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Ambedkar row : Opposition MPs hold protest against Amit Shah at Vijay Chowk

New Delhi, Dec 20 (GNS) Opposition INDIA bloc parties on Friday held a protest march from Vijay Chowk to the Parliament House demanding resignation of Home Minister Amit Shah for his alleged disparaging comments about Dalit icon B R Ambedkar. Participating in the march, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, "This government is scared to have a discussion on the Adani issue. It is scared of having any discussion. They know that their true sentiments for Ambedkar ji have come out. So, they are now scared of the Opposition because we are raising this issue. National interest is related to this matter. Our Constitu-

tion has been given by Ambedkar ji, people of this country and our freedom struggle. Such insult to him will not be tolerated by India." "They are so desperate that they are lodging false FIRs. Rahul ji can never push anyone. I am his sister, I know him.

He can never do such a thing. The country knows this too. The country is watching how desperate they are that they are lodging baseless FIRs...These are all distractions", she added. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said Amit Shah must apologise for what he said about Ambedkar. "Babasaheb Ambedkar has been insulted in the Rajya Sabha by Shah. He must admit his guilt and

apologise. We must go forward and only the Constitution drafted by Ambedkar can guide us in our forward march", Yadav said. Imran Pratapgarhi, Congress's Rajya Sabha MP, said, instead of atoning for the insult heaped upon Ambedkar, the BJP was trying to implicate Rahul in false cases. "Rahul is not someone who will get intimidated by the BJP's lowly tactics", Pratapgarhi said. Opposition parties, including the Congress, SP, DMK, JMM, CPI, CPI(M) and others, took part in the protest demonstration at Vijay Chowk this morning. Opposition leaders also boycotted the customary tea meeting with the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.



7 dead, 35 hurt in Jaipur fire after trucks collide outside petrol pump

Jaipur, Dec 20 (GNS) A deadly collision involving a gas tanker and multiple vehicles turned a stretch of the Jaipur-Ajmer highway here into an inferno on Friday morning, killing seven people, injuring more than 35 and engulfing over 30 vehicles in flames as thick black smoke filled the sky.

Eyewitnesses reported spotting the flames from nearly a kilometre away as ambulances and fire brigade vehicles rushed towards the crash zone. A school van driver on his way to pick up students recounted with horror the sight of a man engulfed in flames.

Rajasthan health department officials told PTI that seven people died in the crash while more than 35 were injured.

Police said there are chances that some people could not get out of their vehicles and got burnt inside. The situation will become clear once all the vehicles are thoroughly checked, they said.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar rushed to the SMS Hospital, where the injured were admitted. Sharma spoke to administration officials and doctors and issued directions to ensure proper treatment was facilitated. He also visited the accident site and spoke to police officials.

In a post in Hindi on X, the chief minister said, "Deeply saddened to hear the news of casualties in the gas tanker fire incident on the Jaipur-Ajmer National Highway. As soon as the information about the incident came, I went to the SMS Hospital and directed the doctors there to provide immediate necessary medical facilities and take proper care of the injured." Jaipur Police Commissioner Biju George Joseph and other officials of the department were at the spot on the highway.

Khimsar told reporters that nearly half of the injured brought to the hospital were in very critical condition. "All doctors, resident doctors and nursing staff were called in to manage the situation. Another ward has been opened

so that patients can be accommodated. Some people got primary treatment in nearby hospitals," he said.

The health minister said a 'green corridor' has been set up from the accident site to the SMS hospital. An official said a sleeper bus headed for Jaipur from Rajsamand was behind the gas tanker when the accident occurred. Efforts were underway to find the details about the passengers on board.

The burnt vehicles are being removed from the highway so that traffic movement can be resumed. CM Sharma, Governor Haribhau Bagade, and former chief minister Ashok Gehlot expressed their condolences for the loss of lives in the crash.

The station house officer of Bhankrota Manish Gupta said it was difficult to bring the fire under control initially. "Fire brigade teams initially were unable to reach the vehicles that were burning. There are three petrol pumps in the area but fortunately, they are safe," he added.

More than 25 ambulances were used to shift the victims to the hospital. A nearly 300-metre busy stretch of the highway was affected by the accident, leading to a long queue of vehicles.

