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IN BRIEF

Indian cash in Swiss banks dips

■ **ZURICH:** Money parked by Indian individuals and enterprises in Swiss banks fell nearly 6 per cent in 2018 to 955 million Swiss francs (about Rs 6,757 crore), the second-lowest since 1995, Swiss National Bank data show. **NATION P4**

Sherin dad gets life



■ **DALLAS:** Wesley Matthews, the Indian-American foster father accused of killing three-year-old Sherin Matthews and dumping her body in a culvert in 2017, has been awarded a life term. **FOREIGN P2**

Call for ad break-up

■ **NEW DELHI:** Trinamul Congress MP Mahua Moitra asked the government in the Lok Sabha on Thursday to provide the media-house-wise break-up of its advertisement spend in the last five years, asserting that taxpayers needed to know how their money was being spent. **NATION P3**

IndiGo fees

■ **NEW DELHI:** Budget carrier IndiGo on Thursday announced that from midnight it was increasing its fees for cancellations and particulars changes, which are done within a three-day period before a flight's departure, by Rs 500. **P11**

Selfie deaths

■ **RIO DE JANEIRO:** Selfies have killed five times more people than shark attacks, according to India's *Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care*. **P11**

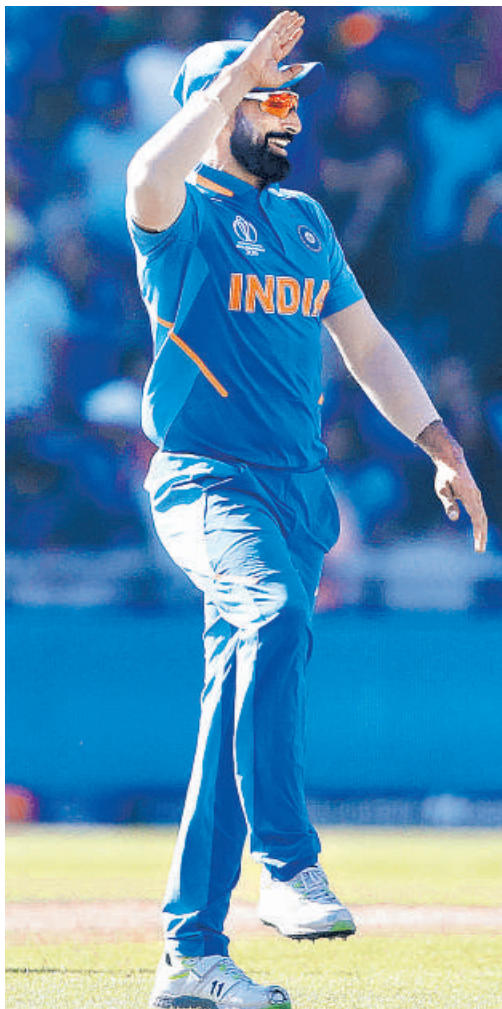
FOREIGN P2

QUOTE

This is unacceptable and the tariffs must be withdrawn

DONALD TRUMP
on the retaliatory Indian tariffs on US goods

THE SHAMI SALUTE



Mohammed Shami (left) is about to imitate the salute of Sheldon Cottrell (above) after the West Indies quick got out on Thursday. Shami blew away the West Indies with a four-wicket haul and brought India within a point of ensuring a semi-final berth in the World Cup. Earlier, Cottrell, a Jamaican Defence Force soldier, had given Shami his trademark send-off after having him caught behind the wicket. Cottrell's celebration after taking a wicket — a march followed by a salute and the opening of his arms to the heavens — has endeared him to fans. Pictures by AP and AFP

Bullet injury in Hooghly clash

SNEHAMOY CHAKRABORTY

Gurap (Hooghly): An explosive mix of a bullet injury and chants of "Jai Shri Ram" kept Hooghly's Gurap on edge on Thursday as the political battle in Bengal again spilled onto the streets.

A BJP worker was shot at, allegedly by a police officer, while seeking to control a crowd protesting an attack on a party supporter the previous night. Doctors said the bullet grazed two of his ribs and that he was out of danger.

