

National & International News

Convict's appeal against death penalty: SC seeks reply from UP govt

Agency
New Delhi, Jun 10

The Supreme Court has sought the Uttar Pradesh government's response on a plea by a death-row convict challenging the Allahabad High Court's judgement upholding the capital punishment awarded to him for burning alive his son and two brothers. A vacation bench of justices Adarsh Kumar Goel and Ashok Bhushan issued notice to the state on the appeal and called for the original records of the case. The counsel representing convict Irfan requested the apex court to stay the execution of sentence. "When the appeal is pending

before us, nobody is going to be executed," the bench observed.

"Intimation of this matter be sent to the concerned jail authority," the bench noted in its order.

Irfan challenged the April 25 verdict of the high court which had upheld the death penalty awarded to him by a trial court in Binjor district.

Fifty-year-old Irfan was convicted by the trial court for offences under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code, including murder.

According to the police, Irfan had set the room, in which his son and two brothers were sleeping, on fire by pouring inflammable substance and bolted the door from outside on the intervening night of

August 5-6, 2014.

It had said that injured persons — Irshad, Naushad and Islamuddin — were rushed to a hospital in Delhi where they died during the treatment.

The police had also said Islamuddin opposed his father's second marriage leaving Irfan annoyed.

Irfan had assaulted his son two days prior to the incident and Irshad and Naushad had mediated between them, the police said.

Following the incident, a complaint was lodged by Irfan's father-in-law.

During the trial, Irfan alleged that he was falsely implicated in the case by some of his relatives so as to deny a share in their ancestral property.

Minister Radheshyam urges students to dream big and learn to take risk

DIPR

Imphal, June 10,

Education Minister Thokchom Radheshyam urged the students to dream big and not to fear in taking risks. He said that to grow and succeed in life one must learn to take risks by overcoming the fear that hinder their ideas, views and dreams to be achieved.

The Minister was speaking at the Felicitation of HSLC Examination and HSSLC Examination successful candidates organized by the Kuki Student Organisation, Sadar Hills at G. Sapormeina Community Hall.

Congratulating the students on their success, he said that education is the solution to all the issues and problems prevailing in the society. He said that only the educated youths can secure the future not only for the state but for the country and the world as a whole.

Being a student, the young minds, the Minister stressed that they should try to instill the habit of questioning of what have been taught, happening and occurrence in the surrounding atmosphere. He appealed the parents not to pressurize the students with daily routine rather to let the



children follow their dreams, to become innovative and creative.

Failure, he asserted is the next stepping stone towards the path of success. Taking example of Thomas Edison making 1,000 unsuccessful attempts at inventing the light bulb, he advised the students never to give up with their aims in life. He asserted that along with success one must work towards becoming a good human being too.

MLA Ngamthang Haokip said

self discipline, perseverance and hard working are three qualities students must inculcate to achieve their goal in life. He added in today's world education is the most powerful weapon that would bring a positive change.

Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Rangitabali Waikhom said there is need to change the outlook, method and thinking to reform the mindset and education system encouraging to be original, creative and think out of the

box possibilities to enable the children compete with the children of globalised world. Prior to felicitation programme, the Minister inaugurated the Omega House & Girl Hostel of Omega Public School, Motbung at the Grand Opening ceremony of the Omega House & Girl Hostel cum Graduation Exercise of the first batch HSLC Examination-2018.

The programme was attended by the community leaders, teacher, students and locals.

Daily yoga practice improves sperm quality: AIIMS study

Agency
New Delhi, Jun 10

A daily yoga routine significantly improve sperm quality, according to a study conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

The study, which was published in Nature Review Urology, an international medical journal, early this year, was conducted by experts in the department of Anatomy at AIIMS in collaboration with the department of Urology and Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The major cause of defective sperm function is DNA damage. The quality of genetic components in sperm are vital for birth of a healthy offspring, said Dr Rima Dada, Professor in-charge of Laboratory of Molecular Reproduction and Genetics,

Department of Anatomy at AIIMS.

