

National News

India and Mozambique sign two MOUs to further strengthen defence co-operation

PIB (DW) Tuesday, July 30,

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is currently on an official visit to Maputo, Mozambique from July 28-30, 2019. This is Rajnath Singh's first visit abroad as Defence Minister. Minisard the first-ever visit of Defence Minister of India to Mozambique. Yesterday, Defence Minister, called on Mr. Carlos Agostinho do Rosario, the Prime Minister of Mozambique. He also held delegation-level talks with his counterpart Mr. Atanasio Salvador M'tumuke. After the talks, two Memoranda of Understanding - agreement on sharing white shipping information and co-operation in the field of Hydrography - were signed between Government of India and Government of the Republic of Mozambique. The signing of the two MoUs will further strengthen the ongoing Indo-Mozambican Defence co-operation.

The visit witnessed the growing defence co-operation between Mozambique and India, and the potential such collaboration offers for enhancing security in the Indian Ocean Region. The Defence Minister announced assistance of communication equipment and highlighted the importance of working together to prevent non-traditional threats like smuggling, terrorism, piracy, poaching, etc. and overall co-operation in the maritime domain. Defence Minister of Mozambique, Mr. Atanasio Salvador M'tumuke briefed Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on the internal security situation and the ongoing Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process. The Raksha Mantri conveyed best wishes for the ongoing peace process. RM discussed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations while meeting the Mozambican leaders and

noted the excellent Government-to-Government ties, strong business exchanges, vibrant development partnership, and long-standing people-to-people links between the two countries. Mozambique sought co-operation from India to deal with the growing menace of terrorism and radicalisation. Rajnath Singh assured co-operation and reiterated commitment to work together in this regard. An elaborate ceremony was held today at Mozambican Naval Headquarters to hand over two India-made Fast Interceptor Boats (FIBs) to Mozambique. The handing over certificate was signed by the Director General, Coast Guards of India and Chief of Mozambican Navy. A four-member ICGS team is also assisting with training and support for maintenance and operation of the two boats. Mozambican Defence Minister expressed gratitude for India's support for

Mozambican Defence Forces, in particular, for the boats being used for coastal surveillance. On his arrival on 28th July, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was accorded Guard of Honour at the Mozambican Army Head Quarters. In the evening, Defence Minister addressed a gathering of Indian Diaspora and interacted with the community. The Defence Minister is accompanied by a high-level delegation including Defence Secretary, DG, Coast Guards and senior officials of Ministries of Defence and External Affairs. India shares close, warm and friendly relations with Mozambique which is cemented by robust development partnership and a large presence of the Indian Diaspora. The visit of Defence Minister is expected to further strengthen relations with Mozambique

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Front Line Defender calls on India to ensure

The office was closed that day due to a 'bandh' or shut down in the city, and Sobita Mangsatbam and her staff had not reported to work. The officer remained in the area for around 15 minutes after he spoke to the caretaker. The same officer had tried and failed to enter the compound on the night of 21 July 2019. The officer has been subsequently identified as Laimayum Bishwanath Sharma, a serving officer of the Manipur Police, who has been assigned as security to the local Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The RSS is a right wing nationalist organisation with strong links to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Sobita Mangsatbam has since been informed by the police that officer Sharma has been arrested and suspended from service with immediate effect in connection to the threats her. The officer was produced before the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate Imphal East and released on bail.

The threatening incident on 24 July 2019 is believed to be linked to the support provided by Sobita Mangsatbam and WAD to the victim of a domestic violence. The wife of the police officer had filed a complaint against him in June 2019 detailing threats and domestic violence including death threats against her and their children. Since June, Sobita Mangsatbam and her staff had been in contact with the police officer and his family in an attempt to resolve the matter. However, as the threats escalated, on 15 July 2019, Sobita Mangsatbam and WAD supported the wife and children to leave the house and move to a temporary shelter. The incident on 24 July is the second threat on Sobita Mangsatbam and her family this month. On 4 July 2019, a group of unidentified men traveling in a four-wheel drive fired shots at her daughter, Urkikhim Thoi. Thoi then had trailed Urkikhim Thoi for some distance, and shot at her and two other relatives including a minor child, as they ran into her residence. Front Line Defenders has previously issued an urgent appeal expressing its concern against the incident and calling for an immediate and credible inquiry by the Manipur police. Sobita Mangsatbam and her organisation have been targeted previously due to her human rights work. In April 2017, following the gang rape of two minor girls, she filed a complaint regarding the incident under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012. Together with several other women's human rights defenders and organisations, she monitored the case and advocated for an effective

