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IN BRIEF

20 injured in Ghatkopar landslide

BOMBAY: At least 20 people were injured in a landslide at Asalpa village in Ghatkopar on Monday evening, following heavy rains. Eight fire engines were rushed to the site, and rescue operations were continuing at the time of going to press, according to our Staff Reporter.

The incident occurred at Kulkarniwadi near Asalpa bridge on Kherani road, at around 7.45 p.m., according to locals. Neither the police nor fire brigade were aware of the incident till nearly an hour later. Though the fire brigade extricated 20 injured people from the debris, police said that people were still trapped in their huts there. Numerous workers in the godowns, who had just arrived for night duty, were also trapped.

Wanchoo case

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a chargesheet against 12 militants belonging to the pro-Pakistan Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen (JUM) for the murder of Mr H.N. Wanchoo, a well-known Srinagar-based human rights activist, reports TOINS.

Three of these accused militants — Ashiq Hussain Faktoom, Mohd Shafi Khan and Ghulam Qadir Bhat have been arrested, four reportedly been killed in encounters with the security forces and five others still absconding. The chargesheet has been filed in the designated court at Jammu.

Pak session

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan president, Mr Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari, has summoned a joint session of parliament on Tuesday morning to discuss the Kashmir issue, reports TOINS.

Announcing this law minister, Mr Iqbal Haider, told journalists that atrocities by Indians in Kashmir were on the increase and the government had decided to take the parliament into confidence.

ISI men held

MEERUT: Two agents of Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) were arrested in Muzaffarnagar on Sunday night and handed over to the intelligence agencies, reports TOINS.

According to sources, the two arrested are Riaz (32) and Jabbar (34).

Agassi ousted

WIMBLEDON: Andre Agassi, who won the Wimbledon tennis championship title in '92, was defeated by Todd Martin in the fourth round here on Monday. Martin won 6-3, 7-5, 6-7 (0-7), 4-6, 6-1.

Martina Navratilova, bidding for a 10th title at the age of 37, was an easy winner over Helena Sukova, and Gabriela Sabatini lost to Lindsay Davenport, playing in only her second Wimbledon championship. (Details on Page 32)

Colombia out

PASADENA: Switzerland and Romania reached the last 16 of the World Cup on Sunday as Colombia became the first team to tumble out of the finals, reports Reuter.

The Swiss went down 0-2 to Colombia in Palo Alto, while Romania beat the United States 1-0. Bulgaria blasted debutants Greece 4-0. (Maradona interview, Page 31)

JD reconciliation attempt fails

The Times of India News Service and PTI

NEW DELHI, June 27.

EFFORTS for reconciliation between the feuding factions in the Janata Dal appear to have failed to take off with the break-away group deciding to go ahead with their plans to give shape to their party.

On a day of hectic activities, the Janata Dal president, Mr S. R. Bommai, today deputed the Karnataka unit chief, Mr Deve Gowda, to talk to the rebels as another senior leader from the state, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, did not find fault with the dissidents for the split and said "if reservations and mutual suspicions" were not cleared then it could not lead to "logical consequence".

Janata Dal leaders of Karnataka and the Orissa chief minister, Mr Biju Patnaik, are reported to have expressed their willingness to back the breakaway Janata Dal MPs in their bid to capture the party but the move is being frustrated by the stiff resistance of Mr Rabi Ray, a prominent member of the rebel group.

All the members of the break-away group as well as the Karnataka leaders, Mr H. D. Deve Gowda and Mr R.K. Hegde, today mounted pressure on the adamant Mr Ray to adopt a more conciliatory stand towards his bete noire, Mr Patnaik. These efforts were continuing till late tonight

and another meeting is slated for tomorrow morning. It is doubtful whether these efforts will eventually succeed for Mr Ray and Mr Patnaik have never seen eye to eye.

Mr Patnaik was scheduled to arrive here today but was believed to have put off his departure from Bhubaneswar till this issue is resolved here.

All the members of the break-away group, who had gone out to canvass support in the various states, have now returned to the capital and a lengthy meeting was held at Mr Yunnus Saleem's residence.

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As they sought to chart out their future plan of action. In fact, there were a series of meetings today, beginning with Mr Hari Kishore Singh and Mr Fernandes calling on Mr Hegde separately and ending with late-night confabulations at the Karnataka leader's residence.

