

People's University receives bomb threat via Email

- Terror scare in campus
- Evacuation and high alert



Bhopal: Panic gripped the People's University campus in Bhopal's Nishatpura area after the administration received a chilling email threatening to blow up the institution. The sender claimed that "cyanide-poisoned bombs" had been planted across the premises, scheduled to detonate at 12:15 PM.

Acting swiftly, authorities evacuated hundreds of students, faculty members, and medical staff, sealing off the entire building to ensure public safety.

LTTE reference and investigative details: The threatening commun-

ication, which reportedly originated from Tamil Nadu, contained alarming references to the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam). The email instructed the administration to clear out all personnel by 11:00 AM and concluded with religious slogans. Given the gravity of the mentions involving a banned organization and chemical poisons, local police and high-level security agencies were immediately deployed to the site.

Search operations and current status: A heavy police contingent, along with the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) and Dog Squad, conducted an intensive, room-by-room sweep of the university and its adjoining hospital. After hours of rigorous searching, no explosive devices were found. While initial findings suggest the threat was a sophisticated hoax designed to create mass hysteria, the police are tracking the digital footprint of the email to identify the perpetrators behind this scare.

New halt for Rani Kamalapati–Agartala Special at new Alipurduar

Bhopal: In a significant boost to passenger convenience, West Central Railway has announced an additional experimental halt for the Rani Kamalapati–Agartala Special at New Alipurduar station. Starting February 19, 2026, from Rani Kamalapati and February 22, 2026, from Agartala, Train No. 01665/01666 will provide a two-minute stoppage in both directions until further notice. According to Senior DCM Saurabh Kataria, this strategic stop aims to enhance accessibility for local commuters and streamline long-distance travel across the region. Train No. 01665 is scheduled to arrive at New Alipurduar at 21:47, while the return service, Train No. 01666, will reach the station at 11:23. This move reflects the railway administration's commitment to expanding service reach and improving the travel experience for thousands of passengers.

Mahila Cong protests state budget, clash with police

► Workers attempt to gherao finance minister's bungalow



Bhopal: The Madhya Pradesh Mahila Congress staged a strong protest in the state capital on Thursday against the recently presented state budget, alleging that it failed to provide relief to women facing rising inflation. The demonstration was led by State President Reena Borasi Setia.

Women workers gathered outside the State Congress office and marched towards the bungalow of Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Jagdish

Deora, raising slogans against the state government. Protesters carried empty plates, scooters, and cooking gas cylinders mounted on carts to symbolically highlight the burden of rising household expenses.

Some protesters tried to burn minister's effigy

Police had deployed personnel and erected barricades near Red Cross Hospital to prevent the protesters from advancing further. As the workers attempted to move past the barricades, the situation turned tense. Some protesters tried to burn an effigy of the Finance Minister, but police intervened, leading to brief scuffles between the two sides.

Addressing the media, Reena Borasi Setia alleged that the budget did not offer any relief in cooking gas prices, petrol and diesel rates, or daily household expenses. She stated that the organization had earlier warned of a protest if the budget failed to address women's concerns. After submitting a memorandum through police officials, the Mahila Congress workers dispersed while continuing to raise slogans against the government and the Chief Minister.

Heartwarming reunion: Piplani Police rescuers 3-year-old missing girl

Bhopal: In a swift display of community policing, the Piplani police successfully reunited a three-year-old girl with her frantic parents within hours of her going missing. The toddler, Shivangi, was found wandering alone near Anand Nagar on Wednesday evening. Unable to provide her address, she was brought to the local police outpost, where Constable Rekha Ahirwar patiently comforted her to glean clues. By deciphering the child's mention of her mother's



name, officers launched a mobile announcement campaign across nearby colonies. The effort paid off when her mother, weeping with relief, identified the child in Bijli Nagar. The police safely handed Shivangi back to her parents, earning widespread praise from the local residents.

BSSS to host national meet on women entrepreneurs

On-spot registrations open, event to be held in hybrid mode

Bhopal: The Department of Management at The Bhopal School of Social Sciences (BSSS), in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), will organize a two-day National Conference on February 20 and 21. The conference is titled "Empowering Women Entrepreneurs Through Financial Management: Bridging Policy, Finance, and Innovation for Inclusive Growth."