inquiry and prosecution. Following the charge sheet being filed against the accused in this case, five armed men visited the WAD office and asked about her whereabouts. A group of men claiming to be from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) also visited the UNMM office and inquired about Sobita Mangsatbam. Although Sobita Mangsatbam and her staff were unharmed in that instance, there was grave concern for her safety against reprisals and also due to the failure of the police to ensure support and protection to the WHRD. The Front Line Defenders while expressing strong condemnation to the threats against Sobita Mangsatbam calls on the Indian government to ensure that the officer involved in the incident on 24 July is being held accountable and carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the attack on Sobita Mangsatbam's daughter on 4 July with a view to publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards; It also urged the GoI to take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of Sobita Mangsatbam and her family in consultation with them.

Pakistan plane: Army aircraft crashes into residential area killing 17

Agency Islamabad July 30,

At least 17 people have been killed and 12 injured after a small military plane crashed into a residential area near the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi. Five crew members and 12 civilians were among the dead, the army said. The aircraft was on a training flight when it crashed and set off a fire across several homes. One witness said the plane was ablaze before the crash. The King Air 350 turboprop reportedly took a steep turn near its destination airport before coming down. Rawalpindi, near the capital Islamabad, is the site of the Pakistani army's headquarters, and the plane belonged to the Pakistani Army's aviation unit. Witnesses at the scene said the aircraft crashed into a



family home in a residential area around 02:00 local time (07:00 GMT). "I was awake when the plane flew over my room and it was already on fire in the air," said Ghulam Khan. "The sound was so scary, it was only a small plane. It then fell on a house where a family used to live." Another witness, Yasir Baloch, said: "The tail of the plane was on fire and it took barely two to three seconds

and it crashed four houses away from my house and burnt to ashes." A resident near the site of the crash who gave his name as Yamin said he escaped his burning house with his wife, daughter and parents, but his brother, sister-in-law and nephew died. "The window and door to their room was locked. We tried our best to get them out but couldn't," he said.

Pictures from the scene showed blackened buildings that had been reduced to rubble. A reporter from the AFP news agency said smoke was still rising from the wreckage and pieces of the plane were visible on a nearby roof. Several injured were rushed to hospital. Pakistan's emergency rescue services said. The bodies of the dead were taken away to be identified. Pakistan has a chequered aviation safety record. In 2010, an aircraft operated by private airline Airblue crashed near Islamabad, killing all 152 people on board - the deadliest air disaster in Pakistani history. In 2016, a Pakistan International Airlines plane burst into flames while travelling from northern Pakistan to Islamabad, killing more than 40 people.

Northeast news

Railway police nab lady with heroin worth Rs 30 lakh in Guwahati

Source: Northeast now Guwahati July 30,

The railway police on Tuesday again arrested a lady and recovered 150 grams of heroin from her possession at Guwahati Railway Station. The arrest of the lady came just a day after a brother-sister duo has been arrested with 45 kg of ganja at Guwahati Railway Station. According to the railway police, the market price of the heroin would be around Rs 30 lakh. The lady was found to be taking

the heroin to New Delhi by packing parts of it within 22 soap cases. While carrying out an investigation in compartment number 10 of the DBRT Rajdhani Express (12423), the railway police discovered the lady carrying the illegal drugs in the soap cases in her suitcase and arrested her at 7 am on Tuesday. The accused lady has been identified as Abhri Kamarkar. She hails from Nadia district of West Bengal and is the daughter of Birhir Govinda Kamarkar.

