

## HC refuses to grant bail to ISIS suspect

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**Mumbai:** The Bombay high court on Monday refused to grant bail to alleged ISIS recruit Areeb Majeed, who has been behind bars since November 2014. The high court dismissed an appeal he had filed challenging denial of bail last May by a special court presiding over cases handled by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The NIA had said that Majeed had decided to join the extremist outfit with three other friends in May 2014. A division bench of Justice R V More and Justice S C Gupte said, "We find no merits in the appeal and the application seeking bail. Hence both stand dismissed."

Majeed's counsel, advocate Mubin Solkar, said they would go to the Supreme Court. Solkar had argued that the "trial court had not followed procedure mandated in law". He said extension of custody last February was illegal as it was ordered by a judge who had no jurisdiction to preside over an NIA case.

## Ghansoli youth killed over night duty tiff

**Navi Mumbai:** A 21-year-old youth from Ghansoli was killed by his senior colleague and a few others in broad daylight near the Airoli toll plaza on Monday due to a heated argument over night shift duty hours.

Navghar police in Mulund informed that the victim, Akash Goher, who was working at the Airoli toll plaza, was physically assaulted by another colleague around 11.30 am over why he cut short his night shift duty hours on Sunday night.

"The prime accused in this murder case is the victim's colleague, identified as Ravi Kadam. He had asked Goher why he had not done his full night shift on Sunday, leading to the fatal physical assault on the victim. We are further investigating to book all those involved in this crime," said deputy commissioner of police (zone 7) Vinay Rathore.

Goher's body was taken to Rajawadi hospital in Ghatkopar for a post-mortem. **TNN**

## METRO DIGEST

### 100 hospitalized due to contaminated water

Over 100 people from the Azad Nagar slums in Bhayander are down with gastroenteritis after use of contaminated water since the past three to four days. The patients have been admitted to various private and civic hospitals.

### FIR filed by woman cop

The Azad Maidan police registered an FIR after a woman constable approached the police claiming an unidentified caller had abused her and her senior police officer, both attached to the main control room.

### BMC disability survey

The BMC will be carrying out a disability survey beginning April 5. Enumerators will be surveying by house-to-house visits and collecting information of disabled persons about disability certificates and other information.

## WEATHER

Colaba **31.8°** Santacruz **32.9°**  
Sunrise: Tuesday 18:53 hrs  
Forecast: Sky is very likely to be partly cloudy. Maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 34 deg Celsius and 24 deg Celsius respectively.

Relative humidity: Colaba 78%, Santacruz 61%



## SWACHH BHARAT

City	PM2.5	Quality
Delhi	221	Poor
Tomorrow	234	Poor
Pune	105	Moderate
Tomorrow	99	Good
Mumbai	136	Moderate
Tomorrow	129	Moderate
Hyderabad	115	Moderate
Chennai	26	Good
Kolkata	76	Good

US Embassy data calculated as per Indian standards by SAFAR@MOES-ITM-IND  
Based on 1 Station Data Per City at 4pm

# Sena, BJP go solo for ward committee elections in BMC

## Rift Between Saffron Allies Widens

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** The cracks between the Shiv Sena and the BJP—alliance partners in the BMC and the state government—only seem to be widening, especially with the 2017 municipal polls approaching. On Monday, the two parties individually filed nomination forms for four wards against the Shiv Sena candidates.

The wards for which the Shiv Sena filled in nominations are (A,B,E), (C and D), (F/South and F/North), (G/South), (P/South), (P/North) and (R/North and R/Central). The BJP meanwhile

## BJP, Congress allege corruption in awarding road contracts by Sena

The Congress and the BJP on Monday launched an attack on the Shiv Sena for the alleged corruption in awarding contracts for city roads. The issue was raised in the legislative assembly during a discussion on Mumbai and the Konkan region. While the Congress demanded that the report of the enquiry committee be tabled in the House before the session ends, the BJP highlighted how inadequate and poor quality material have been used in road construction. BJP MLA and the party's Mumbai unit president Ashish Shelar said additional municipal commissioner Sanjay Deshmukh in a letter to the Improvements Committee chairman Manoj Kotak had highlighted the poorly constructed road from Vidyavihar to the beginning of the Santacruz-Chembur Link road. The discussion will continue on Tuesday. **TNN**



Pic for representational purpose only

filled nomination forms for (C and D), (P/North), (P/South) and (R/North and R/Central).

