



NEET to be conducted on Sept. 12, application process to begin today

page 10



Don't let your guard down against COVID-19, IMA tells Centre, States

page 10



Dominica HC allows Mehul Choksi to return to Antigua on bail

page 9

Italy pips England on penalties, clinches Euro 2020 crown

page 13



NEARBY



Laws won't help to check population growth: Nitish

PATNA
Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar asserted on Monday that it was not possible to ensure population control through laws. He was reacting to Union Rural Development Minister and senior BJP leader Giriraj Singh's call for a policy on population control in Bihar, similar to the one launched by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

NEWS | PAGE 9

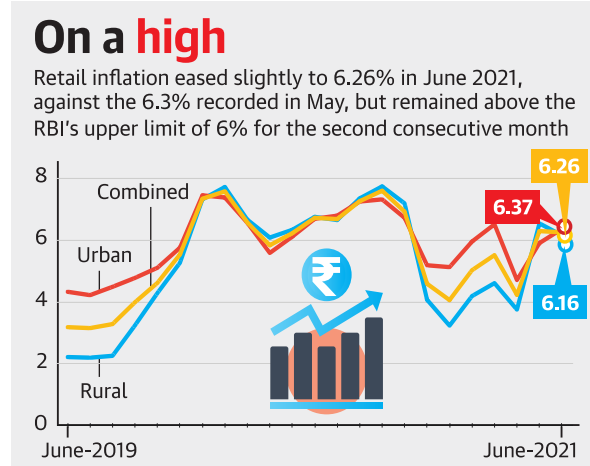
Nature's fury



Caught unawares: Floodwaters surging through a street in Mcleodganj, Himachal Pradesh, following a cloudburst on Monday. The raging torrents damaged cars and buildings. ■PTI

Inflation remains above 6% in June

Fuel and light inflation touches 12.7%, oils, fats and eggs lead food price spike



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

After touching a six-month high in May, retail inflation remained virtually unchanged in June at about 6.3%, staying out of the central bank's comfort zone for the second month in a row. Economists expect the Reserve Bank of India to revisit its inflation estimate of 5.1% for 2021-22 and stressed that the lack of fiscal policy action to cool prices could precipitate a faster unwinding of RBI's growth-supporting approach to interest rates.

With petroleum product prices continuing to soar, fuel and light inflation hit 12.7% in June from 11.9% in May. Food inflation, which had flared up from just 2% in April to 5% in May, rose further, led by a 34.8% inflation rate for oils and fats and 19.4% for eggs. Inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index declined by just four basis points from May's 6.30%, as per the National Statistical Office. One basis point equals 0.01%.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

In blow to Oli, Nepal SC directs Deuba to be appointed PM

Court overturns President's May 22 decision to dissolve House of Representatives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KATHMANDU

Nepal's Supreme Court on Monday reinstated the House of Representatives for the second time in five months, and directed President Bidya Devi Bhandari to appoint Nepali Congress chief Sher Bahadur Deuba as Prime Minister by Tuesday. A five-member Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher Rana, issued the verdict stating that President Bhandari's decision to dissolve the Lower House upon a recommendation of Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli was an unconstitutional act, delivering a blow to the veteran Communist leader, who was preparing for snap elections.

Twists and turns

K.P. Sharma Oli, who dissolved Parliament twice in the past 8 months, suffered a setback on Monday when the Supreme Court ordered to reinstate the legislature and appoint a new PM. A brief timeline of the events in the Himalayan nation:



President Bidya Devi Bhandari dissolves Parliament

Feb. 23, 2021: Supreme Court reverses the decision of the President

May 10: Oli loses confidence vote after Parliament is reconstituted

■ He again advises the President to dissolve Parliament and hold new



Up in arms: Police standing guard as supporters of K.P. Sharma Oli chant slogans against the Supreme Court's decision in Kathmandu on Monday. ■AFP

elections, saying no party had a majority to form a new government

■ He remains caretaker Prime Minister

May 24: Opposition moves the Supreme Court again

July 12: Supreme Court orders Parliament be reconvened and Opposition leader Sher Bahadur Deuba be appointed as PM



Panel studying trial data of new COVID-19 vaccine, say officials

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The green signal for the emergency use approval of ZyCoV-D, the COVID-19 vaccine by Zydus Cadila for those aged 12 and above, will take a few more days, Union

Health Ministry officials said on Monday.

The vaccine had shown good results in the Phase-1 and Phase-2 trials, and the data for the Phase-3 trials, conducted in more than 28,000 volunteers, were be-

ing examined by the Subject Expert Committee, they said. NITI Aayog member (Health) V.K. Paul had recently said, "if all goes well, this vaccine's supply will begin in August-September."

