

Retd BU prof knocked down by BMTC bus

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 78-year-old pedestrian was mowed down by a BMTC bus at the RPC Layout bus stand on Sunday evening.

The deceased, Manjunath T R, was a resident of Vijayanagar and a retired professor of Bangalore University. He was working as a supervisor at a local temple, the police said.

According to the police, Manjunath had come to RPC Layout for some personal work, after which he was walking to the bus stand to board a bus towards his house. At around 5.15 pm, a rashly driven BMTC bus (route number 87), knocked Manjunath down, while taking a turn to enter the bus stand.

Passersby informed the police who rushed to the spot and shifted Manjunath in their Hoysala vehicle to a private hospital. He succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment. The police have seized the bus and arrested the driver identified, as Manjunath. The Vijayanagar traffic police have registered a case.

Panel to monitor land acquisition for rail projects

BENGALURU: The state government on Monday set up a high-level committee to monitor land acquisition for implementing cost-sharing railway projects in the state.

The committee is headed by the additional chief secretary to the Infrastructure Development department. Principal secretary to the Revenue department and senior officers of the Infrastructure Development department are its members.

Minister for Infrastructure Development R V Deshpande set up the committee after reviewing implementation of infrastructure projects in the state. He directed the officials to hire experts, if necessary, to ensure the speedy acquisition of land.

DH News Service

City man drowns at Balamuri

SRIRANGAPATNA (MANDYA DISTRICT): A private company employee from Bengaluru, who was on a picnic, drowned in River Cauvery near Balamuri, in the taluk on Monday afternoon.

The deceased has been identified as Shivakumar (27), a native of Bangarpet in Kolar district and a resident of Bengaluru. It is said that Shivakumar, along with seven of his friends, had come to Balamuri for a picnic.

According to an eyewitness, Shivakumar slipped into the water and drowned. His friends' effort to save him proved futile. The KRS police have registered a case.

DH News Service

Playschool chain fails to reopen after vacation; parents in a fix

Branches in city had closed early for Christmas holidays

Meghana Choukkar

BENGALURU, DHNS: The unexplained closing of several branches of the TreeHouse playschool chain in the city has left parents in a fix, with three months to go in this academic year.

The playgroup, headquartered in Mumbai, has 18 branches in the city, according to its website. In December, several branches closed early for the Christmas vacation without any explanation, arousing the suspicion of parents.

When the school did not open on Monday, parents of the Sanjaynagar branch gathered outside the school premises to demand an explanation. The nursery, LKG and UKG classes here have a total strength of 53 students. "When I went to pay the fee in December, they did not accept my cheque. On December 19, they closed the school say-



A group of youth helps a woman reveller who tripped on Brigade Road on New Year's Eve. (Right) Police cane revellers on Brigade Road on New Year's Eve.

DH PHOTOS / RANJUP



Cops may file suo motu cases against New Year's Eve molesters

To scan available CCTV footage to identify culprits

BENGALURU: The Central Division police are contemplating registering suo motu cases against revellers who allegedly misbehaved with women during the New Year's Eve revelry.

The Ashoknagar police are skimming through CCTV footage and video recordings made by police to identify the culprits. As no one came forward to lodge any complaints on New Year's Eve or the following day, the police assumed that the revelry was incident-free.

When a section of the media published photographs and lo-

cal television news channels aired visuals of alleged misbehaviour, the police took note and decided to probe into it.

"We have gone through all the footage we have. We require more clear evidence to take up a case of molestation. If we get a clear footage, we don't mind taking up a suo motu case even if there is no formal complaint," said Malini Krishnamoorthy, Additional Commissioner of Police, West.

"If anyone, including the media, has any specific footage of such crimes recorded on their phones or cameras, they can bring it to us and we will verify it and take action," she added.

Brigade Road Traders' Association president Suhail Yusuff rubbished the media's claims of alleged groping and molestation in the revelry. "If any such incident had happened, it would have been reported to the police. Almost everyone carried mobile phones and molestation incidents could have been easily caught on camera and uploaded on social media. Just based on a few photographs or visuals of the thousands of people moving in a wave, cases of groping and molestation cannot be established," said Yusuff.

"It was the New Year and at the stroke of midnight, people

would have hugged their dear and near ones, or for that matter, even acquaintances would have shared hugs. That cannot be called molestation," he quipped.

Meanwhile, police sources said the release of transfer orders of senior IPS officers to the media around four to five hours before the revelry commenced could have come as a distraction. Though around 1,500 policemen were deployed for safety and security alone on the 400-500-metre stretch of Brigade Road, the buzz was about transfers and that could have been the reason for poor management of the crowd

which was evident from the traffic management on MG Road. Traffic movement was allowed till 10.30 pm on MG Road even as the crowd was swelling on Brigade Road and MG Road causing inconvenience both to commuters and revellers.