Police officials said the fire engulfed some establishments along the highway but details of the actual losses are not yet clear. The school van driver told that the flames were visible from a kilometre away and there was panic and chaos on the highway.

"As I got closer to the spot, I saw people running in haste and shouting for help. I saw a man engulfed in flames. It was a frightening scene. Fire brigades and ambulances were there but it was difficult for them to reach the spot initially," he said.

A team from the district administration is present at the hospital to help the family members of the victims. The Jaipur Police has issued the helpline numbers 9166347551, 8764688431 and 7300363636 for people to get in touch for inquiries or relevant information.

Economic Persecution, Xenophobia against Indo-American Businessmen in Canada: Dr. Krishnan Suthanthiran Exposes Trudeau's Anti-Indian Policies

► Religious Intolerance, economic bias and rising xenophobia against the Indian Diaspora in Canada



New Delhi: In a press conference on Saturday at the Press Club of India in New Delhi, Dr. Krishnan Suthanthiran, Founder and President, TeamBest Global Companies called out the systemic challenges faced by Hindu businessmen in Canada. He accused the Justin Trudeau's administration of systemic discrimination and called for a global response to ensure equal and fair treatment of Indian origin people.

"There is a rising trend of Xenophobia against the Indian Hindu Diaspora in Canada where Justice and dignity have not been privileges—they are fundamental rights," said Dr. Suthanthiran. "We must unite to confront systemic injustices wherever they arise."

Dr. Suthanthiran started by describing his Indian roots and how Indian Diaspora was contributing to a more better world. He claimed he believed in accessible education and health care, that would enable his "Proud Indian Party" to make free education and quality health care to be afforded to every Indian citizen. He drew attention to his long-standing work in oncology and preventive medicine, calling for early detection and

treatment of diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and cardiac conditions. He is concerned about bureaucratic red tape and corruption in India but is optimistic about the country's ability to become a global leader in healthcare and manufacturing.

Systemic discrimination faced by Hindu businessmen in Canada dominated the conference. Dr. Suthanthiran requested Prime Minister Trudeau's government to address systemic biases and build in inclusivity. He also requested international organizations to come together to ensure that every community has equality.

"The attempt of 'economic persecution' of Indian-Origin Entrepreneurs and businessmen in Trudeau's Canada is now a matter of international concern. The world needs to act decisively against any kind of prejudice," Dr. Suthanthiran stated while urging resilience and collective efforts for upholding human rights around the world. His initiatives related to philanthropy range from the Best Food Foundation, Triple E (Education, Empowerment, and Equality) among others. These try to uplift the underdevel-

oped communities in the globe as a whole. Reemphasized his dedication to bringing on innovative medical devices coupled with affordability of healthcare technologies meant at making quality care accessible for all.

"The 21st century belongs to India," Dr. Suthanthiran declared. "Collectively we shall create a world for peaceful, progressive, and sharing prosperity."

About Dr. Krishnan Suthanthiran
Dr. Krishnan Suthanthiran, founder of TeamBest Global (TBG) Companies, has spent over five decades advancing oncology and global healthcare. Inspired by the loss of his father to cancer, he pursued a mechanical engineering degree in India, moved to Canada for further studies, and began his oncology career in the U.S.

He has founded several companies, invested in healthcare innovations, and launched initiatives, such as the Best Cure Foundation and Triple E, which focus on preventive care, clean water, and education, all of which are globally acknowledged for his commitment to equity, justice, and accessible healthcare to all.

Canada presented 'no evidence' in support of serious allegations: Govt

New Delhi, Dec 20 (GNS) Canada has presented "no evidence whatsoever" in support of the "serious allegations" it has chosen to level, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha on Friday when asked whether the Union government has taken note of the recent developments in criminal cases allegedly involving the Indian citizens in that country.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh in a written response also said "in addition, its public narrative on this issue appears to be in service of an anti-India separatist agenda". "Persisting with such a narrative can only be harmful for any stable bilateral relationship. Government has, therefore, repeatedly urged the Canadian authorities to take action against anti-India elements operating from their soil," he said. Congress MP Manish Tewari in his query asked whether the Union government has taken note of the

recent developments in criminal cases allegedly involving the "Indian citizens/officials in the United States and Canada", and if so, the impact these cases are likely to have on India's bilateral relations with these countries. He also asked whether the government has "engaged diplomatically" with the governments of the US and Canada to "address concerns" regarding these cases.

