

MANASA GANGOTRI

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In Brief

Accident claims
five lives

Mysore, Nov 3 (UNI) Five people were buried alive when a sand lorry overturned near Parvathapura near Gundlupet in Chamarajanagara District today, Police said the mishap occurred when the sand lorry, proceeding to Gundlupet from Nanjangud in a shortcut for fear of being caught for illegal transportation, tried to take a sharp turn.

The vehicle overturned and labourers seated on top of the sand, were buried under it. The victims have been identified as Nanjundaswamy (25), Gurushanta (32), Chinnaswamy (39), Mahadevaiah and R K Mahadavia (35), all of them from Ragavapura in the district

Vinay Kumar to lead Karnataka in Ranji

Bangalore, Nov 3 (UNI) R Vinay Kumar will lead a 15-member Karnataka Ranji Team in the match against Punjab and Haryana in the Elite Group 'B' league.

According to a release by the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) here today, the Selection Committee headed by Syed Kirmani has selected the players for the matches to be played at Punjab from November 10 to 20.

Cartoon Corner

No fear of getting taped... Use only sign language to fix the deal...



“Lot of challenges ahead for BJP” - K S Eshwarappa

Mysore, Nov 3 (UNI) The Bharatiya Janata Party in Karnataka, which was under cloud as its government was rattled due to dissident activities, today resolved to work to win majority of the seats in the Zilla and Taluk Panchayat elections to be held in December.

The State BJP Executive, presided over by state president K S Eshwarappa, threw the gauntlet to its opponents Congress and the Janata Dal (S) saying that the saffron party would continue winning elections in the state at all levels.

Briefing reporters after the

day-long meeting, Karnataka BJP spokesperson C T Ravi said the coming elections was the main agenda and the party had asked its workers to swing into action and ensure party's victory.

“They have now taken this task as a challenge and will tirelessly work to make it a success by ensuring that BJP wins the majority of seats in these elections.

“The main plank will be the achievement of the government in the past 30 months,” he said.

The meeting was attended by nearly 80 per cent of the EC members

Karnataka Lokayukta comes down heavily on BBMP

Bangalore, Nov 3 (UNI) Karnataka Lokayukta today decided to take up investigation into drowning of



a student in a pit dug to install a lift at a multistoreyed building under construction at Arasu Colony in the city.

Lokayukta Justice Santosh Hegde, who has taken up suo

moto case in this regard based on reports appearing in a section of the press, felt that the officers of the Labour Department and BBP had not taken precautionary measures to prevent such mishap which had taken the life of a Second Standard student, according to a release here.

“There is prima-facie misconduct on the part of the Officers of the Labour Department and the BBMP which calls for enquiry against these officers, has taken suo-moto notice of this dereliction of duties on the part of officers as provided under Sec 7(1)(b) of Karnataka Lokayukta Act,” he said.



No change in the frequency of FM Gold, clarifies AIR Directorate

New Delhi, Nov 3 (UNI) In a bid to set at rest the controversy over the proposed change of the frequency of its FM Gold service, public broadcaster All India Radio today clarified that the service would continue on its earlier frequency of 106.4 Mhz.

A statement from the AIR

said the decision to migrate to another frequency was taken in view of the fact that the 106.4 frequency had been allotted by the government to private FM operators in the Phase II of FM expansion in 2006, which affected FM operations in areas around Hissar and Karnal due to Co channel interference in the area.

Obama to improve economic ties with South Asia

Nov 3 (Reuters) President Barack Obama's upcoming trip to Asia will be focused on efforts to open up new markets for American goods and strengthen the US economy, administration officials said.

Here are some economic items that will be on Obama's agenda on the trip to India, Indonesia, South Korea and Japan, which includes a G20 summit in Seoul and an Asia-Pacific leaders summit in Yokohama.

The president leaves for India on Friday and returns to Washington on November 14. The trip begins three days after the midterm congressional elections in which voters punished his fellow Democrats for the sputtering U.S. economy and high unemployment.

GLOBAL IMBALANCES: Obama and his team will push hard during his trip and especially at the G20 to limit "excessive imbalances" in the global economy by encouraging countries such as Germany and China to boost domestic demand and reduce their reliance on exports to fuel economic growth.

“Many Asian economies in particular have strong potential to fuel domestic demand either through domestic consumption in some cases, through major infrastructure investments in other cases, and through both, in other countries,” Treasury



Courtesy: Innova-partners.com

Under Secretary for International Affairs Lael Brainard told reporters at the White House.

“This provides important opportunities for America's dynamic exporters, and it also boosts growth more broadly.”

UNLOCKING INDIAN COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL: Despite its size, India is only the United States' 14th biggest trading partner, and the White House would like Obama's three-day visit to Mumbai and New Delhi to be a step toward unlocking its commercial potential, which could help ballast the rise of China.

The White House expects several commercial deals between US and Indian companies to be finalized during the visit, and says it is making progress in ironing out existing obstacles to greater trade between the two nations. Obama will also speak at a summit of US and Indian business leaders in Mumbai. Obama is not visiting India's technology hubs Hyderabad and Bangalore, favorite targets of US politicians who say offshoring jobs is partly to blame for high US unemployment.

“It was with this background that the AIR Directorate after having conducted a field strength measurement exercise, felt it would be appropriate time to migrate to identified frequencies to maintain its large area of operation.

“The change envisaged that the FM Gold service being available to the listeners on the frequency of 100.1 MHZ for

two-three days so as to take care of all technical shift,” the statement said.

“On receipt of this advice from the CEO, the announcement regarding the change was discontinued by AIR the same day. The existing FM Gold service is continuing on its earlier frequency of 106 MHZ,” the statement added.