"There were over 30 high-definition cameras excluding those the police carried to videograph revellers. There were watchtowers erected to monitor crowds with night-vision binoculars. How could something as bad as this have missed the eyes of the police?" said a senior police officer.

DH News Service

Denotification: HC relief to Somanna, wife

BENGALURU, DHNS: The high court on Monday set aside a lower court order which had taken cognizance of a denotification case



against former minister V Somanna. Justice R a t h - nakala, allowing the petition

filed by Somanna, his wife Shylaja and land owner D Lingaiah, directed the lower court to re-examine the order.

A private complaint was registered with the Lokayukta police accusing Somanna of abusing his office to denotify 22 guntas of land in Nagadevanahalli village, Kengeri, Bengaluru South taluk. The complaint stated that his wife was running an educational institution on the land though the land was acquired by Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA).

The Lokayukta police, which was probing the complaint, found no case or abuse of office and filed a B-report, absolving Somanna of the charges. However, the lower court took cognizance of the case and ordered re-investigation of charges against Somanna and issued summons. Somanna, his wife and D Lingaiah filed a criminal revision petition in the high court questioning the summons of the lower court order. The high court judge set aside the lower court order quashing the summons on the grounds that the lower court had not followed legal procedures while ordering re-investigation into the matter.

Rasheed Kappan

BENGALURU: Mobile chat application WhatsApp has taken its biggest dive yet. Since Monday evening, the massively popular chat platform has stopped working in old Android phones with the Froyo version and earlier. Those Apple iPhone 3GS users with iOS6 and Windows 7 phone users can also say goodbye to WhatsApp.

So, how will this impact smartphone consumers in India, where WhatsApp's user-base has reached dizzy heights? Minimal, say industry analysts. "Only about 0.5% of Android users in India have smartphones with version 2.2 Froyo. Most users have Icecream Sandwich version or higher," tech analyst and startup mentor, Shakthi Vadakkepat told DH.

But those who had bought an Android phone four years ago and have not upgraded will feel the pinch. So will BlackBerry users, although a What-



pose them, and graduate to a newer, better smartphone. To explain its rationale, WhatsApp had this blog post explaining that it was putting an even greater emphasis on security features. This, the post said, would require a more advanced operating system. The chat app had recently launched a video-calling feature.

Edit sent messages

Another key objective of the WhatsApp move is to allow major updates to enhance the overall experience. One such update being readied for a 2017 release is a feature that allows a user to edit or entirely delete a message even after it is sent.

Details are yet to be out, but analysts say the sent message could keep refreshing once in a while to display the edited version. The feature is likely to follow the pattern of Facebook statuses that can be edited. Facebook's acquisition of WhatsApp made such sharing of infrastructure simpler.

DH News Service

sApp blog update said support for BlackBerry 10 would be extended till June 30, 2017.

WhatsApp has its reasons to get rid of those old phones: Deeper integration of end-to-end encryption and other privacy services so that chat mes-

sages are not read by third parties. Shakthi explained, "The intention is to ensure that peer-to-peer communication is encrypted at the device level itself."

The message to the old handset owners is clear: Dis-



Anxious parents gather outside the Sanjaynagar branch of TreeHouse playschool on Monday.

ing that it would reopen on January 2, 2017," said Guruprasad, whose three-year-old daughter is enrolled in nursery.

The school had not been functioning regularly since October 2016, with teachers not paid their salaries, he said. Even the building rent has not been paid for several months. Suspecting something amiss when the vacation started early, parents filed a complaint with the Sanjaynagar police.

Similarly, the TreeHouse centre in BTM Layout which has 120 students, also closed on December 19. The parents ap-

proached MICO Layout police. One of the parents told DH that when the Mico Layout police contacted Rajeev Bhatia, MD, TreeHouse, he had said that the school would not shut down and that they would notify parents if they decided to.


Most parents have paid the fee in a single instalment of Rs 30,000. "We don't care about the money. Halfway through the year, no school is going to give my son admission. The school did not respond when we asked for a transfer certificate. I may have to quit my job if they do not reopen," said Priyanka

Biradar, whose son is in LKG in Sanjaynagar branch.

With no official confirmation of the school closing down, parents are concerned about their children's future and are demanding that the centres remain open till March at least. On Monday, parents of the BTM Layout centre held a meeting with representatives of the playgroup. They paid salaries to the staff and assured the parents that they would reopen on Tues-

day. "They are assuring us verbally that the school will open but how can we trust them? They tell us a different story each time and no one from the head office has directly approached us yet," Biradar added.

