

Romanian PhD student at BHU found dead under suspicious circumstances

VARANASI

A Romanian student pursuing a PhD in Indian Philosophy at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) was found dead under suspicious circumstances at her rented accommodation in Varanasi, police said on Saturday.

The deceased was identified as 27-year-old Philip Francisca, who had been residing in a room under the

Chowk police station area. According to officials, when Francisca failed to respond to repeated knocks on her door late Friday night, her landlord alerted the police.

Officers reached the spot, opened the room with a duplicate key, and discovered her lying motionless on the bed.

ACP Dashashwamedh Ghat, Atul Anjan Tripathi, told reporters, "Yesterday,

we received the information, and we reached the spot. Upon investigating, her friends informed that her name is Philip Francisca and that she is from Romania. She was a student at the BHU and had been living here for many years."

Police confirmed that no notes or medicines were recovered from the room, though preliminary inquiries suggested that Francisca had a medical history.



"We also got to know through her friends that she had been suffering from epilepsy since childhood, and she used to take medicines regularly. Forensic samples have been collected, and the post-mortem report will clarify the cause of death," Tripathi said.

Authorities added that Francisca's family has been contacted through the Romanian Embassy and that her mortal remains will be

handed over once her relatives arrive in India.

Police have seized her passport, visa, and mobile phone as part of the investigation.

Officials said Francisca had a valid visa until 2027 and had been living in Varanasi for a considerable period, following earlier study stints in Surat and Amritsar.

Further investigations are underway, and more details are awaited. (IANS)

Cloudburst buries vehicles in debris, damages farms in HP

SHIMLA

SEVERAL vehicles were buried under debris and crops were damaged due to a cloudburst in Himachal Pradesh's Bilaspur district in the early hours of Saturday, officials said.

No casualty was reported in the cloudburst that occurred around 3 am in the Gutrahan village in the Naina Devi assembly constituency.

Gushing waters carrying debris scattered all over agricultural lands, said Kashmir Singh, a villager whose land and crops have been damaged.

Four vehicles were buried under debris, said Deputy Commissioner of Bilaspur Rahul Kumar, adding that crop damage is being assessed and relief will be provided after receiving the



report. As soon as the information about the incident was received, officials reached the spot and took stock of the situation. The Public Works Department has begun removing the debris to restore traffic at the earliest.

There are reports of water and debris damaging houses in the Mamal and Kamlari villages of the Bhattiyat assembly constituency in Chamba district.

In the state capital of Shimla, fog engulfed reduced visibility to about a few metres, inconveniencing motorists. The local weather office has issued a yellow warning of heavy rains in isolated parts of the state on Saturday and Sunday.

Light to moderate rains continued to lash parts of the state, and Palampur received 86 mm of rain since Friday evening, followed by Murari Devi 69.2 mm, Kangra 58.2

mm, Jogindernagar 45 mm, Aghar 16.8 mm, Naina Devi 16.6 mm, Dharamshala 14.8 mm and Mandi 13.6 mm. A total of 577 roads, including the Attari-Leh stretch of National Highway-3, Aut-Sainj section of NH-305 and Amritsar-Bhota stretch of NH-503A, were closed for traffic on Saturday morning.

About 389 power transformers and 333 water supply schemes have been disrupted in the state due to the recent floods and landslides, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC).

A total of 386 people have died in rain-related incidents and road accidents since the onset of the monsoon over the state on June 20. So far, the state has suffered a loss of Rs 4,465 crore, the officials said. (PTI)

Greater Noida tragedy

Mother, son end lives by jumping from 13th floor

GREATER NOIDA

A heart-wrenching incident shocked residents of a high rise apartment in Greater Noida West on Saturday morning when a woman and her young son died by suicide after jumping from the 13th floor, police said.

The incident happened in Ace City Society, located in the Bisrakh police station area.

The deceased have been identified as Sakshi Chawla (37), wife of Darpan Chawla, and their son Daksh (11).

According to police, the mother and child fell from the 13th floor in the morning hours, dying on the spot. Police teams rushed to the society immediately after receiving the information. The bodies were taken into custody and later sent for post-mortem after completion of the inquest proceedings.