The rebels contend that in case they can succeed in wearing down Mr Ray's resistance, they had a good chance of taking over the Dal whenever the national executive meets next because in that case they would have support of a majority of the state units. The Bihar unit, another strong contingent, is already a divided house. The Dal president, Mr S. R. Bommai, has given sufficient indication

regarding his loyalties by acceding to the demand of the rebels to call a national executive meeting.

The loyalists, on the other hand, feel they have successfully thwarted the breakaway group's efforts by insisting that they be asked to retract their letter to the Speaker before being allowed to attend the national executive meeting, knowing full well that it will not be acceptable to the other side.

Perhaps realising that they have a tough task ahead, Mr Fernandes and others later told the press that they had decided not to get involved in the messy affairs of the national executive and will instead set up their own party structure. He claimed the support of the Karnataka unit but was less forthcoming about Orissa, merely that "We have not discussed Orissa yet."

The rebels appear to have admitted defeat regarding their original plans to dislodge the Bihar chief minister, Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav. Striking a different stance today, they said, they were not in the numbers game and their effort is now to form the government after the assembly elections are held. They admitted that they would necessarily have to seek the support of the Congress and the BJP to topple the chief minister, which would prove suicidal for them in the long run. Besides, this would only help Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav consolidate his position as he would emerge a martyr.



TINAIKAR'S LETTER ON ANTI-CORRUPTION DRIVE

Share blame, Deora told

By Our Special Correspondent BOMBAY, June 27.

THE campaign against corruption in Maharashtra has taken a new twist with the former municipal commissioner, Mr S.S. Tinaikar, asking the BRCC chief, Mr Muri Deora, to "share responsibility in equal measure" with Mr Sharad Pawar for "looters working in tandem with ministers," and Mr Deora himself hinting that he was not happy with the functioning of the housing ministry headed by Mr Chhagan Bhujbal.

Although Mr Deora did not name Mr Bhujbal directly, he said he had received several complaints from private trusts that the housing ministry was not allocating plots of land reserved for schools and colleges. "I have been shouting about this at meetings with the government, but the government has failed miserably in correcting the situation," he said.

Mr Deora expressed his unhappiness with the housing ministry, which plays a key role in land allotments, when he was asked to react to Mr Tinaikar's "open letter" to him in response to Mr Deora's press release appealing to Mr Tinaikar, Mr J.B.D'Souza and Mr J.F.Ribeiro not to join in the "vilification" campaign against Mr Pawar.

While Mr Deora was content with targeting Mr Bhujbal, Mr Tinaikar has in his letter accused "the government represented by

Mr Pawar" of "releasing properties, case by case through individual transactions" to "unscrupulous builders" and "looters."

He has also pointedly attacked Mr Bhujbal and asked Mr Muri Deora to "share responsibility in equal measure" with Mr Pawar for the "criminalisation of politics in Maharashtra, capture by money power of the state authorities, and the sellout of public interest for self aggrandisement."

"Bombay needs Mr Pawar at present, according to you. Maybe you and he sail in the same boat. The citizens are awakened. Khairnar happens to express their voice which cannot be stifled and gagged by a departmental inquiry. If you have any conscience still pricking you, join the move to eliminate corrupt criminal elements from political and public life, or give up your pretension of purity and of being a guardian angel of this city," Mr Tinaikar told the BRCC chief. He also asked him to disabuse his mind of the idea "that we belong to any group and that we are hounding Mr Pawar."

"As an M.P. for nine years, as MLA and mayor of Bombay, people expected you and the BRCC to save the city from exploitation and ravages. Either overlordship of the state government emasculated the BRCC, or your party has a secret share in it," Mr Tinaikar said.

Mr Tinaikar, who as municipal

commissioner, had crossed swords many a time with Mr Bhujbal when the latter was mayor of Bombay, has asked Mr Deora whether allowing Mr Bhujbal to wield the authority of the government was a tribute to "you or the government of your party."

He referred to Mr Bhujbal as "a rank Muslim-hater, expelled for two days from the assembly, known to have close links with gangsters of the city and who symbolised corruption as leader of the Shiv Sena in the BMC."

Mr Tinaikar said that "excessive regard" for conduct rules and the secrecy in which even ordinary transactions of the government were clothed had prevented the exposure of scandals Mr Bhujbal had been allowed to indulge in. Mr Pawar had even projected him as the leader of the backward classes and publicly hailed him as such.