"Government is aware of the allegations about the involvement of the Indian nationals in purported acts or intent in the US and Canada. As part of ongoing security cooperation with the United States, certain inputs shared by the US side pertaining to the nexus between organised criminals, gun runners, terrorists and others that impinge on India's national security interests as well as being examined by a High-Level Enquiry Committee that has been constituted for this purpose," the minister said.

President Murmu presents colours to defence Management College

Hyderabad, Dec.20 (NSS) In a landmark moment in the history of the College of Defence Management (CDM), Secunderabad, the President's Colours were awarded by Droupadi Murmu, to the institution on Friday. The momentous recognition marks a historic milestone for CDM, a premier defence institute dedicated to shaping senior leadership of the Indian Armed Forces. The presentation of President's Colours, the highest award to any defence institution, acknowledges the college's outstanding contributions to professional military education. The President also released the 'Special Day Cover' and a commemorative medallion to celebrate the occasion along with a revised edition of compilation Ancient Indian Strategic Thought titled 'Pearls of Ancient Indian Wisdom'. The President expressed her happiness on women officers undergoing the learning at CDM. She also urged the defence forces to contribute towards the Self Reliance and Atmanirbharta initiative. She expressed the need for the forces to be updated on emerging disruptive warfare in multiple domains and empha-



sioned that the role of CDM is crucial to keep the forces future ready. The President lauded CDM in developing strategic linkages with civilian academic institutions and international defence organisations, fostering a global perspective on security challenges. She also expressed that the senior strategic leadership will have important role in positioning India as a major player in international arena. The President interacted with the Participants Officers from friendly countries, attending the course at the CDM and wished them a fruitful and successful future. The President also

inaugurated the monumental national flag at CDM, marking a significant moment in the institution's history. The flag, symbolizing India's strength, unity, and sovereignty, stands as a powerful reminder of the CDM's commitment to excellence in defence education. The award of the President's Colours not only acknowledges the institution's rich history, but also celebrates the dedication of its faculty, staff, and alumni who continue to uphold CDM's mission of developing the military leaders capable of navigating the complexities of contemporary global security.

493 branches of APGVB merged with TGB

► APGVB branches under the control of Hyderabad TGB Head Office from 1st Jan

► Revealed by Chairman K. Pratap Reddy

a shutdown of online banking, UPI, ATM, mobile banking, internet banking, and customer service centers from December 28 to 31 due to technical issues. Chairman Pratap Reddy urged customers to complete their transactions by December 27 to avoid any inconvenience. He further clarified that the combined bank's head office for Telangana will be based in Warangal, while the centralized office for the united Telugu states will be located in Hyderabad. Deputy General Manager Operations B. Dayakar, HO Manager Shashikant, and other officials were also present at the announcement event.



Warangal, 20 December : The Andhra Pradesh Grameen Vikas Bank (APGVB) is set to merge with Telangana Grameen Bank (TGB), with the integration of 493 APGVB branches under the control of the TGB Head Office in Hyderabad starting January 1, 2025. The announcement was made by APGVB

Chairman, K. Pratap Reddy, during a press conference in Hanumakonda on Friday. As part of the "One State, One RRB" initiative, the merger follows the orders of the Department of Financial Services of the Government of India. The merger process will temporarily affect banking services, with

People should use government medical facilities

► Hanumakonda District Medical and Health Officer Dr. A. Appiah

Warangal, 20 December : Dr. A. Appiah, the District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) of Hanumakonda, emphasized the importance of using government medical facilities after inspecting the Primary Health Center in Gopalpur on Friday. During the inspection, Dr. Appiah congratulated the medical staff for the center's outstanding achievement of being selected twice for National Quality Standards Recognition (NQAS). He also directed the Medical Officer to maintain cleanliness on the premises, in collaboration with the Panchayat Secretary, by clearing unnecessary plants and grass. The DMHO then inspected the lab, pharmacy, ward rooms, and the surgical theater, and interacted with patients to under-



stand the quality of services being provided. He highlighted that the government is offering free medical treatment to around 1300 people, including 822 individuals with hypertension, 448 with diabetes, and 2 with cancer. Dr. Appiah encouraged the public to make full use of the

medical services available at government facilities, stressing their role in ensuring the well-being of the community. Medical Officer Dr. Vijayender Reddy, AYUSH Medical Officer Ishwar, and other staff members of the Primary Health Center were present during the inspection.