The event will focus on key challenges faced by women entrepreneurs, including limited access to capital and lack of financial literacy. Discussions will cover themes such as financial management for empowerment, policy frameworks, digital finance, and the role of CSR and impact investing in promoting inclusive growth.

AIIMS Bhopal marks International Childhood Cancer Day

► Pledge campaign and awareness drive highlight need for timely treatment



Bhopal: The Department of Pediatrics at AIIMS Bhopal observed International Childhood Cancer Day, with a series of awareness activities and a pledge campaign to support children battling cancer. The programme was held in the presence of Dean (Academics) Prof. Rajnish Joshi and began

with a ceremonial lamp lighting by dignitaries and childhood cancer survivors.

Head of Pediatrics Prof. Shikha Malik highlighted the comprehensive treatment services being provided under Executive Director Prof. (Dr.) Madhabananda Kar and encouraged regular follow-ups after therapy. Pediatric Hematology and Oncology specialist Dr. Narendra Chaudhary informed that 1,250 children have been registered in the oncology clinic over seven years, with around 300 currently undergoing long-term treatment. He emphasized that misconceptions and treatment delays remain major challenges in achieving the WHO's target of 60 percent survival by 2030. The programme featured awareness talks, cultural performances by children, and felicitation of young achievers who excelled academically despite illness, reinforcing the message of hope and resilience.

MP athletes Power India to Cestoball victory

► Golden triumph in Dubai



Bhopal: In a historic sporting milestone, four athletes from Madhya Pradesh have catapulted India to the pinnacle of international Cestoball. Selected during the rigorous India Camp in Hyderabad, Neelima Patil from Bhopal, along with Narmadap-

ram's Sahil Sisodiya, Sohel Khan, and Vedant Patel, showcased elite athleticism to secure championship titles at the international tournament in Dubai. The competition, held from February 13–15, saw the Indian squads dominate the court. The women's team triumphed over the UAE in a high-stakes final, while the men's team outclassed Oman to lift the trophy. A standout performer, Neelima Patil—an LL.B. graduate and practicing advocate at the Bhopal Court—proved that academic excellence and sporting prowess can go hand-in-hand.

Naushad Ali, Secretary of the MP Cestoball Association, hailed the victory as a proud moment for the state, noting that their success has sparked celebrations across the region.

Leaders from SAM Global University and Sage University joined families and sports officials in congratulating the champions. This golden feat not only elevates the profile of Cestoball in India but also solidifies Madhya Pradesh's reputation as a powerhouse for world-class sporting talent.

From Sehri to Iftar: 13 hours of devotion

- Bhopal welcomes Ramadan with prayers and fasting
- Mosques abuzz with devotees



Bhopal: The holy month of Ramadan commenced with spiritual fervor across Bhopal on Thursday, February 19, marking the first day of the sacred fast for the Muslim community. After the crescent moon was sighted late Wednesday evening, mosques echoed with the first Taraweeh prayers—a special 20-unit late-night prayer observed throughout the month. The first

fast began at dawn (5:33 AM) following the pre-dawn meal (Sehri), with devotees embarking on a nearly 13-hour spiritual journey of abstinence and reflection.

Tradition and community in Iftar: In keeping with Bhopal's storied traditions, the evening was marked by the iconic boom of the cannon at 6:23 PM, signaling the time for Iftar.

As the sound resonated across the city, families and colleagues gathered in homes, offices, and mosques to break their fast with dates and water.

Local markets, particularly those around the Old City, were abuzz with activity as residents flocked to purchase fruits, dry fruits, and traditional delicacies like nukti-khara. Many of these items were also sent to local mosques to support communal breaking of the fast, reinforcing the spirit of charity and brotherhood.

The path to Eid-ul-Fitr

For the next 30 days, the community will dedicate themselves to the core pillars of Ramadan: prayer, recitation of the Quran, and self-discipline (Nafs).

Believers hold that rewards for good deeds are multiplied sevenfold during this month, making it a period of intense spiritual re-set.

This month-long period of devotion and empathy will culminate in the joyous celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr, viewed as a divine reward for the patience and piety displayed during the fasts.

