19TH APRIL, 2023

Wednesday

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ATIQ AHMAD'S WIFE SHAISTA PARVEEN NOW 'MOST-WANTED' BY UP POLICE, WHO IS SHE?

A PURPORTED LETTER WRITTEN BY ATIQ'S WIFE SHAISTA HAS SURFACED IN WHICH SHE BLAMED MINISTER NANDI FOR UMESH PAL'S MURDER AND CONSPIRACY AGAINST ATIQ.

51-year-old Shaista Parveen, the wife of mafia politician Atiq Ahmad who was shot dead in police custody, is now on the most-wanted list of the UP Police. A reward of ₹50,000 has been announced for any information about the empress of Atiq's crime world. In a gap of only two days, Shaista lost her son Asad and husband Atiq. Two days after Asad was killed in a police encounter, Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf were shot dead in Prayagraj. There were speculations that Shaista Parveen will surrender at Atiq's last rites, but she is absconding.

Shaista's father was in the police and before marrying Atiq in 1996, Shaista's world was completely different. She studied till Class 12 and had no association with any illegal activities.

In Shaista's name, there are four cases registered in Prayagraj since 2009 -- three cheating and one murder. The first three cases filed at Colonelganj police station date back to 2009 and were registered under different sections of the Indian Penal Code, including 420 (cheating), 467 (forgery of valuable security or will), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating) and 471 (using forged document) besides section 30 (contravention of licence or rule) of the Arms Act. The murder case is of Umesh Pal.

Shaista is one of the prime accused in the Umesh Pal murder case.

In 2021, Shaista joined AIMIM. In January 2023, she joined the BSP. When Shaista joined the BSP, she said, "My husband (Atiq) could not learn discipline due to friendship with SP supremo (former). My husband always liked BSP and even helped top BSP leaders earlier." Mayawati, however, decided not to field Shaista in the mayoral election.

Shaista was part of the plan and execution of Umesh Pal murder, reports said. When Atiq Ahmad was in jail, Shaista took an active role in running his syndicate.Shaista Parveen is known as the godmother in the gang.

Atiq's relative Mohammad Jishan said Atiq once sent his son Ali accompanied by 25 shooters to Jishan asking him to transfer his land in Shaista's name and demanding ₹5 crore.

STOCK

US stock market news: Dow Jones, Nasdaq end in red; S&P 500 ekes out gain as tech supports

The United States stock markets closed flat on Tuesday, wherein the S&P 500 eked out a slim gain on Tuesday after strength in some big technology stocks countered disappointing quarterly reports from Johnson & Johnson and Goldman Sachs as the first-quarter earnings season kicked into gear.

MUMBAI: TWO ARRESTED FOR ASSAULTING A POLICE CONSTABLE IN VAKOLA

The incident occurred when the constable, who was in plain clothes, was taking an injured man to a nearby hospital

A police constable suffered injuries after he was assaulted by an auto-rickshaw driver at Vakola in Santacruz East.

The incident occurred when the constable, who was in plain clothes, was taking an injured man to a nearby hospital. The auto driver refused to transport the passenger over a short distance, and when the constable insisted and questioned him, the driver began to assault him. The constable, who is attached to Vakola Police Station, sustained injuries to his head and face and is currently receiving medical treatment at a hospital. The incident occurred on Monday Evening when constable Pradeep Jagdale (39) was trying to help a person with a fractured leg. "As part of my duty, I was trying to help him. Since I am attached to the detection wing of the police station I was in plain clothes. I stopped an auto near the police station to take the injured person to a nearby hospital. The auto driver refused saying that he won't ferry close-distance passengers and asked me to look for another auto. I requested him again but he started abusing and I later told him that I am police constable and showed him my identity card but despite that he refused and started assaulting me," Jagdale told mid-day.

