police have arrested around 420 so far.

In Rotherham, northern England, protesters tried to break into a hotel that housed asylum seekers in what Starmer called an act of "far-right thugery".

Protests also turned violent in Liverpool, Bristol, Tamworth, Middlesbrough, Sunderland, and Belfast, in Northern Ireland, with largely young men wearing balaclavas and draped in the British flag hurling rocks and shouting "Stop the Boats", a reference to migrants arriving in dinghies on the south coast.

Police have blamed online disinformation, amplified by high-profile figures for driving the violence.

Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, known by the pseudonym Tommy Robinson and previously the leader of the defunct anti-Islam English Defence League, has been blamed by media for spreading misinformation to his 875,000 followers on X.

"They are lying to you all," Yaxley-Lennon said. "Attempting to turn the nation against me. I need you, you are my voice."

Elon Musk, the owner of X, also weighed in. Responding to a post on X that blamed mass migration and open borders for the disorder in Britain, he wrote "Civil war is inevitable."

Starmer's spokesperson said there was "no justification" for Musk's comment.

NK MARKS DELIVERY OF 250 MISSILE LAUNCHERS



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, August 5: North Korea marked the delivery of 250 nuclear-capable missile launchers to frontline military units at a ceremony where leader Kim Jong Un called for a ceaseless expansion of his military's nuclear programme to counter perceived US threats, state media said Monday.

Concerns about Kim's nuclear programme have grown as he has demonstrated an intent to deploy battlefield nuclear weapons along the North's border with South Korea and authorized his military to respond with preemptive nuclear strikes if it perceives the leadership as under threat. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said the launchers were freshly produced by the county's munitions factories and designed to fire "tactical" ballistic missiles, a term that describes systems capable of delivering lower-yield nuclear weapons.

Kim said at Sunday's event in Pyongyang the new launchers would give his frontline units "overwhelming" firepower over South Korea and make the operation of tactical nuclear weapons more practical and efficient. State media photos showed lines of army-green launcher trucks packing a large street with seemingly thousands of spectators attending the event, which included fireworks.

North Korea has been expanding its lineup of mobile short-range weapons designed to overwhelm missile defences in South Korea, while also pursuing intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to reach the US mainland.

Kim's intensifying weapons tests and threats are widely seen as an attempt at pressuring the United States to accept the idea of North Korea as a nuclear power and to end US-led sanctions imposed on North Korea over its nuclear programme. North Korea also could seek to dial up tensions in a US election year, experts say.

Kim lately has used Russia's war on Ukraine as a distraction to further accelerate his weapons development. In response, the United States, South Korea and Japan have been expanding their combined military exercises and sharpening their nuclear deterrence strategies built around strategic US military assets.

Lyles fastest man on planet

1st American to win 100 metres gold at Games since Justin Gatlin in 2004



PHOTO FINISH: Noah Lyles (hand raised) pips Kishane Thompson to the 100 metres gold to emerge the world's fastest sprinter at the Paris Olympics, Sunday

Paris, August 4: After all the talk and all the hype, Noah Lyles duly delivered when it mattered most by winning the closest-ever Olympic 100 metres final by five thousandths of a second here Sunday to give the United States the title for the first time in 20 years.

In a blanket finish Lyles believed he had left it too late to catch the powerful Kishane Thompson, but the giant screen

confirmed him as the winner in a personal best 9.79 seconds, the same time as the Jamaican, but ahead by the width of a vest.

If the race had been 99 metres, Thompson would have been celebrating a fourth Jamaican men's 100m win in five Olympics, but fast-finishing Lyles kept his form superbly and timed his dip expertly to add the Olympic gold to his world title.

Lyles ripped his name bib from his shirt and held it aloft with his red, white and blue var-

nished fingernails, announcing himself.

"It's the one I wanted, it's the hard battle, it's the amazing opponents," said Lyles, the first American male Olympic 100m champion since Justin Gatlin in 2004. "I didn't do this against a slow field - I did this against the best of the best, on the biggest stage, with the biggest pressure."

American Fred Kerley took bronze in 9.81 seconds and Akani Simbini of South Africa was fourth, making it a remarkable

I didn't do this against a slow field - I did this against the best of the best, on the biggest stage, with the biggest pressure

NOAH LYLES

six fourth or fifth-placed finishes in global championships, albeit with the consolation of a national record time of 9.83.