During the inspection, police recovered a suicide note in which Sakshi expressed her desire to "leave the world." Initial findings suggest that the family had been under considerable mental stress. Sources re-



vealed that the young boy, Daksh, was suffering from a prolonged mental illness. Investigators believe Sakshi was extremely distressed over her son's medical condition, and this constant pressure may have driven her to the drastic step.

Eyewitnesses said panic

spread in the society immediately after the fall, and residents were left in a state of disbelief. Police officers, however, quickly took control of the situation to restore order.

"This tragic incident has shaken everyone in the society. Neighbours are deeply shocked at what happened," said a police official.

Greater Noida police have launched a detailed investigation into the case. While preliminary reports indicate mental stress as the primary reason, officials said a clearer picture will emerge after the post-mortem report and further inquiries.

The double suicide has left the residents of the society mourning, highlighting once again the silent struggles many families endure behind closed doors. (IANS)

Monsoon withdrawal from Rajasthan likely from tomorrow

JAIPUR

THE departure of the southwest Monsoon from Rajasthan is likely to begin next week, the meteorological centre here said on Saturday.

The weather is likely to remain dry in most parts of western Rajasthan for the next one week and in most parts of eastern Rajasthan for the next two to three days. According to the weather office, the conditions are favourable for the departure of monsoon from some parts of western Rajasthan from September 15, while light to moderate rain is likely at some places in the south-eastern parts from September 16.

In the 24 hours till Saturday morning, light rain was recorded in Dholpur district, while the weather remained dry in other parts. (PTI)

Bhopal college students rape case

Authorities demolish homes of two accused

BHOPAL

ILLEGALLY constructed houses of two men arrested in the case of rape and blackmail of college students were demolished in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal on Saturday, an official said. The action against another accused arrested in the case has been deferred due to a court hearing, the official said. Barricades were placed around the houses in the Arjun Nagar area on Friday evening, and the demolition began around 5am amid heavy police deployment, she said. Unauthorised houses of Shamsuddin aka Saad and Sahil Khan were demolished, while action against the house of another accused,



Farhan Ali, will be taken after his court hearing, the official said. Speaking to reporters, Govindpura Sub-Divisional Magistrate Raveesh Srivastava said that the demolition was carried out in keeping with rules, and illegal encroach-

ments on government land were removed in the presence of police. According to the police, the accused in the case, Farhan Ali, Saad, Sahil Khan, Nabeel, Ali Khan and Abrar face charges of raping students of a private college,

blackmailing and attempting to convert them.

The city police had registered a case against the accused on April 25 for allegedly raping three female students and then blackmailing them by making objectionable videos. (PTI)

Jhalawar tragedy

Govt announces Rs 13 lakh for kin of the deceased

JAIPUR

RAJASTHAN Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Saturday announced a comprehensive relief package for the victims of the school roof collapse tragedy in the Manoharthana area in Jhalawar district.

Along with expressing deep condolences to the bereaved families, the government has also sanctioned major development works for the region. Under the relief measures, the Chief Minister approved financial assistance of Rs 13 lakh each to the families of the students who lost their lives in the accident.

In addition, Rs 1.36 lakh will be provided to each of the 11 seriously injured students and their families, while Rs 75,400 has been



sanctioned for each of the 10 students with minor injuries. Simultaneously, the state government has announced development works worth over Rs 1 crore for Piplodi village.

The CMO officials said, "Following the unfortunate incident in Piplodi village of Jhalawar, the state government and public representatives have initiated development works worth Rs 1.85 crore along with comprehensive relief measures for the affected families. A sum of Rs 1.50 crore has been sanctioned for the

reconstruction of the Piplodi school building, Rs 11 lakh for the construction of a community building, and Rs 24 lakh for a drinking water tank, tube well, and Khuranja road under the Zila Parishad."

Family members of every deceased student have also been given employment in the medical department on a contractual basis.

Apart from financial assistance, 11 families have been provided free domestic gas connections, along with cattle sheds, teaching materials, school bags, toys, and track suits for children, ensuring both immediate relief and long-term support.

