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International

Singapore to repeal colonial-era law against gay sex, says PM Lee



Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced on Sunday the country will repeal a colonial-era law criminalising gay sex, though he maintained that the government would continue to "uphold" marriage as between a man and a woman. The government will repeal section 377A and decriminalise sex between men. Singapore's Section 377A makes acts of "gross indecency" between men punishable by an imprisonment term of up to two years in the largely conservative city-state

Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan charged under Anti-Terrorism Act over provocative speech



Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has been charged under the Anti-Terrorism Act. He has been booked for threatening a judge and two top officials while addressing a rally in Islamabad. Islamabad police lodged a case against Khan under section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act after a duty magistrate filed a complaint over his comments at the rally. The development comes a day after Pakistan's media regulator imposed a ban on live broadcast of Khan's speeches, saying he was spreading 'hate speech' following his comments at the rally.

Pak. singer Nayyara Noor passes away



Celebrated Pakistani singer Nayyara Noor, adored by millions from both India and Pakistan for her soulful melodies, passed away after a brief illness. Noor was 71. Often known as “Bulbul-e-Pakistan” (Nightingale of Pakistan), Nayyara Noor was born in November 1950 in Guwahati, Assam in India. She will forever be remembered for her renditions of work by Pakistan’s famous revolutionary poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz – music released in a 1976 compilation called Nayyara Sings Faiz.

Alkesh Sharma nominated to UN Internet Governance Leadership Panel



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Alkesh Kumar Sharma, a senior bureaucrat and currently Secretary to the Union Department of Electronics and Information Technology, on to the inaugural Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Leadership Panel. A 1990 batch Kerala cadre IAS officer from Rajasthan and a former Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat, Sharma is among the panel of 10 distinguished experts on digital governance nominated, along with Maria Reesa, Nobel Prize-winning journalist and Vint Cerf, a global pioneer and recognised as one of ‘the fathers of the Internet.’

National

India delivers tenth tranche of medical aid to Afghanistan



India has supplied the tenth tranche of medical assistance to Afghanistan as part of India's ongoing humanitarian assistance. It was handed over to the Indira Gandhi Hospital, Kabul. In view of the urgent appeals made by the United Nations to assist the Afghan people, India has so far supplied 32 tonnes of medical assistance in ten batches which include essential life-saving medicines, anti-TB medicines, five lakh doses of COVID vaccine.

Tertiary level centres to come up for treatment of people exposed to chemical, nuclear attacks



In a first, the Union Health Ministry has drawn up a proposal to set up two tertiary level centres for the treatment of people exposed to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents or attacks. It is aimed at managing medical emergencies arising out of incidents such as the Bhopal gas tragedy, Visakhapatnam HPCL refinery blast, Tughlaqabad gas leak, Kanpur ammonia gas leak and other industrial accidents.

The detailed project report for setting up of these two chemicals, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) facilities at Stanley Medical College in Chennai, Tamil Nadu and Jhajjar Campus, AIIMS has been readied. The two facilities are to be set up over one-and-half years at an estimated cost of Rs 230 crore.

Lumpy skin disease toll rises to 7,300



Over 7,300 cattle have died so far due to 'lumpy skin disease' in eight states and one Union Territory, a senior government official said. Punjab tops the list with 3,359 animals dead. It is a contagious viral condition that is transmitted by blood-feeding insects, thereby affecting cattle. It is transmitted by blood-feeding insects, such as certain species of flies and mosquitoes, or ticks. It causes fever, nodules on the skin and can also lead to death.

LSD has recently spread in Asia following outbreaks in the Middle East and Europe. The disease emerged in Bangladesh in July 2019.

All AIIMS to be renamed



The Union government has firmed up a proposal to give specific names to all the AIIMS, including that in Delhi, based on regional heroes, freedom fighters, historical events or monuments of the area or their distinct geographical identity. Majority of the 23 All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have submitted a list of names, after the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare sought suggestions from them in this matter.

AIIMS, many of which are operational while others are being set up under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), are known by its generic name and distinguished only by their location.

Banking and Internet

RBI may allow SFBs to co-lend with NBFCs as part of its liberalisation measures



After making Small Finance Banks (SFBs) eligible for Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I license, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may take the next step in liberalising their scope of activities. It could allow these banks to co-lend with non-banking finance companies (NBFCs). Currently, SFBs are not permitted to co-lend with another lender. Only scheduled commercial banks and NBFCs are allowed to co-lend to the priority sectors like agriculture; micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), education, housing, among others.

No plan to levy charges on UPI, clarifies Finance Ministry



The Union government has clarified that there is no plan to levy any charges for UPI services. In a series of tweets, Finance Ministry said, UPI is a digital public good with immense convenience for the public and productivity gains for the economy. The clarification came amid some reports that there may be possibility of UPI transactions charge. The Ministry said, the concerns of the service providers for cost recovery have to be met through other means.

Mineral production records 7.5% growth in June



The mineral production in the country recorded 7.5 percent growth in June this year. The index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector for June 2022 was at 113.4, which is 7.5 percent higher as compared to the level in June last year. As per the provisional figures of Indian Bureau of Mines, the cumulative growth for the period April to June, 2022-23 over the corresponding period of the previous year has increased by 9 percent.

The production of important minerals showing positive growth during June this year over June last year include, Diamond, Gold, Phosphorite, Coal, Lignite, Zinc, Manganese ore and Natural Gas. The production of other important minerals showing negative growth include, Petroleum crude, Copper and Iron Ore.

Sports

Coric upsets Tsitsipas to win Cincinnati Masters title



Tennis player Borna Coric has dominated fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas on Sunday to win the ATP Cincinnati Masters. The world number 152 from Croatia dispatched the Greek star 7-6 (7/0), 6-2 to become the lowest-ranked player to ever lift a Masters trophy.

Bagnaia wins Austrian MotoGP for third successive victory



Italy's Francesco Bagnaia maintained his magnificent run of form winning the Austrian MotoGP for his third successive victory. Bagnaia led from start to finish on his Ducati – its sixth win in the seven MotoGPs since the race returned to the program.

New Zealand beats West Indies to clinch ODI series



New Zealand overhauled the West Indies' total of 301-8 to win the third One-Day International by five wickets and clinch the series 2-1. Tom Latham scored 69 and put on 120 for the fourth wicket with Daryl Mitchell (63) in a stand which paced the run chase and carried New Zealand in sight of victory on Sunday.

Wrestling: Sumit, Rohit bag bronze



Sumit and Rohit Dahiya opened India's Greco Roman account by landing bronze medals on the concluding day of the World under-20 wrestling championships in Sofia, Bulgaria, on Sunday. Rohit Dahiya (82kg), an Asian under-20 bronze medal winner, beat Czech Republic's Marek Vrba 4-2 in the repechage round.