Asked for his reaction to Mr Tinaikar's admittedly "harsh" letter, Mr Deora appeared keen to distance himself from the controversy. He emphasised that he had not said anything against Mr G.R.Khairnar, the deputy municipal commissioner whose allegations against Mr Pawar had kicked off the current campaign against corruption in the state.

"All I have said is that the chief minister should not be singled out for attack. I hold Mr Tinaikar, Mr J.B.D'Souza, Mr J.F.Ribeiro and Dr Usha Mehta in the highest

(Continued on Page 17)

Hijacker killed in clash with police

By A Staff Reporter BOMBAY, June 27.

ONE of three men who hijacked an angadia's vehicle at Dreamland cinema this evening was cut down in an exchange of gunfire at Lalbaug late tonight. The police are still desperately combing the area for his accomplices, who abandoned the vehicle to make their getaway in the maze of chawls.

The police recovered seven choppers from the tempo, abandoned at the Lalbaug fly-over, following a hectic chase through one

► Picture on Page 5

of the city's most crowded areas. Locals said that a police party chased the suspicious vehicle through the Byculla area, with the three fleeing occupants firing "wildly" at their pursuers, before the vehicle was finally intercepted at Ambedkar Road in Lower Parel.

Official sources said that the tempo was driven by the employees of an angadia or courier service. The three men drove off with it after threatening the occupants near the Dreamland cinema this evening. Driving through Nagpada, a police party picked up their trail and gave chase. One of the fugitives leaped out and opened fire on the police. He was immediately cut down in a hail of fire. Taken to the JJ Hospital, he died before admission, with 14 bullet injuries.

Detailed official confirmation could not be secured because the control room feigned ignorance until more than an hour after the 8.30 p.m. incident.

You SAID IT

by Laxman



More sugar scandal! Someone has ordered the import of brown sugar!

Renuka plans to move court

The Times of India News Service HYDERABAD, June 27.

MS Renuka Chowdhary (MP), who was expelled from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) yesterday for indiscipline, is planning to move the court. She told TOINS today that her expulsion was arbitrary. Pointing out that a show-cause notice was not issued to her, she said it was a violation of the party constitution.

She recalled that in an earlier incident in which the TDP chief, Mr N. T. Rama Rao, had taken umbrage over her statement, she had been issued a show-cause notice and she had subsequently apologised. Mr Rao had taken umbrage over her statement that she would confront him if he failed

to implement the prohibition policy. Ms Chowdhary had spearheaded the anti-arrack agitation on behalf of the party after a spontaneous movement was started by a large number of women in the state.

Citing this precedent, Ms Chowdhary asked why this democratic Practice was not followed this time. However, TDP sources dismissed Ms Chowdhary's contention saying that in a political party, no hard and fast rules governed any action initiated by the organisation.

Ms Chowdhary claimed this morning that TDP MLAs had been contacting her suggesting that she relent in which case the leadership would convert the expulsion into suspension.

Asked if she was not worried that she would be in political wilderness after her expulsion, Ms Chowdhary retorted, "I am not Upendra." The reference was to the former information and broadcasting minister, Mr P. Upendra, who was expelled from the party and since then has not been actively engaged in politics.

Congress circles here are cynically watching the development within the TDP. It is pointed out that Ms Chowdhary, now doing her second stint in the Rajya Sabha, had little chance of being re-nominated and therefore she behaved the way she did. However, Congressmen agree that in an election year, when the TDP seemed to be a serious contender for power, the Rao-Chowdhary tussle would help their party.

Moles in DRDO, claims Pak daily

By SUNIL NARULA

ISLAMABAD, June 27: An English newspaper, *The News*, today claimed in its report that Pakistani secret service agents had penetrated into India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) procuring blueprints of some important defence research plans and full details of an ongoing plan to manufacture a long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).

In its lead report, titled 'Pak agents penetrate Indian defence set up', the newspaper claimed Pakistan had learnt that India was facing difficulties in enhancing the range of its indigenously manufactured UAVs named 'Nishan' and 'Falcon', which had failed to reach the desired range of 150 to 200 km. (Continued on Page 15)

SUGAR IMPORT ROW Cong. stalls PAC meeting

The Times of India News Service & PTI NEW DELHI, June 27.

APROCEDURAL wrangle between the opposition and the ruling party today prevented the public accounts committee (PAC) of Parliament from taking up the "sugar muddle" issue at its meeting here today.