Good Samaritan 2024 Award to Hanoch Putra

► Hanoch Putra's services are appreciated

► Good News Mission Kenya representative Prof. Yohan Kim

Warangal, 20 December : Good Samaritan 2024 National Award was presented to Putra Hanoch, founder of J.S.S.W ministries from Rajahmundry Burma Colony by Good News Mission representative from Kenya prof. Yohan Kim was felicitated with a memento, medal and certificate at the Shelton Hotel. On this occasion, the Good Samaritan 2024 award program was held at Hotel Shelton on Friday under the auspices of global peace and cultural association. For three decades, JSS Ministries organized awareness programs, free medical camps and provided free medicines in both the Telugu states, made special efforts in serving the elderly, disabled and leprosy patients, along with social programs, provided essential items to



the poor in the context of Corona. Financial incentives are provided to many female students who cannot afford to pursue higher studies. She was selected for this award in recognition of her services by providing sewing training for the

upliftment of women and providing free sewing machines to strengthen the family financially. In the program P. Jacob Sundar, Cyril Richard, I. Kishore Kumar, Adanaki Raja, M. Ramesh, M. Vishal Prem and others participated.

Indiramma Indla mobile app survey should be completed

► Hanumakonda district in-charge collector Satya Sharada Devi

Warangal, 20 December : In-charge District Collector Satya Sharada Devi has directed officials to complete the mobile app survey for Indiramma households by the end of this month. The survey, which aims to identify beneficiaries for land and house construction, was recently conducted in Christian Colony (Labor Colony) in Hanumakonda District, Atmakuru Mandal, and Akkam-peta villages of Warangal Municipal. During the survey, the Collector emphasized that eligible beneficiaries must have their names listed on the ration card and Aadhaar card, as well as the required land for house construction. She instructed the survey officers to ensure that all beneficiary details are accurately entered into the mobile app. The Collector



also urged officials to take necessary steps to expedite the survey process and report any registration issues to higher authorities immediately. The survey team included Warangal and

Hanumakonda District 2 BHK nodal officers Rajender, G. Ram Reddy, Tehsildar Jagannathan Reddy, Mandal Development Officer Srinivas, and other survey staff.

Christmas is about sharing the love of Christ

► Godfather Palsanraj

Warangal, 20 December : This account beautifully captures the spirit of Christmas through the shared joy and fellowship in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Reverend Dr. Sangala Palsanraj's emphasis on the love of Christ as the true essence of Christmas resonates deeply, reminding us of the season's focus on unity, love, and compassion. The gathering, which included the cutting of the Christmas cake and the unveiling of a new Christmas song, showcases the community's commitment to cherishing and spreading the message of hope and faith. Such celebrations highlight the importance of togetherness, as reflected in the tradition of



joint families and collective worship. Events like these not only honor the religious significance of Christmas but also bring people closer, fostering a sense of harmony and shared purpose. Reverend Immedi Clinton's

continued efforts to organize prayer festivals since 2007 demonstrate the power of steadfast dedication to uplifting communities through faith. This truly encapsulates the joy and essence of the Christmas season.

Leadership of Divyangjan in society is most important- Pradeep Singh Malik

Parvat Vatika Nuh, Mohit Saini. World Disability Day was celebrated by Caritas India social organization and Roop VK Jain Foundation. The program was organized at Bal Bhavan Community Center, Nuh. 200 Divyangjans participated in the program. The chief guest of the program was Additional Deputy Commissioner Pradeep Singh Malik. The program was started by lighting the lamp and Saraswati Vandana. Project Extension Associate Rajkumar welcomed all the guests and Divyangjans on behalf of Caritas India team. He told that World Disability Day is celebrated all over the world on 3 December. Its purpose is to include and participate in the society of Divyangjans. On this day, talented Divyangjans are honored at the national and state level. Roop VK Jain Foundation and Caritas India celebrate this program as Joy of Ability. The chief guest wished the Divyangjans on World Disability Day. He told that it is the responsibility of all of us that Divyangjans get equal participation in social, economic and political aspects. He told that Divyangjans are also a part of the society and all Divyangjans should always keep a goal in their life and focus on fulfilling it.