WORLD

Fox News to pay $787.5 million to settle Dominion defamation suit

Fox News abruptly agreed on Tuesday to pay $787.5 million to resolve a defamation suit filed by Dominion Voting Systems over the network's promotion of misinformation about the 2020 election, averting a lengthy and embarrassing trial just as a packed courtroom was seated in anticipation of hearing opening statements.

The settlement, one of the largest ever in a defamation case, was the latest extraordinary twist in a case that has been full of remarkable disclosures that exposed the inner workings of the most powerful voice in conservative news. In addition to the huge financial price, Dominion exacted a difficult admission from Fox News, which acknowledged in a statement that "certain claims" it made about Dominion were false. "The truth matters. Lies have consequences," Justin Nelson, a lawyer for Dominion, said outside Delaware Superior Court on Tuesday. The settlement spares Fox a trial that would have gone on for weeks and put many of the company's most prominent figures — from media mogul Rupert Murdoch to hosts like Tucker Carlson and Maria Bartiromo — on the stand. The case held the potential to make public a stream of damaging information about how the network told its audience a story of fraud and interference in the 2020 presidential election that many of its own executives and on-screen personalities did not believe.

FIRE IN THANE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL AFTER 10 HOURS; OFFICES, VEHICLES CHARRED

A major fire which broke out at a commercial complex in Maharashtra's Thane city was brought under control after 10 hours on Wednesday morning, officials said.

At least 15 vehicles parked in the building were charred and many offices destroyed, Thane Municipal Corporation's regional disaster management cell (RDMC) chief Avinash Sawant said.

There was no report of any casualty, he said.

The blaze started at around 8.30 pm on Tuesday in the ground-plus-five storey Orion Business Park building, housing nearly 90 shops and offices including a private blood bank and located next to Cine Wonder Mall on Ghodbunder Road, officials said.

The huge flames could be seen from a long distance and people residing in nearby localities said they also heard some explosion sounds.

Sixteen fire engines from Thane and neighbouring cities along with water tankers and snorkel ladders were pressed into service, Sawant said.

Firemen and the RDMC team members made hectic efforts through the night and the blaze was brought under control at around 6.30 am on Wednesday, he said.

Senior civic and police officials were on the spot for supervision.

Firefighting vehicles which joined the Thane team were from neighbouring Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Bhiwandi, Kalyan, Mira Bhayander and the Ministry of Defence, Sawant said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, the official said.

SC ON REMISSION TO BILKIS CONVICTS: WAS GRAVITY OF CRIME CONSIDERED?

The Supreme Court on Tuesday questioned the Gujarat government over the remission granted to the 11 convicts last year in the case of gangrape of Bilkis Bano and murder of her family members during the 2002 Godhra riots, saying the gravity of the offence should have been considered and asked whether there was any application of mind.

Asking for reasons for the premature release of the convicts, a bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna also questioned the paroles granted to them during their incarceration period. "It (remission) is a kind of grace which should be proportional to crime."

"Look at the records, one of them was granted parole for 1,000 days, that is three years, the other 1,200 days and third is for 1,500 days.

What policy have you (Gujarat government) been following? It is not a simple case of section 302 (murder) but a case of murders compounded by gangrape. Like you cannot compare apples with oranges, similarly massacre cannot be compared with single murder."

Hearing a plea challenging the release of the convicts, the court said although there was consultation with the Centre for grant of remission but the state government is required to apply its mind, looking at the gravity of the offence.

The Centre and the Gujarat government also told the court they may file a plea seeking a review of its March 27 order asking them to be ready with original files on the grant of remission.