Due to lack of consensus among the members the PAC chairman Mr Bhagwan Shankar Rawat, referred the matter to the Lok Sabha speaker, Mr Shivraj Patil. Senior food ministry officials who had been called to appear before the committee could not do so. The committee is expected to meet again on July 7.

PAC members, requesting anonymity, said some of the Congress MPs objected to the commit-

tee taking up the "sugar muddle" because the comptroller and auditor general of India (CAG) is yet to give its report on the issue.

Opposition members reportedly stressed that a CAG report was not a prerequisite for the PAC to take up the issue. The matter was listed in the agenda for today's meeting and the committee had issued no-

► FCI lifts sugar, Page 15

tees to food ministry officials to appear before it.

In a dissenting note to the committee one of the opposition members reportedly observed that the PAC would be failing in its duty by not taking up such an important public issue involving crores of rupees.

Earlier, charging Mr Rawat with violating rules and conventions,

during the four-hour meeting, the Congress members questioned his authority in taking up the issue of sugar import even before the CAG had examined it.

They contended that such a decision had never before been taken by any PAC chairman. They also took exception to the chairman going public through a press conference about the decision to examine the issue.

At a press conference on June 6, Mr Rawat, while announcing the committee's agenda for 1994-95, had also stated that the committee had decided to examine the sugar import issue, and also to summon the food secretary, Mr A.C. Sen, for examination today.

Mr Sen, who came to Parliament to tender oral evidence, waited to be called by the committee but his turn did not come.

RBI REPORT ON BANKING SYSTEM

Recommendations gathering dust

The Times of India News Service NEW DELHI, June 27.

RESERVE Bank-sponsored study on the Indian banking system has held that the quality of fiscal adjustment is not sufficient for ensuring the success of banking reform.

The report, prepared by the noted banking expert, Mr Deena Khatkhatke, also expresses the apprehension that the current policy of interest rate deregulation may result in a loss of control on fiscal deficit unless the level of internal debt, presently around 50 per cent of GDP, is reduced.

The debt level could be reduced either by surplus on revenue account or by sale proceeds of public sector enterprises. Similarly, in the absence of restructuring of the enterprises in the real sector, banks

ing reform will not be sustained as the banks will be forced to lend to risky borrowers, the report points out.

The report, which was submitted last December to the Reserve Bank governor, has been gathering dust. No action has been taken to implement its recommendations, not has the report been made public. It may be noted that the government is also going slow regarding the implementation of the major recommendations of the Narasimhan committee on the restructuring of the financial sector.

The report is particularly harsh on the functioning of the Reserve Bank (RBI) as the bankers' bank. "In terms of management, organisation, staff skills and modern management tools, the RBI, at present, is at the same level of

inefficiency as the public sector banks to which it is supposed to provide guidance and advice". It further observes that the RBI will have to put its own house in order with a clear-cut plan for reorganisation and well articulated policy for human resource development as recommended in the management audit of the RBI done by an outside consultancy firm.

On the issue of independence of the RBI, the report concludes on the basis of empirical evidence in developed and developing countries that legal provisions are neither necessary nor sufficient for ensuring the central bank's independence. In the ultimate analysis, it can be ensured by RBI's transparent accountability to the executive and the legislative wings of

the government. A respect for the RBI can be maintained by starting a healthy convention in regard to the tenure of the RBI governor and its board of directors and by abolishing the banking division in the ministry of finance.

Dealing with the question of restitution of public sector banks, the report expresses doubts about the various banks' ability to raise equity and says that the government will not be able to escape additional burden of capitalising banks in the next two years. As for the problem of non-performing assets (NPA), the report is of the view that it is beyond the capacity of the concerned bank managements to undertake the sale of non-performing assets. The decision not to set up asset re-

(Continued on Page 15)

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CITY WEATHER

Today's Forecast: Rain or showers, with heavy spells. Colaba: Maximum temperature 31 (N) degree C; minimum 27 (+1) degree C relative humidity at 5.30 p.m. was 32 per cent on day. Rainfall upto 8.30 a.m.: 3.6 mm.

Santa Cruz: Maximum temperature 31 (N) degree C; minimum 27 (+1) degree C; relative humidity at 5.30 p.m. was 32 per cent on day. Rainfall upto 8.30 a.m.: Trace.

HAYWARDS high LIGHTS

TURN TO SPORTS PAGE