The railway police on Monday arrested a brother-sister duo and recovered a consignment of 45 kg of ganja from their possession at Guwahati Railway Station. The accused man has been identified as 28-year-old Wabor Kharpuri Chinnren and the woman has been identified as 32-year-old Dorisa Chinnren. The brother-sister duo hails from East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya and was also found to be carrying the ganja consignment in DBRT Rajdhani Express (12423)

Sports News

Guwahati Sub-junior badminton tournament records one of the highest entries in recent times

By a Correspondent Guwahati, July 30,

The ever-rising popularity of badminton in India and consistent results of Indian shuttlers on the global stage have propelled a staggering 2518 entries from 1415 players at the Yonex-Sunrise All India Sub Junior (U-15 & U-17) Ranking Badminton Tournament 2019 that got underway here in Assam on July 29. The Assam Badminton Association while hosting the tournament witnessed a record-breaking 1088 players in the Boys' Singles U-17 category, further underlining the passion for the shuttle sport in the country. Domestic tournaments have been seeing a rapid rise in the

number of entries of late like the All India Sub-junior ranking event in Hyderabad last year which received 2841 entries from 1596 players while a Nagpur tournament had 2528 entries from 1405 players. Spread over 28 draws across 10 events, the Guwahati tournament that will continue till August 4, will be seeing the participation of the country's top players in the respective categories at the RG Baurah Sports Complex. Pranav Rao Gandham, India's No. 1 ranked U-17 boys' singles shuttler, leads the charge while the India No. 2 Taneesha Singh will be heading the U-17 girls' singles draw. West Bengal's Ankit Mondal, India's best in U-15 Boys' Singles, will be looking to do justice to his top billing while



Gujarat's Tasnim Mir is the top seed in Girls' Singles U-15 being India's current best in that category. With such enthusiasm at the junior level and their determination to fight it out with the very best in the country, India's future in badminton surely looks very bright.

Sunil Gavaskar reveals conversation with Imran Khan that led him to postpone retirement

Agency New Delhi July 30,

Former India captain and batting legend Sunil Gavaskar recently celebrated his 70th birthday, but the moment was somewhat marred by India losing the World Cup semi-final to New Zealand. In an interview, the former India captain busts many urban legends and myths about himself and his fellow travellers. Q) Do you still play baddy at Bombay Gym whenever you get the time and is it still doubles? Is that the secret of your youth and 34 waistline which has never seen any compromise? Or does fitness go beyond baddy? Gavaskar: No I don't play badminton at the Bombay Gymkhana anymore. I stopped in 2011 when the Indian cricket schedule and my TV commitments took me out of Mumbai so often that it was impossible for my group to wait

up for me. Q) Ravik keeps saying that this is the best Indian team of all time and you have contested that...I would agree that this is a very good fast bowling unit, but beyond that... Gavaskar: Everybody has a right to their view so that's ok. Q) Is it true that Imran at the end of the fabulous Bangalore Test when you batted on a bunsen against Iqbal Qasim and Tauseef Ahmed told you that the time is now to retire and not when people ask you to? It was one of your exceptional innings and you almost won the game for us... Gavaskar: That's a totally made up story like so many others about me. Facts during the India tour of England in 1986, Imran and I had lunch where I told him that I was planning to retire at the end of that tour. He said to me that I shouldn't do it as Pakistan was due to tour India

the following February. He said his ambition was to beat India in India and it wouldn't be the same if I wasn't in the Indian team then. I told him then that if the Pakistan tour was not announced by the time the England tour ended I would retire at the end of the tour. It was announced within a fortnight so I postponed the retirement. Q) You still played the World Cup after that and scored runs including your only hundred in ODI, was there gas left in the tank? Gavaskar: Oh yes, there was gas left in the tank but I wasn't enjoying driving the car so it was better to get out then. Q) What happened to Bombay cricket, why did it fall off the cliff? Young callyud Maharashtra boys played for izzat and shaart, where has that ethos disappeared? Gavaskar: It's not that Mumbai cricket has gone down, it's just

that other states have raised the level of their game which is why Indian cricket is in such a healthy state with its talent pool. Q) Do you think MS Dhoni signalled the true democratisation in Indian cricket as people from obscure towns and smaller cities made the big leap in Indian cricket? Gavaskar: Have you forgotten India's greatest match winner, Kapil Dev? He was the one who showed that you don't have to come from a metro to be a successful cricketer. Before that there were great players from non-metro too, like Col C.K. Nayudu, Vijay Hazare, Mushtaq Ali to name just three and the regularity of non-metro players started after Kapil showed them how. Q) So much that commentators wrote about your rocky relationship with Kapil, but now both of you praise each other profusely...