Many schemes of the government are being run for the rights of the disabled, you all should take advantage of them. Special guests were Dr. Sarabjit Thapar, Chief Medical Officer, Sundarlal Khatri, and special invited guests were Mahesh Malik DTO, Meena Thakur, social worker, Shaureen Kotla, Antaram Sarpanch, Papji Sarpanch Rojkamev, Sarpanch Basai village, and all Chhaya Kar brothers. Gaurav Jain, Director of Roop VK Jain Foundation, congratulated all the disabled people who came to this program and told that he likes going to the programs of the disabled people the most. He and his entire organization have always stood with the disabled

people for their rights. And gradually they are working to empower the disabled people. Arvind Chaurasia, Akash Shukla and other colleagues from Roop Automobile Company came to the program. CMO Sarabjit Thapar told that if there is any problem in the Divyanka certificate, then the disabled people can meet him without any hindrance. In this program, blankets were distributed to 100 needy Divyangjans through Father Irudaya Kumar Manager Maria Mandir School. And assistive devices were given to eight Divyangjans. On this occasion, Rekha Dhankar, Seema, and Anju from Caritas India Team made the Divyangjans aware of their rights.

► Unannounced inspections at the IKP center on the orders of the Collector

► Due to differences in weight, the farmers raised an agitation and the Collector ordered an inquiry

Peddapalli / Ramagiri, Dec 20: It is inevitable that the farmers who realized the difference in the weight at the Nagepalli IKP center of Ramagiri Mandal last week. Responding to the farmers' allegations, the Collector ordered an inquiry by the District Weights and Measures Department official on Friday. As part of the investi-

Legal metrology officers raids on IKP centre



gation, the officer of the District Weights and Measures Department, who entered the field on Friday, placed a 20 kg weighing stone on the electronic fork and noticed that the weighing scale showed less than 700 grams. The legal metrology authorities confiscated these scales. Similarly,

the report of this investigation will be submitted to the collector and then the collector will take it. Legal metrology officer Vishveshwar said. He was accompanied by TA Mailikharjun, officials of various departments, farmers, former public representatives and leaders of various political parties.

AP Chief Secretary offers prayers

Tirumala, Dec.20 (NSS): Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary Neerabh Kumar Prasad along with his family members offered prayers to Sri Venkateswara Swamy in Tirumala on Friday. After darshan

he was offered Vedaseervachanam by vedic pundits at Ranganayakula Mandapam followed by the presentation of a laminated photo of Srivarur and Theertha Prasadams by Additional EO

Ch Venkaiah Chowdary. District Collector Dr Venkateswar, Dist SP L Subbarayudu were present. TTD officials Deputy EOs Lokanatham, Bhaskar and others were also present.

Ashwin's desire to evolve all the time made him stand out: Ravi Shastri

Melbourne, Dec 20 (GNS) Ravichandran Ashwin's constant drive to evolve and excel in his craft, coupled with his focus on self-improvement rather than being concerned about the opponents made him stand out, says former India coach Ravi Shastri.

The 38-year-old surprised the cricketing world by announcing his retirement in the middle of the Test series against Australia after the end of the third Test in Brisbane on Wednesday. "What stands out for me was his wanting to evolve all the time. He wasn't the kind of guy satisfied as to where he started," Shastri said on 'The ICC Review'. "For me it was his guile, wanting to excel in his craft and (especially) in the last two-three years

the way he got the ball to the way, gave it a rip and got it to dip on the batsman with drift made him stand out," Shastri said.

Known for his relentless drive to develop his game, Ashwin consistently worked on new deliveries and refined his action, even in the later stages of his career. "He wanted new tricks to be learned. He pursued it, practiced hard at it and continued to look for new things as his career progressed, to keep up with the times," Shastri said.