"I did not think I won, I didn't think I dipped at the right time, too early," Lyles said. "I even went up to Kishane (Thompson) while we were waiting and said 'I think you got that one'. But then my name popped up and I thought 'oh my gosh, I'm amazing'," the fastest man in the world added.

Thompson arrived here as the fastest man in the world this year (9.77 seconds) and was the quickest of the semifinalists Sunday with 9.80 seconds.

"I am a bit disappointed, but I am happy at the same time," Thompson said. "I wasn't patient enough with myself to let my speed bring me at the line in the position that I know I could have gone to," he added.

Mahuchikh brings smiles to war-ravaged Ukraine



Yaroslava Mahuchikh in action during her gold-winning effort Sunday

Saint-Denis (France), August 5: It was a night for war-torn Ukraine to rejoice. Thousands of Ukrainians watched on YouTube as high jumper Yaroslava Mahuchikh won gold for the country she was forced to flee, then celebrated with two teammates who also got medals at the Paris Olympics Sunday.

Iryna Gerashchenko shared bronze in the high jump and Mykhaylo Kokhan then claimed a bronze in the hammer throw, too - doubling Ukraine's Olympic medal haul from three to six in the span of about an hour.

"Medals are very important for Ukraine because the people are having a very happy time, and they can cheer us and they can celebrate this with us and not think about the war for one day," Kokhan said.

Mahuchikh is from Dnipro, a city of nearly one million located only about 100 kilometers (60 miles) from the front lines of the war. When Russia invaded, she piled as much as she could into her car and left town quickly. On her way out, she heard gunfire and could, at times, see shells raining down miles away. The next time she returns to her home city, it will be as an Olympic champion.

Once the medals were assured, Mahuchikh and Gerashchenko ran down the track waving Ukrainian flags, prompting a standing ovation at the Stade de France.

Then, when the two high jumpers were given special permission to run over and embrace Kokhan, all three Ukrainian medallists posed together with their blue and yellow flags.

The medals are all for Ukraine, for our defenders some of who were active sportspersons

YAROSLAVA MAHUCHIKH

It wasn't all about celebrating, though. Mahuchikh also recalled the 'almost 500 sportsman (who) died in this war. They will never compete. They will never celebrate. They will never feel this atmosphere,' Mahuchikh said. She added that her gold medal is 'really for all of them'.

Russian rockets and missiles constantly knock out Ukraine's power grid. But Gerashchenko said that the electricity was working Sunday. "Today we have internet, we have light and on the YouTube channel, around 1,60,000 people (watched) online," she said.

Mahuchikh cleared 2.00 metres to finish ahead of Nicola Olyslagers of Australia, who also cleared 2.00 but then failed all three of her attempts at 2.02m.

Mahuchikh considered jumping again and could have tried to break the world record of 2.10m that she set less than a month ago in another Paris stadium. But then she stopped and started celebrating.

Mahuchikh was asked why she didn't make any further attempts. "Why not? I was Olympic champion already," she said.

Mahuchikh also gained curiosity for the way she lies down and wraps herself up in a type of sleeping bag between jumps. She said it helps her relax: "Sometimes I can watch the clouds... not think about that I'm at a stadium," she said.

MEDAL ELUDES BILES IN BALANCE BEAM



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, August 5: No medal for Simone Biles on the balance beam this time. The American gymnastics star slipped and fell off the apparatus at the end of her acrobatic series during beam finals Monday, denying her an opportunity to add to the bronzes she won on the event at the 2016 and 2020 Games.

Wearing a blue-and-white leotard featuring over 5,000 crystals, Biles was more than halfway through her set when she couldn't quite keep her balance. She hopped off the beam and onto the mat while thousands inside a packed Bercy Arena let out an audible 'ohhh' gasp.

Biles received a score of 13.100, tied with US teammate Sunisa Lee for fourth. There was an extended wait for her score to post. At one point, Biles rolled her eyes in seeming annoyance knowing she wasn't going to finish on the medal stand.

Alice D'Amato of Italy took the gold with a score of 14.366. Zhou Yaqin of China earned silver with a 14.100, just ahead of bronze medalist Manila Esposito of Italy. Biles finished in a tie for fifth with Lee.

Biles is also in the floor final later Monday, an event where she's never lost a major international competition, including a gold in Rio de Janeiro eight years ago.

There is plenty of history on the line for Biles in what could be the last competition of her career. Biles has 10 medals in her Olympic career, including seven gold medals. A medal in the floor final would tie her with Czechoslovakia's Vera Caslavskva for the second-most medals by a female gymnast in Olympic history, trailing only former Soviet Union great Larisa Latynina's 18.