Sword attack over stray dogs stuns Ayodhya Nagar



Bhopal: A violent clash erupted in Bhopal's Ayodhya Nagar on Thursday after a local "dog lover" allegedly attacked his neighbors with a sword over a dispute involving stray animals. The incident occurred in Shravan Kanta Colony, just a day after municipal authorities had cleared the area of stray dogs. Tensions flared when Ashok Chauhan, who identifies as an animal activist, reportedly forced the municipal squad to release the dogs back into the neighborhood.

When local women protested the move—citing safety concerns—Chauhan, accompanied by two associates, allegedly brandished a sword and assaulted the residents. The brutal at-

tack, captured on CCTV, left two women, Vandana Sen and Lakshmi Thakur, seriously injured. Both are currently undergoing treatment at a local hospital. Property dealer Surendra Thakur, whose family was targeted, claimed Chauhan frequently intimidates neighbors who object to the stray dog menace. While the Ayodhya Nagar police have registered an FIR against Chauhan and two others for attempted murder and criminal intimidation, no arrests have been made yet. Station House Officer Mahesh Lillare confirmed that teams are searching for the suspects, promising swift action as the colony remains on edge following the brazen daylight violence.

Cook succumbs to burns after falling into hot oil pan

Police register case, investigation underway
Bhopal: A tragic accident in the Parwala area of Bhopal claimed the life of a 34-year-old cook who sustained severe burn injuries after falling into a pan filled with hot oil while preparing food at a function. The deceased has been identified as Sajid Ali, son of Hasan Ali, a resident of Gondipura New Jail area.

According to police officials, the incident occurred on February 4 at a garden in Mubarakpur, where Sajid was frying puris for a wedding function. During the cooking process, he reportedly felt dizzy and accidentally fell into a large pan of boiling oil. Colleagues present at the site immediately rushed to his rescue and managed to pull him out after nearly two minutes of effort. He was promptly taken to Hamidia Hospital in critical condition and had been undergoing treatment for the past 15 days. Despite continuous medical care, he succumbed to his injuries on Thursday morning.

Misrod Police crack murder case within hours

► Accused arrested near 11-Mile Bridge

Bhopal: The Misrod police achieved a swift breakthrough by arresting a murderer suspect within hours of a fatal stabbing in Jatkedi. Acting under the directives of Bhopal Police Commissioner Sanjay Kumar, a special team led by Inspector Ratan Singh Parikh tracked down the accused, Balbir alias Ballu Richharia, 32, following a violent alteration. The incident occurred on February 15 when the victim, Pawan Gawai, who had recently arrived from Maharashtra, was confronted by Ballu near a local grocery store. Witnesses stated that the accused questioned the victim's presence in the locality before

escalating a verbal spat into a physical assault. In a fit of rage, Ballu allegedly stabbed Pawan in the chest and abdomen with a knife. Despite being rushed to AIIMS Hospital, the victim succumbed to his injuries during treatment. Leveraging CCTV footage and an efficient informant network, police cornered Ballu while he was hiding under the 11-Mile Bridge. The suspect was apprehended on February 16 and produced before the court within 24 hours. This rapid action highlights the department's heightened vigilance ahead of the upcoming festive season to ensure public safety and deter crime.

RNTU Sports Meet kicks off with grandeur

► Youth enthusiasm and sporting spirit mark inaugural ceremony



Bhopal: The RNTU Sports Meet 2026 commenced with a grand inaugural ceremony at the football ground of Rabindranath Tagore University, reflecting vibrant youth participation and sporting enthusiasm. The three-day event is being organized under the aegis of the AISECT Group of Universities.

The ceremony began with floral tributes to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, followed by a formal welcome of Chief Guest Ishwar Pandey, along with RNTU Chancellor Santosh Choubey and SCOPE Global Skills University

Chancellor Dr. Siddharth Chaturvedi. A torch relay symbolized energy, unity, and dedication to sports.

In her welcome address, Registrar Dr. Sangeeta Johri highlighted the role of sports in personality development and leadership building. Sports officials from participating universities extended their best wishes. Dr. Siddharth Chaturvedi emphasized that sports nurture teamwork, confidence, and positive thinking, while the RNTU Sports Newsletter was also unveiled during the program.

Addressing the athletes, Ishwar Pandey underscored discipline and consistent practice as keys to success. Santosh Choubey noted that such events channel youth energy in a constructive direction.