The Shiv Sena and the BJP, despite being in coalition at the civic body, have been at loggerheads for more than one year over a number of issues—from installing LED lights at city's iconic Marine Drive stretch to the controversial open space policy.

When contacted, Trushna Vishwasrao, Shiv Sena

party leader in the BMC, said that talks with the BJP had been in progress since two days. "We told them to fill in the nomination forms in two wards, which were with them last time, however, they asked us to go ahead and fill in the nomination forms for all, which we did," said Vishwasrao.

It is learned that the BJP was keen on getting two more wards, which the Shiv Sena was hesitant to give up. Most corporators from the

two wards that the BJP wanted belong to Shiv Sena.

Manoj Kotak, BJP party leader in the BMC, said that talks had been underway till the last minute. "The Shiv Sena, however, went ahead and filled in the nomination for chairmanship without consultation. This compelled our party to go ahead and fill the form separately. This all happened in consultation with our party president and senior leaders," said Kotak.

# I was given bag with bomb that I kept on the cycle in Vile Parle, says Ansari

## He Was Arrow, Not Archer, Says Lawyer

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**Mumbai:** Muzammil Ansari's counsel Sharif Shaikh on Monday pleaded at length to protect the 42-year-old engineer from the death penalty, following his conviction for having executed three bomb blasts in Mumbai between December 2002 and March 2003.

The blasts that took place at Mumbai Central railway station, outside Vile Parle station and later on a suburban train at Mulund in March 2003, killed 12 and injured over 130. Ansari, then 29, is a resident of Malagaon.

Shaikh extensively relied on the Supreme Court judgment in the 1993 blasts case where the noose was confirmed only for Yakub Memon, brother of prime absconding accused Tiger Memon. He said SC treated Memon as the "archer" or "architect" of the blasts and commuted the sentence to life for 10 others — bomb planters — for being

## 'His return to jail will hit cancer patients'

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**Mumbai:** The return of Aatif Mulla after over 10 years on bail is turning out hard on hundreds of cancer patients. Mulla, convicted for possession of an AK-56 rifle, has been supplying health supplements to terminally ill patients with a dramatic turnaround in condition. What had started as "treatment" for his father, who had who the doctors had soon after he got bail, said would not survive a few months with an oesophagus cancer, soon became his legacy.

His success with his father, who continues to lead a normal life, said his advocate Mubin Solkar, "led to more research on how these supplements, brought in from the US, have improved the quality of life for cancer patients, many with brain tumour, sans any surgery, even enhancing the life span when hope was short."

One of "his patients" has been calling up since March 29 for "advice" as doctors have suggested a surgery.

Solkar, on Monday, submitted an application on Aatif's behalf to special judge, seeking permission to let him to telephonically speak to some of the patients "who are worried about Mulla being incommunicado". "His return to prison, will adversely impact all the good work he has been doing for society since his release on bail and affect a data base of 1000 cancer patients who depend on the health supplements."

Solkar pleading for leniency in the trial court said evidence was weak and his conduct good throughout is not of a man who is associated with acts of terror. "Recovery of the AK-56 is prima facie doubtful," said HC in 2005 while granting bail.

On Monday, in sessions court, while sentencing arguments were on, Mulla's two-year-old son who is thalassaemic with a recent bone marrow transplant clung to him, refusing to even to go his mother. He was with him after March 29. His 8-year-old daughter learnt of his conviction from a schoolmate. He has done about three years in prison and attracts minimum five years.



"mere arrows". He read Ansari's own confession to try and show that he was not an architect of the blasts. Shaikh said an absconding accused, Yusuf Janab alias Tahir Ilyas, was the person who had made the plan and brought a ready-

made bomb in a cloth bag to the blast site and handed it over to Ansari to plant.

Shaikh kept repeating that the SC had commuted death to life for the planters in the 1993 blasts case where 257 people died, while "here only one died

in the Vile Parle blast and only 11 at Mulund".

Special public prosecutor Rohini Sallian will make her submission on quantum of sentence and is likely to seek the maximum—death for Ansari who has been identified as

being present at all three blast sites, his thinly pitched voice giving him away.

Ansari's confession, a copy of which is with TOI, says, "One day my uncle introduced me to Dr Wahid Ansari (faces life sentence in conviction for abetment to the terror acts in the case) who had a dispensary at Kurla. I requested him to give me a job (doesn't say why a mechanical engineer would do at a dispensary). I came in contact with one Yusuf (absconding accused) who frequently visited Dr Wahid. In 2002, we three used to meet regularly."