India pins hopes on Chopra

STAR JAVELIN THROWER STARTS CAMPAIGN TODAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Olympics history to defend his title and the first Indian to win two gold medals in an individual event in the multi-sporting spectacle.

Eric Lemming (Sweden, 1908

Paris, August 5: A man of many firsts in Indian athletics, Neeraj Chopra would be eyeing another piece of history with his javelin when he takes aim at his second Olympics amid expectations of a golden finish yet again.

Chopra's fabled consistency would be tested after a season that has seen him battle a nagging adductor niggle. He would begin his quest Tuesday with the qualifications round from where the Haryana lad is expected to make the finals August 8.

A top podium finish will make Chopra only the fifth man in

fended the men's javelin gold medals in the Olympics.

Chopra has competed in just three events this year: After finishing second in the Doha Diamond League in May with a throw of 88.36m, which is his season's best, Chopra withdrew from Ostrava Golden Spike May 28 as a precautionary measure after he felt 'something' in his adductor (group of muscles located on inner thighs). He later opted out of the Paris Diamond League July 7, insisting that the event was never a part of his competition calendar this year.

Chopra's coach Uwe Hohn later dismissed concerns surrounding his fitness, stating that his adductor has no issues now. The coach also said his ward has been in high intensity phase of training.

and 1912), Jonni Myyra (Finland; 1920 and 1924), Chopra's idol Jan Zelezný (Czech Republic; 1992, 1996 and 2000) and Andreas Thorkildsen (Norway; 2004 and 2008) are the only ones to have de-

Sprinter eyes more glory

Paris: All the overhead shots and race replays tell the same story. Noah Lyles only led one time during his Olympic 100-metre sprint for the ages: at the finish line. Next up is the 200 metres where Lyles is the favourite. It is his favourite event, a race he has not lost since the Olympic final in Tokyo three years ago, where he finished third. Lyles is not shy about what he wants from all this. Lyles made no secret Sunday that he is in this to promote his sport, but also wants more. "I want my own shoe," he said. "I want my own trainer. I'm dead serious. I want a sneaker in my name. There ain't no money in spikes, there's money in sneakers. I feel like for how many medals we bring back and the notoriety we get, the fact that hasn't happened, that's crazy for me. I feel like that needs to happen."

Paris swansong for tennis greats

MANY GREATS BID ADIEU AS DJOKOVIC COMPLETES CAREER GRAND SLAM WITH OLYMPIC GOLD

AGENCIES



THAT ECSTATIC FEELING: Novak Djokovic celebrates with his daughter and other family members after winning the tennis singles gold Sunday

Paris, August 5: Novak Djokovic on his knees sobbing tears of joy into the red Roland Garros clay after finally winning a gold medal will be the defining image of a magnificent Olympic tennis event. The 37-year-old's win over Carlos Alcaraz was one of the best Olympic matches since the sport returned to the fold in 1988 and will be prominent in the Paris 2024 highlights reel.

It was a story for the ages, a man investing every last drop of sweat to achieve a career Golden Slam and one that surely renders arguments about tennis's place in the Games redundant.

"This kind of supersedes everything that I imagined," Djokovic said, describing his Olympic gold medal as his greatest sporting achievement.

Alcaraz meanwhile said that the pressure of playing for Spain got to him. "I think I put more pressure on myself because I was playing for Spain, for the Spaniards," he said. "I felt that I let the Spanish people down by not winning the gold."

The sight of Rafa Nadal play-

playing his last match at Roland Garros. "What more could I have asked for," he added.

Three-time Grand Slam champion Angelique Kerber of Germany also said her farewell to the sport in what felt like a cross-generational Olympic tournament.

Chinese sport found a new superstar in the form of 21-year-old Zheng Qinwen who became the country's first Olympic singles champion by beating Donna Vekic in the women's final.

And the other end of the spectrum, the high-quality men's doubles final featured 40-year-old American Rajeev Ram - the oldest player to contest an Olympic final since 1988 - in a clash in which the combined age was 147.

And just to bring the curtain down in fitting fashion, veteran Sara Errani and the ever-smiling Jasmine Paolini claimed Italy's first-ever tennis gold by winning the women's doubles. Like Djokovic, Errani completed her career Golden Slam, only in doubles, and summed up what it meant. "This has been the dream for my whole life. I wanted it more than a Slam," Errani said.