"His legacy will be of being a terrific match-winner, a fabulous record, 537 sticks. I mean anyone over 500 (in Test cricket) is special." Ashwin, who made his debut in 2011 against the West Indies, quickly ce-

mented his place in India's Test side. He retired as India's second-highest wicket-taker with 765 scalps, including 537 in Tests. Ashwin and fellow spinner Ravindra Jadeja often bowled in tandem, leading India to numerous victories. Shastri felt the "spin twins" played a role in each other's success. "And for him to do it in his span and the way he has done it, especially when it came to bowling in the last four or five years, I think in India, along with Jadeja, I think they were a terrific pair, the real spin twins." "They complemented each other well and they spurred each other on, so I would say a lot of Jadeja's wickets in the last five-six years have come because of Ashwin and vice-versa." Shastri



highlighted that Ashwin's nearly identical record against left and right handed batters -- 269 wickets against right-handers and 268 against left-handers—demonstrated just



how versatile and effective the spinner was, regardless of the opponent or their playing style. "You look at his record against right-handers, against left-handers, it's pretty much similar, you know, which says it all. It didn't matter to him who he was bowling against. He was up for it," he added

Konstas handed Boxing Day Test call-up as changes loom for Australia

► The 19-year-old opener is now in the frame for a debut in Melbourne with Australia set to make changes to their struggling top order

Melbourne, Dec 20 (GNS) Nathan McSweeney has been dropped from Australia's squad for the final two Tests against India with 19-year-old opening batter Sam Konstas earning his first call as the home side shake up the top order amid their struggles against Jasprit Bumrah.

Konstas has been included on the back of a strong run of form since being overlooked at the start of the series it is not certain he will play on Boxing Day in Melbourne.

Josh Inglis, who has been the spare batter during the series to date, remains part of the squad and could be an option if the selectors want to get creative with indications from chair of selectors George Bailey that they are keen for a greater tempo from the top order. Allrounder Beau Webster is also retained in the 15-player group.

But as a specialist opener there is now a strong chance that Konstas will debut in front of a crowd of more than 90,000 at the MCG. If he does play, it would be just his 12th first-class match, making him the fourth-youngest debutant for Australia in men's Tests, although he has been marked out as a future international player since his junior days. "First and foremost, [want to] acknowledge that it's a tough call on Nathan, particularly after three Tests," Bailey told reporters. "We

AUSTRALIA SQUAD
FOR MCG AND SCG TESTS AGAINST INDIA

Usman Khawaja	Mitchell Marsh	Nathan Lyon
Sam Konstas	Alex Carey	Pat Cummins (c)
Marnus Labuschagne	Josh Inglis	Mitchell Starc
Steven Smith	Sean Abbott	Scott Boland
Travis Head	Beau Webster	Jhye Richardson

are constantly getting new information as you guys are... It's clearly been a challenge at the top of the order for both teams. Think Sam's method, his style, is different to Nathan's, different

again to Beau's and Josh's, as the other batting options within that team, and we think they provide the options of a different look and a different make-up for the XI come Boxing Day."

Afridi trumps Klaassen after Babar-Rizwan stand sets up Pakistan

Cape Town, Dec 20 (GNS) Pakistan turned in their best all-round ODI performance across all three series over the past six weeks, dismantling South Africa by 81 runs and sealing a third straight ODI series win. Shaheen Afridi sizzled with the ball after half-centuries from Mohammad Rizwan, Babar Azam and Kamran Ghulam helped Pakistan amass 329 in the second ODI in Cape Town.

South Africa never quite got partnerships going despite a heroic 74-ball 97 from Heinrich Klaassen. Afridi, however, got his mojo back, menacing at the top and lethal with the reverse swinging ball at the death, finishing with four wickets as South Africa were bowled out for 248.

South Africa began the chase in much the same way as they started off in the first innings in Paarl - with conviction and purpose. From the moment the returning Temba Bavuma flicked Afridi off his pads for four off the first ball, South Africa were up and running, routinely piercing the thicket infield to find the boundaries they needed to keep the asking rate in check. Afridi picked his moment to deliver perhaps his most impressive spell since picking up the injury two years ago that has somewhat stalled his career. With the lights taking full effect and the contest balanced on a tightrope,

► Pakistan 329 all out (Rizwan 80, Babar 73, Maphaka 4-72) beat South Africa 247 all out (Klaassen 97, Shaheen 4-47, Naseem 3-37) by 82 runs



he found it in himself to bowl closer to the 140kph mark, angling his wrist position to take advantage of the reverse swing that suddenly appeared to be on offer. He fizzed

one past Miller, cutting him in half - or so we all thought; Afridi was sure it had kissed the inside edge, and when they went upstairs, the technology bore him out.