ZyCoV-D is a three-dose intradermal vaccine, which is to be administered using the PharmaJet needle-free system. The second and third doses are to be administered on the 28th and the 56th days respectively. The Ministry refuted claims by the Delhi go-

vernment and several States of shortage of vaccines.

It said more than 38.86 crore (38,86,09,790) doses had been provided to the States and the Union Territories so far through all sources and a further 63,84,230 doses

were in the pipeline. "Of this, the total consumption, including wastages, is 37,31,88,834 doses [as per data available at 8 a.m. on Monday]," it noted.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

Initiate contempt proceedings against Haryana: DJB to SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Jal Board has asked the Supreme Court to initiate contempt proceedings against two Haryana officials for "wilfully" disobey-

ing a court order to maintain the water level at the Wazirabad reservoir at full capacity to serve the drinking water needs of the Capital.

DETAILS ON ► PAGE 2

Thousands of Cubans rally against govt.

They call for President to step down



A police car seen overturned after a protest against Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel in Havana on Monday. ■AFP

REUTERS
HAVANA

Chanting "freedom" and calling for President Miguel Diaz-Canel to step down, thousands of Cubans joined street protests from Havana to Santiago on Sunday in the biggest anti-government demonstrations on the Communist-run island in decades.

The protests erupted amid Cuba's worst economic crisis since the fall of the Soviet Union, its former ally, and a surge in coronavirus infections, with people voicing anger over shortages of basic goods, curbs on civil liberties and the authorities' handling of the pandemic.

Thousands gathered in downtown Havana and along parts of the seaside drive, their shouts of "Diaz-Canel step down" drowning out groups of government supporters brandishing the Cuban flag and chanting "Fidel". Special forces vehicles, with machine guns mounted on the back were seen throughout the capital, Havana, and the police presence was heavy long after protesters had gone home.

Mr. Diaz-Canel, who also heads the Communist Party, in a televised speech on Sunday afternoon, blamed the unrest on old Cold War foe, the U.S., which in recent years tightened its decades-old trade embargo on the island. He said many protesters were sincere but manipulated by U.S.-orchestrated social media campaigns and "mercenaries" on the ground, and warned that further "provocations" would not be tolerated, calling on supporters to confront such "provocations".

President Joe Biden said the U.S. stands with the people of Cuba. "We stand with the Cuban people and their clarion call for freedom and relief from the tragic grip of the pandemic and from the decades of repression and economic suffering to which they have been subjected by Cuba's authoritarian regime," he said in a statement.

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SHUBHRA RANJAN
Always Ahead

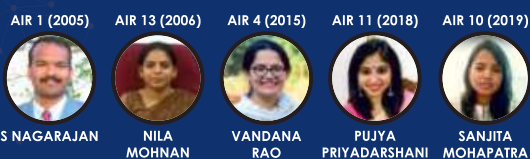
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Tenacious Italy wrecks England's party, paints the Euro blue

Azzurri inflict more penalty heartache on the Three Lions; Rashford, Sancho and Saka fluff their lines from the spot

EURO 2020

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

Italy inflicted more penalty heartache on England to win Sunday's Euro 2020 final 3-2 in a shootout, Bukayo Saka missing the decisive kick to deny the hosts after the game at Wembley had ended in a draining 1-1 draw through extra-time.

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A night to remember: Italy's long wait for a second European title came to an end on Sunday. • AP

Saka's kick was repelled by Gianluigi Donnarumma to give Italy the Henri Delaunay Trophy for the second time, completing a remarkable turnaround for a team that failed to even qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

Italy's triumph came at the end of a shootout in which England scored its first two penalties but then saw Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho also fail. Jorginho could have won it

for Italy only for his penalty to be saved by Jordan Pickford, giving renewed hope to England. The nerve-shredding climax seemed unlikely given the way the match began,

with Luke Shaw scoring for Gareth Southgate's England after just one minute and 56 seconds, the fastest goal ever in a European Championship final, and stunning a team which arrived here on a re-

cord 33-match unbeaten run. Italy was shell-shocked and struggled to recover in a stadium where the official attendance was 67,173 but more England fans clearly managed to enter after dis-

The shootout

ITALY			ENGLAND	
Berardi	✓	1-1	✓	Kane
Belotti	✗	1-2	✓	Maguire
Bonucci	✓	2-2	✗	Rashford
Bernardeschi	✓	3-2	✗	Sancho
Jorginho	✗	3-2	✗	Saka

Match stats

Italy	England	
1	Goals	1
65%	Possession	35%
19	Shots	6
6	Shots on target	2
21	fouls	13
3	Corners	5
5	Yellow cards	1

graceful scenes when supporters without tickets stormed the gates.

Italy, though, had most of the possession after falling behind and deserved its equaliser when it came midway through the second half through Leonardo Bonucci.