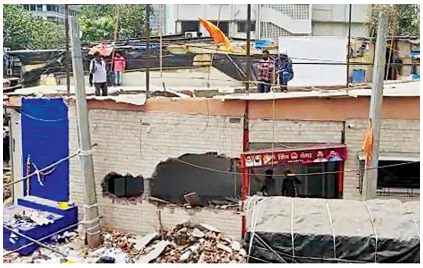
MUMBAI: 32-YEAR-OLD WOMAN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH OCI SCAM

Naik, who is currently in custody, has reportedly told the police that she was paid Rs. 1 lakh to engage in a fake marriage with the Canadian national who is now absconding

The Azad Maidan Police have arrested Shanti Surendra Naik, a 32-year-old woman from Goa, in connection with the Overseas Citizen Of India (OCI) card scam. Foreigners have been marrying Indian nationals to secure permanent Indian visas, using falsified marriage documents, and exploiting poor women. Naik had been on the run since 2021 after an FIR was registered against her and her fake Canadian national husband by the OCI wing of Mumbai Police's special branch. Her fake husband is still absconding. The Azad Maidan Police reported that Naik was located in Goa and was brought to Mumbai on Tuesday. The court granted the police two days of custody to investigate the matter. The FIR against Naik. and her fake husband, Canadian national Daniel Harris Akler, was registered on August 4, 2021, in connection with the OCI scam. The FIR also named another couple, Jyoti Krishna Vishe and her fake husband, UK national David John Lincoln, for engaging in a similar fake marriage to secure OCI. Both Vishe and Lincoln are still absconding. Naik, who is currently in custody, has reportedly told the police that she was paid Rs 1 lakh to engage in a fake marriage with the Canadian national who is now absconding.

MUMBAI: BMC DEMOLISHES SHIV SENA SHAKHA

Civic body says it was illegal; shakha pramukh claims it was constructed on private land and he has the documents for it



The BMC on Tuesday demolished a Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena shakha at Chembur. According to BMC officials, the 'illegal' shakha was constructed in a spot where community bins were placed. Shakha Pramukh Ravi Singh has refuted the allegation. He claimed he got the shakha constructed on private land and has all documents for it. A senior BMC official of M East ward said, "We have taken action as per the rules. We had received complaints regarding the illegal structure."

Singh said, "The shakha had been constructed on a private plot. I took the plot on rent for 3 years. I have all the documents. Last month, I received a notice from BMC. I approached the city civil court which gave a stay on BMC action till April 14."

He said the office was constructed about three months back. "As I want permanent stay against action, I approached the Bombay High Court. My petition was to be heard on Wednesday. But the BMC demolished the shakha on Tuesday. I will produce all documents in court," Singh said. Locals, however, claimed that there had been a public toilet in the past on the spot. After local chawls got sewage connections in their homes, the toilet was unused. "In the pandemic, someone constructed a shakha there.

HEATWAVE PREVAILS IN CITIES ACROSS INDIA, MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE HOVERS OVER 40 DEGREES CELSIUS

HEATWAVE CONDITIONS CONTINUED TO PREVAIL IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY INCLUDING DELHI, BIHAR AND WEST BENGAL. DELHI'S SAFDARJUNG OBSERVATORY, RECORDED A MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 40.4 DEGREES CELSIUS.

Heatwave conditions continued to prevail in various parts of the country including Delhi, Bihar and West Bengal with the temperature hovering in the range of 40 to 44 degrees Celsius. Hamirpur and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh were bowling at 44.2 degrees Celsius. In Odisha, all schools up to class 12 both Government Aided and Private along with all the Anganwadi Centre will remain closed on April 19-20 in view of the prevailing heatwave conditions in the state. Indian Meteorological Department, Bhubaneswar has issued the alert for a Heat wave for net of 2 to 3 days.

In Delhi, heatwave conditions continued for the third consecutive day in several parts on Tuesday. Some weather stations recorded the maximum temperature at least five degrees Celsius above normal. According to India Meteorological Department, cloudy weather and light rain may provide some relief from the heat on Wednesday.

Delhi's primary weather station, the Safdarjung Observatory, registered a maximum temperature of 40.4 degrees Celsius, four notches higher than normal. This is the fourth consecutive day that the maximum temperature settled above 40 degrees Celsius in the national capital. The Pusa and Pitampura areas experienced heat wave conditions with maximum temperatures settling at 41.6 degrees to 41.9 degrees Celsius, respectively, as reported by the news agency PTI.