"Sperm DNA damage is the common underlying cause of idiopathic infertility, idiopathic recurrent spontaneous abortion and congenital malformations. Sperm DNA damage also leads to increased chances of denovo germ line mutations and accumulation of mutagenic bases. This leads to the offspring being at increased risk of genetic and epigenetic disorders and thus adversely affects health trajectory of the offspring," Dr Dada said. The major cause of DNA damage is oxidative stress, a condition in which there is imbalance between free radical levels and anti-oxygen capacity in the body.

Of all the cells in the body, the male germ cell is the

most vulnerable to oxidative stress.

Oxidative stress can be caused by various internal and external factors like environmental pollution, exposure to insecticides and pesticides, electromagnetic radiation, infection, smoking, alcohol consumption, obesity and nutritionally depleted fast food.

All these factors are preventable and simple modifications in our lifestyle can positively improve the DNA quality which in turn can reduce incidents of male infertility. Performing yoga regularly reduces oxidative stress, decreases DNA damage and aids in maintenance of telomere lengths, Dada said. This study was done in 200 men who practiced yoga for 6 months.

9 killed in Kerala in rain-related incidents

Agency
Thiruvananthapuram, June 10

At least nine persons were killed in the last two days in Kerala in rain-related incidents even as the downpour continued in parts of the state, officials said.

One person died today after he came in contact with a power line that snapped in gusty winds at nearby Neyyatinkara while another drowned in a river in Alappuzha, officials at the State Control room for disaster management said here.

According to revenue authorities, seven deaths, including two each in Thiruvananthapuram and Alappuzha, were reported in rain-related calamities in the last two days.

Most of the deaths occurred due to drowning in swollen rivers and uprooting of trees, they said.

The rain also damaged crops and property in Idukki, Kozhikode, and Kannur districts, the officials said, adding the loss to agriculture and property was being assessed.

Traffic was disrupted in the high range Idukki district following landslides and after trees fell on the road, officials said.

Sea erosion was also reported from coastal areas of the state. A relief camp has been opened

at nearby Kadinamkulam, where 40 persons from 10 families were shifted.

Another 78 persons from 22 fishermen's families affected by sea erosion were given shelter at a camp at Alappuzha, officials said.

The Met department has said strong winds with a speed of 40-50 kmph, gusting to 60 kmph, are likely along and off Kerala coasts and over Lakshadweep areas in the next 24 hours.

The sea condition would be rough to very rough over the Arabian sea. Fishermen have been asked not to venture in to these areas.

Meanwhile, the state

government's 52-day ban on trawling by mechanised fishing boats during monsoon in Kerala came into force from midnight.

The ban will be in force till July 1. This year the ban period has been extended for five more days than 45 days.

The two-decade old practice of banning trawling during this period is with a view to protect sea resources as the gestation period of different species of fish occurs during the monsoon.

Trawlers from other states also would be asked not to enter the state coast during the ban period, officials said.

Pleasant morning in Delhi, light rains expected

Agency
New Delhi, Jun 10

Mercury slipped by several notches in the national capital a day after the city was hit by a dust storm, with the minimum temperature settling at a pleasant 23.4 degrees Celsius. The relative humidity recorded in the morning was 70 per cent.

"The minimum settled at 23.4 degrees Celsius, five notches below normal. Weather today is pleasant due to rains and thunder storm yesterday," a Met Department official said.

The weatherman has forecast partly cloudy sky and very light rains or drizzle later in the day.

The minimum temperature recorded at other weather stations were — Lodhi Road (25.3 degrees Celsius), Palam (23.6), Ayanagar (22.7) and Ridge (15).

Yesterday, the minimum temperature had settled at 30 degrees Celsius, two notches above the season's average while the maximum was recorded at 40.5 degrees Celsius.

FIFA World Cup 2018:

For coaches, it will just be a global audition for leading clubs

By: Dileep Premachandran,
Editorial consultant,
Wisden.com
Courtesy ET

Take a piece of paper and pen, and start jotting down the names of the world's best football managers/coaches. Your top 10 will almost certainly feature Pep Guardiola, whose commitment to treating the ball with care and wit is unbending. And whatever you might think of his pragmatic methods, Jose Mourinho will also be there. As will Jurgen Klopp, whose attacking philosophy is more Enter Sandman to Guardiola's Don Giovanni.

