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In Brief

Heavy rain: 1 killed

Bangalore, (UNI)- A 65-year-old man died on the spot when a house wall collapsed at Chikkanayakana halli in Tumakur District of Karnataka due to heavy rain since last night.

Police said Chikkabasavaiah was asleep when the wall collapsed on him.

More than ten houses have collapsed due to incessant rain and authorities have taken steps to shift the affected people to safer places.

BJP Chief Whip resigns

Bangalore, (UNI)- Chief Whip of Ruling BJP, Mr Jeevraj, today tendered his resignation with an eye on Ministership during the proposed expansion of the Karnataka Cabinet.

Talking to newsmen here, he said "I have been working as Chief Whip for the last four years... that is during JD(S) coalition with BJP and after BJP came to power.

"This is sufficient for me, I don't want to continue in the post and have given resignation letter to the Chief Minister". Replying to a question, he said "as any other aspirant, I have also asked for Minister post which is prerogative of the Chief Minister.

"But, if I do not get it, I will remain as MLA and will not again assume Chief Whip post." Mr Jeevraj, a two-time Legislator, represents the temple town of Sringeri in the Assembly.

TOON



'Rajyotsava' Award; goes up to 182

Bangalore, (UNI) - Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa today presented the prestigious 'Rajyotsava' Award to 182 noted personalities for their contributions and achievements in their respective fields.

The awards carrying Rs one lakh cash, gold medal, citation and a shawl was presented by Mr Yeddyurappa at a glittering function held to mark the 54th year of state's reorganisation day.

The award winners included, Commonwealth Games medal winners, industry captains and 15 journalists.

The awards were pre-

sented in 25 disciplines covering all walks of life.



In his address, Mr Yeddyurappa said the World Kannada Sammelana would be held at Belgaum in February.

The awardees, among oth-

ers, included medal winners in the recently concluded Com-



monwealth Games, Aashwini (4x400 m relay), Ashwini Ponnappa (Badminton Doubles) and Vikas Gowda the silver medalist in discus throw, industry captains

Infosys CEO and Managing Director S Gopalakrishnan and CII Karnataka Chapter Chairman Aroon Raman, noted activist fighting against AIDS/HIV Dr Shiva Halli, noted wildlife expert Ullas Karanth, leading Kannada daily Chief Reporter P Thyagaraj and renowned playback singer Manjula Gururaj.

Yeddyurappa likely to expand Ministry

Bangalore, (UNI)- Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa, who had won the legal battle in the Karnataka High Court on the issue of disqualification of 11 rebel BJP Legislators from the Assembly, is likely to expand his Ministry on Wednesday.

According to sources, the Chief Minister had decided to expand his Ministry by inducting four new faces, including Lone Independent MLA Varthur Prakash, who had extended his support to the government during October 14 Floor Test.

A decision to include Mr Prakash into the Ministry was expected to be taken at the Core-Committee meeting of the State BJP, which is likely to meet this evening.

Govt ready to conduct any survey: Acharya

Udupi, (UNI)- Accepting the challenge by Union Law and Justice Minister M Veerappa Moily to have a survey or review to bring out the truth of actual funds spent by the Karnataka government for the grants released by the Centre for its programmes, Higher Education Minister V S Acharya today said the state government was ready for conducting any such survey.

The Minister responding to

the criticism made by Mr Moily on Saturday at Nitte that the



second position given to Karnataka was not really a certificate for the achievements in the developmental activities, but only for spending the central grants which would be known only when a survey was conducted.

Black Flag procession by MES

Belgaum, (UNI)- Maharashtra Ekikarana Samithi (MES) activists today too kout black flag procession demanding inclusion of Belgaum in Maharashtra despite warning by Karnataka Minister for Home R Ashok against any kind of protest on Rajyotsava - State reorganisation day.

Tension prevailed for some time in the city with incidents of miscreants pelting stones on processionists taken out by Kannad Rakshana Vedike (KRV) activists as part of celebration of the state's 54th reorganisation day.

University College may be a National Heritage structure

Mangalore, (UNI)- The Union Government is considering the idea of preserving the ancient structures of University College in Mangalore here as national heritage structure.

The Union Ministry of Culture has directed the National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) to prepare a report on the conservation requirements of the college's heritage structures.

Mr M Veerappa Moily, the Union Minister for Law, who is also the Honorary President of Mangalore University College Alumni Association, convened a meeting

to discuss the development work that the college required, yesterday.

He said the government would take the initiative of handing over the responsibility of conserving and restoring the heritage buildings of the college to INTACH and that an INTACH team would visit the college soon as possible.

In response to the Union Ministry's request, INTACH Director (programme) Divay Gupta wrote a letter to University College Mangalore informing them that due to its expertise, it had been requested to prepare an initial



report on the conservation requirements of the college's heritage structure and that INTACH had decided to visit the college at the end of November.

INTACH has also requested the authorities of the college to prepare a project proposal, an INTACH release said here today.

Harley-Davidson to assemble motorcycles in India

New Delhi, (UNI)- Harley-Davidson India today announced that it will assemble select models of motorcycles in the country at its CKD (complete knock-down) assembly facility which is set to be operational in the first half of 2011 in the state of Haryana.