Questionable decision

With no further scoring, this was the first European Championship final to be decided on penalties since 1976 and the decision to let the 19-year-old Saka step up when he did was a questionable one.

While England's 55-year wait to win another major international title goes on, Italy's own particular half-century of hurt is over. The Azzurri have won four

World Cups but their sole European Championship triumph before this dated back to 1968. They had lost two Euro finals in a little over two decades. However, they have been the outstanding team in this competition, beating Belgium and Spain on their way to the final.

It's coming Rome!
LEONARDO BONUCCI

The sky is BLUE above Wembley!
GIANLUIGI BUFFON

Champions of Europe... she is finally back in Italy!
ANDREA PIRLO

This is not the end for this young England side. Congratulations, Italy
GARY LINKER

Win or lose we stand with you...hold those heads high England
DAVID BECKHAM

It'll come home at The World Cup! We love this England team. Chins up!
KEVIN PIETERSEN

Congratulations to Italy, and well done England for reaching the final!
SACHIN TENDULKAR

The result:
Final: Italy 1 (Bonucci 67) drew with England 1 (Shaw 2) (After extra-time, Italy won 3-2 on penalties).

Another Gianluigi trumps for Italy in shootout

Donnarumma follows in the steps of Buffon who was part of the 2006 WC win

From Gigi to Gigio, Italy still has a safe pair of hands in goal. Fifteen years after Gianluigi Buffon was under the bar for Italy in the World Cup final win via a penalty shootout, Gianluigi Donnarumma did the same on Sunday against England. "Despite the goal right at the beginning we always commanded the game and then with penalties there's Gigio," Italy captain Giorgio Chiellini said. "We've gone from Gigi to Gigio." The 22-year-old Donnarumma was sobbing on the shoulder of an Italy team staff member after saving the final penalty kick.

Incredible night
"It's an incredible night," Donnarumma said. "If I am the best player of the tournament, it is also thanks to (Leonardo) Bonucci and Chiellini. We were extraordinary, we are very happy." "We didn't give an inch. We are a fantastic squad and we deserve all this," Donnarumma said. Donnarumma also saved a penalty from Alvaro Morata in the penalty shootout victory over Spain in the semifinals.

By the numbers

1 Italy's Gianluigi Donnarumma was named player-of-the-tournament, the first goalkeeper in tournament history to be officially honoured.

1:56 opener was the quickest ever goal scored in the final of the Euros.

5 Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo finished as top-scorer, beating Czech Republic's Patrik Schick -- who had the same number of goals -- to the award because of an assist.

5 Despite losing in the final, England's Jordan Pickford had the best record among goalkeepers with five clean sheets.

6 Italy's major tournament titles (4 World Cup, 2 Euros); among European nations, only Germany (7) has more.

2/9 England has won just 22% (two out of nine) of its major tournament shootouts (World Cup/Euros).

34 & 71 Bonucci (at 34 years and 71 days) is the oldest scorer in a Euro final, beating Bernd Hölzenbein (30 years and 103 days) from 1976.

53 The number of years between Italy's first Euro title in 1968 and this one.



A giant roars: Italy rode on the shoulders of Donnarumma to script a memorable triumph. • REUTERS

Euro 2020 individual awards:	Silver boot (2nd highest scorer): Patrick Schick (Czech Republic)	Golden ball (Player of the tournament): Gianluigi Donnarumma (Italy)
Golden boot (Top scorer): Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal)	Bronze boot (3rd highest scorer): Karim Benzema (France)	Best young player of Euro 2020: Pedri (Spain)

English players face online racism

REUTERS LONDON

Black players in the England football team have been subjected to a storm of online racist abuse after their defeat in the final of Euro 2020.

Marcus Rashford, 23, Jadon Sancho, 21, and Bukayo Saka, 19, were the targets of the abuse after they missed their spot-kicks. The comments have prompted a police investigation and wide condemnation.

"For some of them to be abused is unforgivable," Southgate told a news conference. "Some of it has come from abroad (we have been told this), but some of it is from this country."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson condemned the abuse while Prince William, who is president of the Football Association, said he was "sickened".

Grand welcome home for Azzurri



Triumphant return: Coach Roberto Mancini and captain Giorgio Chiellini display the Henri Delaunay Trophy after arriving in Rome. • GETTY IMAGES

Talking tactics: breaking the final down

AASHIN PRASAD

The script was all too familiar for England from its 2018 World Cup semifinal defeat to Croatia -- take the early lead, sit back, invite pressure, cede control in midfield and get punished.

Gareth Southgate set England up in a 3-4-3 formation, while Roberto Mancini's Italy lined up in a 4-3-3, with contrasting styles on display in a hard-fought contest.

England was a goal up through Luke Shaw after 116 seconds of play, capitalising on Italy's shape being pulled apart after an unsuccessful corner.