Carlo Ancelotti, one of only three men to win the European Cup/Champions League three, should be there, as too the magnificent Zinedine Zidane, who has just left Real Madrid after winning the biggest prize in club football twice in succession. You have to find place too for Diego Simeone, whose dogs of war at Atletico Madrid are the perfect example of the triumph of the spirit over the cheque book.

The only national team boss likely to sneak into the list is Tito, who has done wonders with Brazil since taking over from Dunga's insipid leadership. Many of the other coaches at the World Cup are relative unknowns, men far removed from the personality cults that surround Mourinho, Klopp and Guardiola. Think back a generation, though, and you have a very different picture. Even the most serious football fans wouldn't know that Tony

Barton was Aston Villa manager when they won the European Cup in 1982. But plenty could tell you about the legend of Tele Santana, who took Brazil to the World Cup finals that year, and of Enzo Bearzot, whose Italians beat them. That generation also boasted Cesar Luis Menotti, the uber-cool Argentine mastermind behind the World Cup win of 1978, and Carlos Bilardo, his polar opposite who won the trophy eight years later.

Franz Beckenbauer led West Germany to the World Cup in 1990, the same year Bobby Robson coaxed England's best performance since their triumph in 1966. It wasn't that the club game didn't have titans — it's hard to think of too many greater than Bob Paisley at Liverpool, Brian Clough at Nottingham Forest and Giovanni Trapattoni at Juventus — but since it was always international football that we were exposed to, and that too every four years, it was the men in charge of the national sides that inspired total recall.

Only a handful of those that jumped on the bandwagon in later years could tell you about Terry Neill at Arsenal or John Neal at Chelsea, but once the English Premier League and La Liga became near-compulsory viewing on weekends around the world, the narrative has changed. Every summer, the managerial movements and vacancies are tracked almost as closely as player transfers. Arsenal fans, for example, are entitled to be far more excited about the recruitment of Unai Emery, who did a sterling job



at Sevilla, than any big-money signing.

The decline in value of national-team jobs is also a function of the time managers get with players. There are a few windows for international football scattered across the season, but even ahead of a major tournament like the World Cup, you don't get more than three weeks or so with your team. Pele, while expressing doubts about Brazil's current side, mentioned how Mario Zagallo had months to work with the talent at his disposal in 1970. As a result, men like Pele, Gerson, Tostao and Rivelino, all alpha males central to their clubs' fortunes, dovetailed beautifully to create an attacking spectacle seldom seen before or since. For Zagallo, who had won the trophy twice as a player (1958 and '62), the job was the pinnacle, not a stepping stone to a lucrative club deal elsewhere.

Contrast that with current attitudes. Of the leading lights in the game now, only Antonio Conte has spent time in charge of his national side. The prospect of Zidane taking over the French job is exceedingly slim, and you can't really see Mourinho

trading the bright lights of Old Trafford for the Portuguese tracksuit any time soon. With the exception of a few men like Jorge Sampaoli and Joachim Low, who would interest plenty of leading clubs, taking a national job is increasingly seen as the coaching equivalent of Last Chance Saloon. Arsene Wenger, after the glory years at Arsenal, could easily have made the switch across the channel to take charge of a struggling French side. That he opted to stay gave you an indicator of just how things had changed. Instead of being the pinnacle of the profession, the World Cup in Russia will once again act as a global audition for ambitious coaches. Bruno Metsu, the charismatic Frenchman who steered Senegal to the quarterfinals in 2002 — upsetting his home country along the way — went on to win an AFC Champions League with Al-Ain before cancer claimed him half a decade ago. Few, though, will ever emulate the great Rinus Michels, who won league titles in the Netherlands and Spain before success at Euro 1988, a generation after his greatest Dutch team had fallen at the final hurdle.