The company would commence assembling of the motorcycles from component kits supplied by its parent company's plants located in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Missouri and by the its suppliers in the US, it said in a statement.

However, other models

will continue to be imported as completely built motorcycles for now, it added.

"We are building a strong foundation for our business in India, first by establishing a world-class dealer network, and now by commencing CKD assembly operations," said Harley-Davidson India Managing Director Anoop Prakash.

Till now, Harley-Davidson India has been importing completely assembled motorcycles from the company's US final assembly plants.

"This investment will allow Harley-Davidson to improve our market re-

sponsiveness and production flexibility while reducing the tariff burden, which we expect will drive growth over time by making our bikes more accessible to India's consumers," said Harley-Davidson Motor Company President and Chief Operating Officer Matthew S Levatich.

India will be the second country in which Harley-Davidson will have CKD assembly operations outside the US, after Brazil where the company began assembly operations in 1999.

Harley-Davidson India commenced operations in August 2009 and opened its first dealership in July 2010.

The company currently offers 12 models in its 2010 line-up in India, available through authorised dealerships in New Delhi, Mumbai, Chandigarh and Hyderabad.

Plastic ban to be strict : Minister

Mangalore, (UNI)- Karnataka Port, Endowment and Environment Minister Krishna J Palemar, today said his Ministry has already issued circular banning the use of plastic around Hindu temples and other religious places and the measure will be strictly implemented within a week.

Addressing the media on the sidelines of Kannada Rajyotsava Celebration at Nehru Maidan here, Mr Palemar who is also Dixina Kannada District Incharge warned those who violated the order would invite tough penalties. The circular issued last week entailed a fine of Rs 1 lakh or a sentence of seven years for those who violate the order as stipulated by the Environment Protection Act, he cautioned. With this



order, these religious establishments will join a handful of spaces where plastic was banned, including wildlife sanctuaries and national parks, Mr Palemar added. Talking about the new programmes of his Ministry, Mr Palemar said the tourist hotspot of Pilikula Nisargadhama near Mangalore will soon have a botanical park spanning over 50 acre.

The park will be developed at a cost of Rs 15 crore and showcase hundreds of endangered plants from the Western Ghats, he said.

Siamese twins separated in rare surgery

Thanjavur, (UNI)- In a rare surgery, a team of doctors at Rajah Mirasdar Government Hospital, attached to Thanjavur Medical College here, successfully separated four-year-old parasitic conjoined male twins or Siamese twins as they are usually called, yesterday.

According to Dr T V Sathappan, Head of the Department of Paediatric Surgery, Thanjavur Medical College, the operation process lasted for three hours. After separation, the



larger twin was kicking and alive. He was normal, he said.

Dr Sathappan, who led the surgery process, said there were several types of conjoined twins and this case was one of parasitic twins. These were twins that were conjoined resulting in one of them being smaller and less formed

and thus dependent on the larger for survival. The conjoined twins were delivered by a caesarean section at a private hospital at Kumbakonam, he added.

"This is one of the rarest of rare anomalies that occur once in ten lakh births," Dr Sathappan said.

Paediatrics Surgery Department functioning at Rajah Mirasdar Government Hospital is fully equipped to handle such complicated surgeries.

PSUs felicitate CWG medal winners

New Delhi, (UNI)- Its raining money for the Commonwealth Games (CWG) medal winners as after the state governments and private companies, the public sector undertakings (PSUs) have also jumped in the race to honour sportspersons who have brought laurel to the country.

PSUs Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC) India Limited, State Trading Corporation (STC) India Limited and PEC Limited jointly gave away cash awards to the CWG gold, silver and bronze medal winners at a felicitation function here today.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma was the chief guest on the occasion when 132 (individual and team categories) athletes were honoured in the national capital.

Each gold medallist was given Rs 7.5 lakhs, Rs 5 lakh to silver medal winners and Rs 3.5 lakh to each bronze winner. Hockey team was given



Rs 16 lakh while the relay team which registered unprecedented success, was awarded Rs 8 lakh.

"I congratulate the Indian medal winners on their sterling performance in the CWG. It is a matter of great pride that these players have brought glory to the country," Sharma said while speaking on the occasion.

Saying that by hosting the Games successfully Indians have redeemed themselves and made the country proud, the minister said, "These Games have made a statement that India has the ability and resources to deliver at the international level."

China may be strong contender in Asian Games: Jorge C Dacer

up brave fight.

India may win three gold--two in Men section and One in Women section," he added.

Jorge C Dacer, who coached the Indian Team for 15 days at Karnataka State Billiards Association (KSBA), was speaking to newsmen after being felicitated by the Association.

Another International Coach Derek Hill of United Kingdom, who was also felicitated for his 15 day stint in coaching the Indian team at the KSBA, said that 6 Reds Snooker is a new format and it gaining popularity is yet to be

ascertained. Replying to a question, Dacer said, the "Indian team has the talent and can put up brave fight against the opponents and it all depends on players performance on the day of the game." National Coach Manjoj Kothari expressed hope of the players putting up brave fight. The players bound for China, who underwent 15 days coaching, were felicitated on the occasion.

In the 2006 edition held at Doha, India had won one gold, one Silver and two Bronze medals

Photo corner



By shreekanth G J