"During our discussion Dr Wahid spoke of harassment to Muslims by Hindus and police and we thought something should be done to retaliate. Yusuf came and collected sodium from my company. Yusuf told me to come to Vile Parle railway station on January 27 at 6.30 pm. I went. Yusuf came 7 pm carrying one white cotton bag weighing about 5 kilos. He told me there was a bomb in it and that we were going to plant it in the crowded market. He showed me the cycle and told me to hang it on its handle. I did that. Then boarded a BEST bus route 330 and went to Kurla. Next day I learnt it exploded.

# JJ standoff: Docs negligent in duty, claim professors

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** The standoff between resident doctors of JJ Hospital and the ophthalmology department saw a twist on Monday with the professors making allegations of gross negligence against the trainee doctors. This even as hundreds of patients were inconvenienced and surgeries postponed as the strike by 300 resident doctors over demands of transferring dean Dr TP Lahane and head of ophthalmology Dr Ragini Parekh continued for the third day.

The strike, however, is unlikely to be called off even on Tuesday. "We had a meeting with education minister Vinod Tawde but did not get suitable answers. We have demanded that Lahane and Parekh should be transferred. We also want that doctors should be given surgical training as per the Medical Council of India guidelines," said Dr Parmeshwar Satpathy, president, JJ Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (MARD). Tawde told TOI that he has heard both sides. "A decision will be taken only after the factual information from both sides have been looked into," he said.

A fortnight ago, the RTO suspended the license of Kalgude for six months.

A couple of serious medical negligence cases, allegedly at the hands of ophthalmology resident doctors, were presented in front of the three-member committee that has already started probing into the allegations of ill-treatment and lack of learning opportunities in the ophthalmology department. The committee led by Dr Abhay Chaudhary was told how two patients with the same names were given incorrect lenses by "inattentive" resident doctors. In another case, a patient with uncontrolled sugar levels was being prepped for a surgery.

Meanwhile, Lahane confirmed that only 39 major surgeries could be carried out on Monday which is almost half of the number of procedures performed on a normal day. The outpatient services too were affected as a little over 3000 patients were attended to. The ophthalmology department that is the epicentre of the protest, where all but three senior residents are on strike, has not admitted any new patients for surgery. They usually see more than 50 admissions after a busy OPD day. The worst affected in the strike were patients who had come from outside the city.

# State faces flak over Ulhas river pollution

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Making known its displeasure over the failure of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) to stop the pollution of the Ulhas river, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the union ministry of environment and forests (MoEF) to issue a show-cause notice to the board. "The tribunal is hearing an appeal filed by NGO Vanashakti to restore the river and creek."

"The NGT in its March 30 order has directed the MoEF to first give the MPCB an opportunity to discharge their duties and explain why its statutory function should not be assigned to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). NGT has referred to section 18 (2) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and has pulled up the CPCB for not using its powers under the same Act to take action against the MPCB."

"The submissions made by the CPCB shows the serious nature of problem of central efflu-

ent treatment plants (CETP) performance resulting in discharge of untreated effluent containing toxic and obnoxious pollutants which are continuously causing environmental damage. "The Dombivli industrial area has already been identified as Critically Polluted area by the CPCB way back in 2010 and is among the most critical areas in the country," states the order.

## NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL RAP

In its observations on the performance of five CETPs, the CPCB noted that four are exceeding effluent discharge standards which is meeting the creek/river. The errant four are Additional Ambarnath CETP, Dombivli Better Environment System Association CETP, Dombivli, M/s Dombivli CETP (Chemical) and M/s ACMA CETP Co-op Society Ltd. CETP. The NGT has directed the MoEF to submit its action taken report within three weeks.

# 2 yrs after woman dies, FIR lodged against doc couple running hospital in Ghatkopar

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**Mumbai:** Almost two years after losing his eight-month pregnant wife due to alleged negligence, a 27-year-old Ghatkopar man finally got the police to register an FIR on Monday against the doctor-couple who treated her and owned the hospital where she was admitted.

Mahadev Nitvadekar claimed that while he had pleaded that the doctors perform a surgery to extract the dead foetus from his wife Savita's womb, they had insisted on waiting for a natural delivery eventually resulting in his wife's death.

Doctors Anagha and Mahesh Sontakke run the Apex

Multispecialty hospital in Ghatkopar. When contacted, Mahesh said he knew about the complaint in the court, but was unaware of the FIR. Two on-duty nurses have also been listed, but are not named.