BJP workers blocked roads in at least six places in Gurap and Dhanekhali, attacked policemen and gheraoed Gurap police station demanding the officer's arrest.

Some 350-odd party supporters threw stones at Gurap police station, leaving several cops injured amid chants of "Jai Shri Ram". (See Page 6)



Tyres set ablaze by protesters at Dhanekhali in Hooghly on Thursday

Thundering Typhoons

AMIT ROY

London: A pair of Typhoons, the Eurofighter jet that lost out to the French Rafale in the race for Indian patronage, broke the Mach One sound barrier and raced to the aid of an Air India flight in British skies on Thursday after a bomb threat.

The Air India Boeing 777-337, flying nearly 400 people from Mumbai to Newark in the US, was guided into Stansted airport near London by two Royal Air Force Typhoon fighters. Stansted airport has been set aside by the British government to handle threats such as terror and hijacking.

Late in the night, an Air India spokesperson said the bomb threat had turned out a hoax.

Because of the time lost in the manoeuvres, Air India had to fly in fresh crew, airport sources said. It is understood that after the crew comes in and the plane is "prepared", AI191 will resume its journey.

Thunderclaps shook the Midlands as the Typhoons took off. An RAF spokesperson said: "The Typhoon aircraft were authorised to transit at supersonic speed for operational reasons; any inconvenience caused to local residents (by the sonic booms) is regretted."



Passengers of AI191 being checked at Stansted airport

British police and the RAF treated the security alert with the utmost gravity. All activity at Stansted airport, which handles 500 to 600 takeoffs and landings in a day, were halted and the runway cleared.

For the British, the Typhoon, built by a consortium and equipped to undertake air-to-surface strike missions, remains the weapon of choice in dealing with potential 9/11-type threats. Britain wanted to sell the Typhoon to the Indian Air Force but in the end, the Indian government decided to buy the French Rafale.

Bid to make it easier to spot expiry dates

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: India's food safety regulator has proposed new labelling and display guidelines that will require the dates of manufacture and the dates of expiry to appear next to each other on packaged food products.

The proposal from the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) seeks to eliminate the practice of printing manufacturing dates and expiry or "best-before" dates at different places on the pack labels, which makes it difficult for the consumers to see both at a single glance.

On myriad packaged food products now sold in India — from jam, tomato ketchup, tea and coffee to oats and soft drinks — the manufacturing and best-before dates appear at different places.

The proposal is part of what FSSAI officials have described as a revised set of labelling and display rules that will replace regulations issued in 2011 and are intended to "encourage consumers to make healthier food choices".

The regulations, which have been released for comments from the public and stakeholders within 30 days, also stipulate the display of a red colour code on front-of-the-pack labels of products that have high fat, sugar or salt levels.

Public health specialists have long been concerned about the role of poor labelling in consumers buying food products while being unaware of their content and health risks. The average salt consumption is high in India because of food products like papad, pickles and other such condiments.

Packaged food manufacturers will also need to declare nutritional information such as calories, saturated fat, transfat, added sugar and sodium per serve on the front of the pack under the new regulations, the FSSAI has said. Not all packaged products now adhere to these regulations.

The rules will also make it mandatory for companies to distinguish vegetarian and non-vegetarian products and indicate the presence of possible allergens. Allergen labels are already mandatory in many countries.

The new logo for vegetarian food will be a green fully coloured triangle inside a square with a green outline.

The new rules will also require every food package not intended for human consumption to bear a symbol to distinguish it from those meant for humans.

Tariff tantrum on meet eve

OUR BUREAU AND AGENCIES

New Delhi: Trust Donald Trump to shake up something as staid as a G20 summit by going out of his way to pick out India and other US allies for uncharitable comments on issues ranging from trade to security.

"I look forward to speaking with Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi about the fact that India, for years having put very high tariffs against the United States, just recently increased the tariffs even further," Trump tweeted from Air Force One as it made its way across the Pacific Ocean to Osaka, the venue of the summit.