Seven students lost their lives when a school roof collapsed in Jhalawar's Piplodi village recently due to heavy rain. (IANS)

Panel for Ambala Cantt industrial area established

CHANDIGARH

HARYANA Transport Minister Anil Vij, on Saturday, announced the formation of a five-member committee to improve infrastructure and services in the Ambala Cantonment industrial area.

He directed the establishment of a dedicated war room within the industrial premises to monitor and coordinate all arrangements until normalcy is restored.

The war room, set up in a factory unit, will include officials from the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC), the Public Health Department, power discom, the Municipal Council and the police.

Representatives of the Industrial Area -- Subhash Dhiman, Gopi Sehgal, Kamaljit Jain, Kapil Verma and

Akhil Gupta, have also been included into the committee. They will work in close coordination with departments concerned to ensure prompt resolution of issues.

During his inspection visit to the industrial area, Minister Vij ordered an intensive cleaning campaign and large-scale spraying of disinfectants.

He instructed Municipal Council officials to deploy maximum manpower and resources to carry out cleanliness drives on a war footing.

He also directed immediate restoration of drinking water and uninterrupted power supply.

To address waterlogging, Minister Vij ordered the Public Health Department to deploy a super sucker machine for drainage. (IANS)

SP MP flays Ramabhadracharyas 'Mini Pakistan' remark

MUZAFFARNAGAR

SAMAJWADI Party (SP) MP Harendra Malik has strongly reacted to the controversial comment made by Jagadguru Ramabhadracharya, who likened the Meerut region of Uttar Pradesh to a "Mini Pakistan" during a religious discourse.

Malik dismissed the statement, saying it reflects Ramabhadracharya's personal opinion and does not represent the reality of the region. "We were born here, we live here. This is an integral part of India, and all citizens here are Indian — Hindustani, Bharatiya," the SP leader asserted.

Malik also disagreed with Baba Bageshwar's call to turn India into a "Hindu Rashtra," stating, "We believe in the Constitution. We neither support nor accept any statement that goes against it."

He described India as a constitutional and secular nation, where history has shown Hindus and Muslims living together in harmony. He said such divisive remarks are unfortunate and called on the government to take strict action to prevent damage to social harmony.

Raising concern about the timing of such remarks, Malik said, "These kinds of statements usually emerge close to elections. There might be a political conspiracy behind them to instigate Hindu-Muslim riots."



He warned that such deliberate provocations could damage the image of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the state government. He added, "Western Uttar Pradesh follows the politics of respect, not pressure."

When asked about the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) and BJP contesting district panchayat elections separately, Malik declined to comment, calling it an internal matter between the two parties. (IANS)

Bomb threat to Taj Palace Hotel turns out to be hoax

NEW DELHI

PANIC gripped the Taj Palace Hotel in Delhi's Chanakyapuri on Saturday after a threatening email claimed that 16 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) had been planted inside the hotel premises.

The hotel, which often hosts VVIP guests, was swiftly inspected by police teams, but nothing suspicious was found.

According to officials, the email, sent around 2 a.m., warned that "16 RDX IEDs have been placed in Delhi's Taj Palace Hotel for an explosion in the afternoon. The presence of VVIPs has been confirmed, so please evacuate all innocent guests by 11 a.m." The threat triggered a massive security response.

Local police along with bomb disposal squads and other agencies thoroughly searched the hotel.



After hours of checks, no explosives were found, and the message was declared a hoax.

Police sources said that the same email ID had been used on Friday to send similar threats to the Delhi and Bombay High Courts.

Following the incident, Delhi Police registered a case against unknown persons and launched an investigation. Cyber experts are examining the servers and technical details to pinpoint the source of the threatening emails.

Meanwhile, Mumbai Police confirmed that an FIR

has been filed in connection with threat to the Bombay High Court.

The case has been registered at Azad Maidan Police Station under Sections 353(1) and 353(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

"Investigations are underway to trace the culprit behind the threatening mail," a Mumbai Police spokesperson said.

Both Delhi and Mumbai Police have increased security measures at key locations, especially around courts and luxury hotels, while investigations continue.

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