Arsenal, Liverpool, Newcastle Advance to English League Cup Semis

New Delhi, Dec 20 (GNS) Arsenal, Newcastle and Liverpool advanced in the English League Cup on Wednesday to ensure a heavyweight lineup for the semifinals. Gabriel Jesus scored a hat trick — including a crucial second goal from an offside position — as Arsenal beat Crystal Palace 3-2 to reach the last four for the first time since the 2021-22 season. Liverpool kept alive its title defense by winning 2-1 at Southampton, with Darwin Nunez and Harvey Elliott the scorers in the first half for the leaders of the Premier League and Champions League. Newcastle defeated Brentford 3-1 mainly thanks to two first-half goals by Italy midfielder Sandro Tonali and progressed to the semifinals for the second time in three seasons. The Saudi-controlled club from the north east, which hasn't won a major trophy since 1955, lost in the League Cup final to Manchester United in 2023. United visits Tottenham on Thursday in the remaining quarterfinal match, guaranteeing that the semifinals will feature four of the biggest teams in the country. Jesus benefited from no VAR as he had previously only scored one goal in 20 appearances in all competitions this season — and that was also in the English League Cup at second-tier Preston in October. So the Brazil



striker's first hat trick for Arsenal came as something of a surprise, as did the standard of his finishing. There was luck for Jesus, too, as replays showed that he was offside when running through to score his goal that made it 2-1 in the 73rd minute at Emirates Stadium. However, there is no video review until the semifinals of the competition so the goal wasn't ruled out. Jesus, who had equalized in the 54th with an excellently taken chip over goalkeeper Dean Henderson, completed his hat trick in the 81st — and that was also in the English League Cup at second-tier Preston in October. So the Brazil

a two-goal cushion but former Arsenal striker Eddie Nketiah ensured a nervy finish by heading home a cross in the 85th to make it 3-1. Jean-Philippe Mateta had put Palace ahead in the fourth minute. Liverpool's unbeaten run Liverpool has now gone 20 games unbeaten within a single season in all competitions for the first time since 1996, according to Premier League stats supplier Opta. Things could hardly be going any better for Arne Slot, who fielded a weakened, heavily rotated team — featuring Japan midfielder Wataru Endo at center back — that still had too much for Southampton. Nunez

particularly enjoyed his goal, which came after he had been jeered by Southampton fans for missing an early chance. After putting Liverpool ahead, he put his finger to his mouth in a "shush" gesture to the home crowd. Interim coach Simon Rusk took charge of Southampton, the last-place team in the Premier League, following the dismissal of manager Russell Martin on Sunday — hours after a 5-0 loss to Tottenham. Slot sat in the stands for the match at St. Mary's stadium as he was serving a touchline suspension after getting booked for the third time this season last weekend.

Fighting victories for Punjab Police, ASC

► Punjab Police and ASC Jalandhar registered come-from-behind victories on the fourth day of the Liberals hockey tournament at PPS Nabha.



Patiala, Dec 20 (GNS) Punjab Police and ASC Jalandhar registered come-from-behind victories on the fourth day of the Liberals hockey tournament at PPS Nabha. ASC edged out SAI Kurukshetra 3-2, while Punjab Police beat MSK Jarkhar Academy by the same margin. Hawks Rupnagar outplayed Himachal XI 4-0 and ITBP subdued Rail Coach Factory Kapurthala 3-1.

ASC converted a penalty corner in the 11th minute through Chandan Aind but SAI hit back with field goals from Mu-

nish Rana and Sunil in the 13th and 35th minutes. ASC equalised 2-2 in the 42nd minute before Sarin Edavalath found the winner in the final minute.

MSK Academy converted a PC in the 6th minute through Pawanpreet Singh. Punjab Police mounted pressure and went on a scoring spree with two penalty corner conversions by Pawandeep and Gurpreet in the 28th and 41st minutes. In the 45th minute Pawandeep got his second goal. MSK reduced the lead with a goal by Yudhvir Mall.