"This is unacceptable and the tariffs must be withdrawn!" the President added on the eve of his meeting with Modi.

New Delhi had slapped higher duties on 28 US products, including apples, walnuts and almonds. India had emerged as the second biggest market for apples, overtaking Canada, and the tariffs will hit US farms, a critical support base for Trump.

What Trump did not say in his tweet was that India's action in raising tariffs on the 28 categories came in response to the US President's decision to increase tariffs on imported aluminum and steel and his decision in May to revoke a preferential trade status cov-



Donald Trump, Narendra Modi. (Reuters, PTI)



ering more than \$5 billion in imports from India.

The US is also upset with India's restrictions on cross-border data flows and stricter e-commerce rules that have hurt American firms operating in India.

Commerce ministry sources in New Delhi said the tariffs imposed by India were not that high, compared with those slapped by other countries.

According to the *World Tariff Profiles 2018*, published by the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the highest tariff in Japan is 736 per cent. It's 807 per cent in South Korea, 350 per cent in the US, 163 per cent in Australia and 150 per cent in India.

Industry chambers feel that high product-specific tariffs, such as 150 per cent on alcoholic beverages and 100 per cent on coffee, have made India a villain in the eyes of the US President.

On Thursday, Trump treated other allies of America, too, with disdain. He complained that under existing treaty provisions, if the US were attacked, Japan would only "watch it on a Sony television".

The President called Germany a security freeloader.

"We have a treaty with Japan," Trump told Fox News. "If Japan is attacked, we will fight World War III. We will go in and we will protect them and we will fight with our lives and with our treasure. We will fight at all costs, right? But if we're attacked, Japan doesn't have to help us at all. They can watch it on a Sony television, the attack."

The choice of targets seemed directly tied to Trump's schedule of meetings on Friday. He is set to sit down with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and then jointly with Abe and Modi. He will then meet separately with Chancellor Angela Merkel.

In contrast, Trump said nothing critical about the fourth leader on his diplomatic schedule for Friday, President Vladimir Putin of Russia, whose government waged a systematic campaign to interfere in US elections in 2016 and has arrested two Americans on what critics consider false charges.

Additional reporting from New York Times News Service

LITTLE SCOPE FOR GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION, SAYS MINISTER

No leash on plane fare predators

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi: The Centre has no plans to impose a cap on plane ticket prices to halt predatory pricing, which airlines resort to whenever there is a natural calamity, civil disturbance or a long string of holidays.

Hardeep Puri, minister of state (independent charge) for civil aviation, held his ground in the face of a clamour from Lok Sabha members for the government to put a lid on airline fares, which rocket to stratospheric levels

whenever there is a crisis. Airlines have tended to blame such price surges on the system of dynamic pricing that the industry embraced a few years ago.

The issue of predatory pricing by airlines was raised by Pinaki Mishra, Biju Janata Dal member from Puri, who wanted to know whether the government would consider capping fares during crises. He cited two recent instances when airfares had gone through the roof.

During the Jat agitation



Hardeep Puri

in Haryana, Mishra said, airfares on the Delhi-Chandigarh route had crossed Rs 90,000 a ticket. Again, when Cyclone Fani hit Odisha last month, the fares for flights from Delhi to Bhubaneswar had topped

Rs 60,000, he added.

In his reply, Puri said there was little scope for government intervention in airline ticket pricing because of the dynamic pricing mechanism and the fact that airlines were largely privately owned.

"Any attempt to impose a cap on prices could actually prove to be counter-productive," the minister argued.

The dynamic pricing system provides for different price buckets depending on when the passenger books his ticket.

Usually, fares on medi-

um-haul flights can be as low as Rs 5,000 if the tickets are bought at least three weeks in advance. They tend to rise nearer to the date of the flight but aren't unusually high most of the time.

Puri claimed that if the government imposed a price cap, the fares in the lower buckets would disappear and would head upward towards the capped price — a characterisation of price behaviour that economists may challenge.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 ►

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