Nitvadekar had filed a complaint with the Andheri magistrate court through advocates Prakash Wagh and Vikas Kharat, claiming he had approached the police alleging negligence and accusing the doctors of culpable homicide not amounting to murder. No cognizance was taken. The court last month directed the Sakinaka police to investigate and file a report.

In a statement to the police on Monday, Nitvadekar,

who works as a warehouse manager with a supermarket, said he was married to Savita in December 2012. In 2014, Savita became pregnant and began consulting doctors at Apex hospital, close to her parent's home at Ghatkopar.

On August 5, during a routine check-up, Anagha told them that since the foetus was not moving, a sonography was needed. It transpired that the foetus had been dead for four days. Savita was admitted for treatment. Nitvadekar said he paid Rs 30,000, and the doctor told him that within 24 hours, Savita would deliver the stillborn naturally. He requested them to extract the foetus through surgery

if needed, but they assured it would be delivered naturally.

Nitvadekar alleged that the following day, he again made the request, but was ignored as the doctor was busy. Every time Savita was in pain, she would be administered injections. The doctors could not be contacted and finally arrived on August 7 afternoon. After a check-up, both doctors again said the foetus would be delivered normally. Later, Savita suddenly turned blue and was in severe pain. She begged Nitvadekar to ask the doctors to deliver the foetus immediately. Between 3 and 4pm, he was informed by Mahesh that Savita had died.

# Jan 2017 is new extension to finalize coast zone plan

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** The Centre has granted yet another extension for preparation and finalization of the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP).

The extension is now up to January 30, 2017 or till such time that the ministry gives its approval to the fresh CZMPs. The last extension that had been granted was up to January 2016.

Following the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011, all coastal states had to prepare fresh the CZMP and the new CZMP was to come into force in 2013. However, since states are yet to submit their drafts to the Centre for approval, it has granted

them an extension. This is the ninth extension that has been granted since August 2013.

The extension has been granted as otherwise permission for development cannot be granted till the new CZMP is approved.

## ACTIVISTS CRY FOUL

Activists have, however, decried the repeated extensions that are being granted, pointing out that it is a complete mockery of the 2011 rules.

"By granting extensions, the Centre is ensuring the development of land that would otherwise not have been allowed to be built upon," said an activist.

# Metro owes govt ₹28.55 crore towards rent of Versova casting yard land

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**Mumbai:** An RTI activist has claimed that Mumbai Metro One Private Ltd (MMOPL) has dues amounting to Rs 28.55 crore in rent towards use of government land for the Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar corridor's casting yard. MMOPL denied the claims.

RTI activist Anil Galgali, who had sought the status of the land allotted for the temporary yard on a plot in Versova, said the original plan was to build a home guard training centre on the ground.

"Around 2.4ha was allotted to MMOPL on temporary basis in 2007. The Centre had

“The RTI query portrays only half the picture. The MMRDA was not able to provide the unencumbered right of way as per the concession agreement due to various reasons. Due to the unfulfilled promises of MMRDA, MMOPL was forced to extend usage of the land as the project was to be completed — MMOPL Spokesperson

allocated Rs 1.99 crore for the centre but the state put the project on hold," he said.

According to the reply, in 2007, MMOPL agreed to construct the proposed centre after the plot is vacated. Under this condition, the land was temporarily handed over to it on January 19, 2009, and agreement was signed between MMRDA and MMOPL.

Later, MMOPL received four extension to complete the

## A SLICE OF GOAN THEATRE



**GRAND REHEARSAL:** Loretta, a play written especially for Aadyam and inspired by tiatr, the musical theatre tradition of Goa, will be performed at St Andrew's Auditorium on April 8 and 9. There will be one show on Friday at 7.30pm and two shows on Saturday at 4pm and 7.30pm

# Trans Harbour line 50 trains cancelled

**Thane:** Suburban rail services on Trans Harbour line were hit for nearly three hours on Monday morning after the overhead wire on the Up line towards Thane snapped.

Fifty trains were cancelled, affecting thousands of peak hour commuters. A similar incident hit over 24 services on Sunday. The snag occurred around 8:40am.

Investigations revealed an insulator box on the overhead equipment was damaged, causing the wire to snap. The snag was fixed around 11:55am. The power supply to the entire stretch was cut.

Commuters were allowed to use Main line services resulting in heavy crowding. **TNN**