The threshold for a heatwave is met when the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius in the plains, at least 37 degrees Celsius in coastal areas, and at least 30 degrees Celsius in hilly regions, and the departure from normal is at least 4.5 degrees Celsius. The IMD said a western disturbance active over the western Himalayan region is predicted to bring light rain in the northwestern plains starting Tuesday, as reported by PTI.

The meteorological department has issued an 'orange' alert with a warning of severe heatwave conditions for two days from Tuesday in Patna, Banka, Jamui, Nawada, Aurangabad, Supaul and several other districts of Bihar, as reported by PTI. Besides, a 'yellow' warning has also been sounded in Begusarai, Nalanda, Gaya, Arwal, Bhojpur, Rohtas, Buxar, Khagaria and Munger.

MAHARASHTRA: 'SCHOOL SAID COMPLAINT TO ANYONE YOU WANT, EVEN CM'

FATHER SAYS THE ADMINISTRATION TOLD HIM TO PAY THE ANNUAL FEE, SAYING A REFUND WOULD BE ISSUED WHEN THE STATE GOVERNMENT REIMBURSES THEM

Admission to private schools under the RTE Act's reservation for the economically weaker section is not guaranteed. A case from Kolhapur district's Gadhinglaj city is proof of that. A CBSE school there broke two rules at one go—first, it demanded fees and then refused admission when the applicant's father could not pay.

According to the state government rules, 25 per cent of seats at private and public schools are reserved for students from economically weaker sections (EWS), who are entitled to free education, under the RTE Act. The government pays up to Rs 17,000 per student annually until s/he is promoted to Std VIII.

In Gadhinglaj, Ganpat Gaikwad got confirmation of his daughter's free admission to Sarvodaya Vivek Jeevan Vidya Public School. However, on Monday, when he went to enrol her in Std I, the administration asked him to pay the full fees. The administration told Gaikwad that the school will refund the fees once it receives the amount from the state government. Instead of succumbing to demands, he approached the state school education department with the help of an NGO.

"I was overjoyed when I went to the school to enrol my daughter because it meant she could attend a reputable institution. My joy, however, was short-lived. I was informed that she would get admission only if I paid an annual fee of Rs 40,000 and signed an undertaking to this effect," Gaikwad told mid-day.

He added, "I reminded them that my daughter was eligible for free education because she was assigned to their school through a lottery as part of the RTE quota. The management members said that as a charitable organisation, they were unable to provide free education. They said I could complain to whomever I pleased, even the chief minister's office. I was in disbelief. "I request the government to either deposit the fees to the parents' account or cancel the licences and permissions to such schools. I am sure the school may have rejected many like me," the father said.

WHO IS AARTI MITTAL? ALL ABOUT ACTRESS-CASTING DIRECTOR ACCUSED OF RUNNING SEX RACKET IN MUMBAI

THE MUMBAI POLICE BUSTED A MAJOR PROSTITUTION RACKET IN THE CITY AND ACTRESS AARTI MITTAL HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING THE MASTERMIND. AARTI HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR PUSHING ASPIRING MODELS AND ACTRESSES INTO PROSTITUTION. TWO MODELS WERE RESCUED FROM A GOREGAON HOTEL AND AN INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN LAUNCHED. AARTI HAS BEEN A PART OF A FEW DAILY SOAPS AND SHE ALSO CLAIMS TO BE A CASTING DIRECTOR.

ACCORDING TO AARTI'S INSTAGRAM HANDLE, AARTI HAS ACTED IN A NUMBER OF TELEVISION AND WEB SHOWS, HER LATEST ONE BEING 'APPNAPAN - BADALATE RISHTON KA BANDHAN', STARRING RAJSHREE THAKUR AND CEZANNE KHAN.