'Gajah' report recommends elephant to be declared as India's National Heritage animal

Mysore, 3 Nov: The report "Gajah: Securing the Future for Elephants in India" by the Elephant Task Force could well become a lifeline for elephants dying in large numbers due to increased man-animal conflict in the forests around Mysore, according to conser-



vation experts.

The report was recently submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests. If it is implemented in true spirit, it would provide a major boost to conservation of elephants as the Mysore Elephant Reserve, the nomenclature for the habitat under Project Elephant, is home to nearly 8,500 elephants that roam free in the

wild, they said.

Sources in the forest department told UNI that the forests stretching across Bandipur-Nagarahole-BRT-Brahmagiri and surrounding areas abutting Mudumalai and Wynad constitute the single largest contiguous stretch of elephant and wildlife habitat in the country.

Decimation of the forests, encroachment and fragmentation of the elephant habitat and its gradual degradation force these animals to stray into human habitations in search of fodder only to get maimed or electrocuted by farmers desperate to save their standing crops.

There are nearly 160 villages around Bandipur and Nagarahole alone with more than two lakh people and 2.5 lakh cattle, resulting in pressure on the periphery of the forests, reducing the buffer zone.

However, the worst form of degradation was being abetted

by the state government changing the norms for sanctioning mining projects on the periphery of the forests or inside the national parks.

Highway projects passing through Nagarahole and Bandipur reserves have also been approved. Such activities also promote mindless expansion of resorts under the guise of eco-tourism, taking a heavy toll on the forests.

The task force has recommended that the elephant be declared as India's National Heritage Animal to convey the message of the animal being a symbol of unity across diverse cultures and faiths.

Other recommendations include starting a 'Haathi Mere Saathi' campaign in keeping with the unique association elephants have with the culture and people of India since time immemorial, creating awareness about their fate, and establishment of Regional Gajah Centers to serve as education centers on elephants.

Four LeT activists remanded to judicial custody till Nov 16

Jaipur, Nov 3 (UNI)

Four agents of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) were today produced before a local court which remanded them to judicial custody till November 16 for allegedly carrying disruptive activities, blasts and inciting communal violence in the country through some misled Indian youth.

While Asgar Ali, Shakarulla, and Iqbal were arrested from different places a fortnight ago, the Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) of Rajasthan Police apprehended Kabil Khan yesterday.

Kabil, a resident of Khsyan

village in Jhwar region of Jhalawar district, was arrested after due investigation, Additional Director General of Police (ATS) Kapil Garg said here this evening.

The module was aimed at using Pakistani prisoners/agents lodged in different jails for trapping Indian jail inmates for joining LeT inspired/supported terrorist/disruptive and/or unlawful activities in the country.

The ATS is contemplating to seek production warrants against the agents for interrogation and further investigation, Mr Garg said.

Inter-state drug peddler held

Bangalore, Nov 3 (UNI)

The city police today arrested one person from Rajasthan who was trying to sell four kg of opium, valued Rs 60 lakh in the international market, on a busy street in the city today.

A central crime branch release said the narcotic wing

of the city police, working on a tipoff, apprehended one Hemram of Chokadikala in Jodhpur City of Rajasthan and the contraband was seized from his possession.

The arrested was produced before a local court which remanded him to judicial custody.

Greece suspends overseas shipment of mail and packages

There have been a total of 14 actual or suspected bombs since Monday

ATHENS, Nov 3 (Reuters)

Greece suspended overseas shipment of mail and packages for 48 hours today, hoping to stop militants sending more parcel bombs in addition to more than a dozen already sent to foreign governments and embassies.

Small bombs exploded at the Swiss and Russian embassies in Athens on Tuesday, a parcel with explosives was intercepted at the German chancellor's office and another package addressed to Italy's prime minister caught fire when it was checked.

The bombs may be intended to spur an anti-government vote in Sunday's local elections in protest against Prime Minister George Papandreou's austerity plan, agreed with the EU and International Monetary Fund to deal with Greece's debt mountain.

"Such brainless and irresponsible actions aim to damage the Greek people's great effort to put the country and its economy back on its feet ... they will fail, we will not

bend," said Papandreou, who has vowed to be "merciless" with militants.

Papandreou, in office for only 13 months, and acutely aware of the disruption caused by weeks of riots in December 2008 after a police officer killed a teenager, has threatened to call a parliamentary election if voters do not back him.

There have been a total of 14 actual or suspected bombs since Monday but only one casualty, a courier employee who was slightly injured when a bomb exploded in her hands.

"If there are more parcel bombs they must be abroad by now, not in Greece.

Courier services have made checks and have not found anything suspect for domestic delivery," a police official said on Wednesday.

Police, who said their inquiry had shown no links between the bombers and al Qaeda, said members of the public had come forward with information about two Greek men who have been arrested, while investigators searched their homes.

"All evidence show this is a clear domestic case, with no connection with international terrorism," Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Droutsas said. "The evidence so far shows we are dealing with extreme left, anarchist groups." The Greek parcel bombs follow the interception of explosive packages suspected to have been sent to Chicago

by al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

German officials said on Wednesday they want the EU to introduce new security measures against militant attacks via air freight to help improve a patchwork of rules around the world.

FIRE CONSPIRACY CELLS Greek police arrested the two men, aged 22 and 24,

in possession of two bombs, one addressed to French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Two suspect packages detonated by police at the cargo terminal of Athens airport yesterday contained explosives and were addressed to European police organisation Europol and the European Court of Justice, police officials said

PHOTO CORNER



Pic by: Suguna Saravanan

Gliding by as the sun sets