England executed its game-plan for the best part



Berardi. • GETTY IMAGES

pitch against England's Kalvin Phillips and Declan Rice. The second period started in the same vein, with England pinned in its half by Italian pressure, both on and off the ball. While England conceded a sloppy set-piece goal, the opportunity arose because of Italy's sustained dominance.

Mancini brought on Domenico Berardi early in the second half and his off-the-ball movement, along with Lorenzo Insigne and Federico Chiesa, troubled England's defenders. The full-backs and central midfielders created repetitive overloads on both flanks.

In between the 65th and 66th minute, Italy strung together a sequence of 24 successive passes, before Chiesa's cross was headed behind for the corner that led to the equaliser.

Losing verve
Chiesa's injury and subsequent exit in the 86th minute effectively blunted Italy's attack, and the final lost its verve. Southgate's late introduction of Jack Grealish, Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho in extra-time didn't seem to alter the contest, which went to penalties. Although England took the lead again in the shootout, Gianluigi Donnarumma stood tall in goal and Italy emerged triumphant.

Why not passes, ask the Kiwis

ANI NEW DELHI

Losing the 2019 cricket ODI World Cup due to the boundary-countback rule still hurts New Zealand cricketers and this was again on show as Scott Styris and James Neesham took an indirect dig at the Three Lions after they lost the Euro 2020 final against Italy on penalties.

More corners

Styris and Neesham suggested that England could have been declared the winners as they had more 'corners' in the match or because of 'more passes' in the game.

"Why is it a penalty shootout and not just whoever made the most passes wins? #joking," tweeted Neesham.

Talking to Twitter, Styris wrote: "I don't understand... England had more corners.... they are the champions! #Stillsalty."

Southgate's plan backfires

Owens responsibility for choosing the shot-takers' list

ASSOCIATED PRESS LONDON

Gareth Southgate could feel Bukayo Saka's anguish. Having a decisive penalty saved in a European Championship match can be such a lonely experience.

It still follows Southgate 25 years after his missed spot kick in the semifinals against Germany. Now he had to accept responsibility, having selected Saka to take what would be the last kick of Euro 2020.

The focus will turn to Southgate's decision-making. Should he have asked a 19-year-old to step up for such a pressure-packed moment?

Raheem Sterling wasn't even included among the five penalty takers.

Late substitutes

Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho were brought in the 120th minute just in time to take penalties.

Liverpool's Premier League and Champions League winner, Jordan Henderson, was deemed less suitable for a penalty than Sancho. "It's down to me," South-



It's on me: Gareth Southgate consoles Jadon Sancho after the shootout heartbreak. • GETTY IMAGES

The penalty jinx continues

- **1990 World Cup semis:** Lost 4-3 to Germany after a 1-1 draw
- **1996 Euro semis:** Germany won 6-5 after a 1-1 draw
- **1998 World Cup last-16:** Lost 4-3 to Argentina after a 2-2 draw
- **2004 Euro quarters:** Portugal won 6-5 after a 2-2 draw
- **2006 World Cup quarters:** Lost 3-1 to Portugal after 0-0 draw
- **2012 Euro quarters:** Italy won 4-2 after a goalless draw

gate said. "I decided on the penalty takers based on what we've done in training. Nobody is on their own. It totally rests on me."

Southgate was also solidly behind the players. "They were the best takers we had left on the pitch," he said. "We win and lose together."

Iniyanshocks Bogner

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

Young GM P. Iniyansh stunned higher-rated Swiss rival Sebastian Bogner while B. Adhiban, Aravindh Chithambaram, R. Praggnanandhaa and Nihal Sarin made a winning start to their World Cup campaign in Sochi, Russia, on Monday.

D. Gukesh was the only Indian to settle for a draw. Padmini Rout proved superior to Azerbaijan's Uliviyya Fatallyeva in 36 moves.

R. Vaishali moved closer to victory against Canada's Zhou Qiyu before blowing away the edge. Thanks to her extra knight, Vaishali found a way to win in 62 moves.

Indian results (Round 1, Game 1): Men: Chiletso Chippanga (Mwi) lost to B. Adhiban; Aravindh Chithambaram bt Michael Concio Jr. (Phi); Arthur Ssegwanyi (Uga) lost to Nihal Sarin; Paulo Bersamina (Phi) lost to R. Praggnanandhaa; Pawel Teclaf (Pol) drew with D. Gukesh; P. Iniyansh bt Sebastian Bogner (Svi).

Women: Padmini Rout bt Uliviyya Fatallyeva (Aze); Bhakti Kulkarni w/o Anastasya Paramzina (Rus); R. Vaishali bt Zhou Qiyu (Can).

Novak's 20



Impressive array: Djokovic with his Grand Slam trophies. • GETTY IMAGES