SHE HAS ALSO ACTED IN THE SHOW 'NA UMRA KI SEEMA HO'. AARTI, WHO HAS OVER A 100 THOUSAND FOLLOWERS ON INSTAGRAM.

KHARGHAR HEATSTROKE DEATHS: 'AFTER 12-HOUR SEARCH, WE FOUND HER BODY BEING DRAGGED ON A TROLLEY'

FINDING THEIR MISSING LOVED ONES AFTER THE MAHARASHTRA BHUSHAN AWARD CEREMONY TRAGEDY ON SUNDAY WAS A TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS. THE SON OF A WOMAN WHO ATTENDED THE CEREMONY REVEALS THE NIGHTMARE AND HOW THEY FOUND HER BODY OVER 12 HOURS AFTER SHE WENT MISSING. MINAKSHI MESTRY, ACCORDING TO THE DOCTOR WHO PERFORMED THE AUTOPSY, DIED OF ACUTE RENAL FAILURE CAUSED BY SUNSTROKE.

HOWEVER, HER FAMILY FEELS SOMETHING IS AMISS. A RELATIVE SAYS THEY FOUND BLOOD IN HER NOSTRILS AND HER FAMILY IS WONDERING IF SHE DIED IN A STAMPEDE OR OF SUNSTROKE. MINAKSHI HAD LEFT WITH HER FRIEND KIRAN TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY AT 5.30 AM ON SUNDAY. THEY LATER GOT SEPARATED IN THE CROWD AFTER THE EVENT AT KHARGHAR, AND KIRAN MANAGED TO GET OUT SAFELY.

MINAKSHI IS SURVIVED BY HER HUSBAND AND TWO SONS. SHE WAS 58 AND AN ANGANWADI TEACHER. THE FAMILY RESIDES AT OM NAGAR, VASAI WEST. VIVEK MESTRY, 33, MINAKSHI'S SON, SAID, "WHEN MY MOTHER'S MOBILE WAS NOT REACHABLE, I STARTED GETTING WORRIED.

GOOGLE MAY LAUNCH PIXEL FOLD, ITS SAMSUNG GALAXY Z FOLD 4 RIVAL, IN JUNE

GOOGLE IS SET TO HOST THE GOOGLE IO 2023 EVENT ON MAY 10, WHERE THE COMPANY IS EXPECTED TO LAUNCH ITS FIRST FOLDING SMARTPHONE, REPORTED TO BE CALLED THE PIXEL FOLD. AHEAD OF THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, NEW DETAILS ABOUT THE SMARTPHONE HAVE SURFACED, INCLUDING ITS LAUNCH TIME AND SPECIFICATIONS.

ACCORDING TO AN INTERNAL DOCUMENT OBTAINED BY CNBC, THE GOOGLE PIXEL FOLD IS LIKELY TO BE UNVEILED AT GOOGLE IO 2023, BUT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH WILL TAKE PLACE SOMETIME IN JUNE. IT COULD MEAN THAT GOOGLE MIGHT HOST A STANDALONE EVENT FOR THE PIXEL FOLD WHERE THE EXACT LAUNCH DATE WOULD BE REVEALED. THE PIXEL FOLD WILL REPORTEDLY COST OVER $1,700 (ROUGHLY RS 1.40 LAKH). IN CONTRAST, PIXEL FOLD'S COUNTERPART, THE SAMSUNG GALAXY Z FOLD 4, CARRIES A STARTING PRICE TAG OF RS 1,54,999 FOR THE BASE 256GB STORAGE IN INDIA. THE REPORT STATES THE GOOGLE PIXEL FOLD, INTERNALLY CODENAMED FELIX, WILL HAVE A "DURABLE HINGE" WITH A "WATER-RESISTANT" BODY. UNLIKE THE GALAXY Z FOLD 4, THE PIXEL PHONE IS SAID TO BE MUCH MORE COMPACT WITH A SQUARISH DISPLAY

TECHNOLOGY