In a similar situation, the nationwide playgroup had closed several centres in Mumbai and Pune with no prior information, leaving parents and students in a quandary.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Sealed Tenders are hereby invited in **Two bid system (Technical Bid & Financial Bid)** for the following works-

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost in lakhs	Cost of tender paper in Rs.	Earnest money in Rs.	Date of sale	Date of opening the Tech. Bid
1.	The wok Laying Bitumen concrete over existing road from main gate to office cum-Lab building at CSIR-CIMAP, R.C. Bangalore.	12.30	500.00	24,600.00	03.01.2017 to 13.01.2017	16.01.2017
2.	Renovation of Labs (Agronomy & Plant Breeding Plant Biology, Systematics & office rooms) and Existing parking shed at CIMAP R.C. Bangalore.	7.32	500.00	14,700.00	03.01.2017 to 13.01.2017	16.01.2017

The detailed NIT is available on the CIMAP website www.cimap.res.in. The tender papers along with terms and conditions can be downloaded from the institute's website.

Administrative officer

NCW chief wants Parameshwara to quit over molestation remark

Panel to send team if reply by authorities is unsatisfactory

NEW DELHI/BENGALURU: Taking strong exception to Home Minister G Parameshwara's remark that youngsters "western ways" were responsible for the mass molestation in Bengaluru on New Year's Eve, NCW chief Lalitha Kumaramangalam on Monday sought his resignation.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson also demanded that the minister apologise to the women of the country for the remark. "Such remarks from the home minister are unacceptable and regrettable. I want to ask this minister, are Indian men so pathetic and weak that when they see a woman in Western clothes on a day of revelry, they get out of control?"

Reacting to police claims that there were no official complaints of molestation, the NCW chief

said pictorial information was enough for them to take action. "There is enough proof in terms of pictorial information. They can take action regardless of whether an FIR was lodged or not."

"If there were 1,500 policemen and still they could not prevent such incidents, well then it's a very sorry state of affairs and police do not deserve to be the police if they can't protect women," she said.

Lalitha said the Commission had taken suo motu cognizance of the incident and had written to the DGP, city police commissioner and Home Minister, seeking a reply on what action had been taken. "We have decided that if the reply is unsatisfactory, we will send a team to find out why the police have not taken suo motu cognizance of what happened," she said.

Nagalakshmi Bai, chairperson of the Karnataka Commission for Women, said, "I have taken cognizance of the reported incident. I have sought a report from police. After getting the report, I will take further action."

Agencies

'Police can't keep a watch on everybody'

"The police cannot keep a watch on everybody when a large number of people gather for celebrating New Year." This is how Home Minister G Parameshwara reacted on Monday to the reported molestation of women during New Year's Eve revelry on Brigade and MG Roads in Bengaluru. The Home minister said that no one had lodged a complaint till now and the police would register cases after going through the CCTV footage. "Suitable action will be taken against the hooligans. Measures will be taken to ensure that such incidents do not recur," he told reporters. "Such incidents should be condemned. We need to focus our attention on how to prevent such incidents. But we cannot deploy 10,000 policemen for this purpose," he stated. Earlier, speaking to a TV news channel, the Home minister reportedly said those who gather on Brigade and MG Roads for New Year celebrations were following in the footsteps of foreigners.

HC seeks details of plan to check Bellandur lake pollution

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka on Monday asked the state government to submit details of the measures it is planning to stop sewage water from entering the Bellandur lake.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice S K Mukherjee and Justice R B Budihal, while hearing a PIL to stop pollution of the Bellandur lake,

directed BBMP to file its statement of objections in a week's time. D Kupendra Reddy, Rajya Sabha member and resident of HSR Layout, has filed a PIL seeking directions to the government agencies to stop the increasing pollution levels in the Bellandur lake, which is causing foam.

The bench adjourned the next hearing to January 9.

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Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom), East Central Railway, Danapur Division, for and on behalf of President of India invites online (E-tendering) tenders in the prescribed form for the following works:
1. Name of the work with its location : Design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Solid State Interlocking (Electronic Interlocking) System conforming to RDSO Specification no. RDSO/SPN/192/2005 with latest amendments at Singriyanagar in Danapur division of E. C. Railway, including all indoor and Outdoor Signalling work.
2. Approximate cost of the work : Rs. 1,91,11,134.85.
3. Earnest Money to be deposited : 2,45,560/-
4. Date & Time for online submission and opening of tender : Submission up to 12.00 hrs on 07.02.2017. 08.02.2017 at 12.00 hrs. On 07.02.2017, 5. Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen : CRIS Website: www.ireps.gov.in Location : Sr. Divnl. Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/C, East Central Railway, Danapur.
6. Note : All corrigendum will be uploaded on website if required before 10 days from the date of closing of tender.
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