Cal HC rejects Bengal Govt appeal, upholds life term; admits CBI Plea

PTI, KOLKATA: The Calcutta High Court on Friday refused to admit the West Bengal government's appeal challenging the trial court's life term till death sentence awarded to RG Kar hospital rape-murder case convict Sanjay Roy, while accepting a similar prayer by the CBI.

Passing the judgement, a division bench comprising justices Debangsu Basak and Md Shabbar Rashidi said that since the investigation of the case was conducted by the CBI, a central agency, it is the appropriate authority to issue directions for the presentation of an appeal against the inadequacy of sentence.

RG KAR RAPE MURDER

"The state government cannot issue such directions so long as the central government or the CBI is willing to do so," the bench said while refusing to admit the appeal of the state government claiming inadequacy of sentence awarded to Roy by the additional sessions judge of Sealdah court.

The division bench said that since the appeal pertains to conviction under Sections 64 and 66 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, it is required to be disposed of within a period of six months from the date of filing of such appeal.

It directed that paper books, a collection of documents related to the case, be prepared within two weeks from the date of receipt of trial court records.

Being dissatisfied with the quantum of punishment imposed upon the convict, both the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which conducted the trial as prosecution, and the state approached the high court seeking enhancement of the punishment awarded to the convict at the trial.

It was submitted on behalf of the CBI that at the time of hearing on the point of sentence, it had requested the trial court to award maximum punishment i.e., punishment of death to the convict.

NEET-PG 2024: SC junks plea for fresh counselling

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a plea seeking directions to cancel the all India quota (AIQ) round 3 of NEET-PG 2024 counselling and to conduct it afresh.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K Vinod Chandran passed the order after the counsel appearing for the National Medical Commission (NMC) said any such direction would have a cascading effect in all the states.

"In case anything has to be done now, it will have a cascading effect in all the states because students have already taken part in the counselling," said the counsel.

He said there was a time scheduled for post-graduate (PG) admission.

Rajya Sabha takes up private member's bill to amend POCSO Act

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Rajya Sabha on Friday took up a private member's bill to amend the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012, with members cutting across party lines calling for the need to introduce more "victim-centric" reforms to add more teeth to the legislation and ensure its effective implementation.

Introducing the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment), 2024 Bill for consideration and passage during the private member's legislative business, Fauzia Khan of the NCP-SCP called for severe punishment to sexual predators targeting children.

She pointed out that according to the NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau), POSCO cases increased over 94 per cent in six years since 2017. The number of registered cases increased to well over 2 lakh in May 2024, of which 1.62 lakh were disposed of.

"The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Amendment Bill 2024 aims to address these challenges by introducing victim-centric reforms. The key objectives of this Bill include addressing ambiguities in reporting offences and compensating victims; introducing clear and structured compensation procedures to prevent delays; mandating training for stake-holders, including educational institutions and child care personnel to ensure effective implementation," Khan said.

Under the proposed Bill, police, or the special juvenile police unit, must present the child before the child welfare committee and report the case to the special court - or the sessions court if the special court is unavailable - within 24 hours of the reporting of the incident.

10 soldiers killed in ambush in Nigeria, says army

AP, DAKAR, SENEGAL: Armed assailants in western Nigeria killed at least 10 soldiers in an ambush on a military unit that had been sent to hunt cattle rustlers in a border region near Burkina Faso, Nigeria's ruling junta said.

Nigeria, along with its neighbors Burkina Faso and Mali, has for over a decade battled an insurgency fought by jihadi groups, including some allied with al-Qaida and the Islamic State group

The military unit was deployed Monday to catch criminals who had been stealing the cattle in the western village of Takzat, the military said in a statement broadcast Wednesday night.

"It was during the operation that a group of criminals ambushed the detachment of the internal security forces which resulted in the loss of 10 of our soldiers," the statement said. It did not identify the attackers.

The attackers managed to flee, but the military caught and neutralized 15 "terrorists" on Tuesday, the statement added.

Nigeria, along with its neighbors Burkina Faso and Mali, has for over a decade battled an insurgency fought by jihadi groups, including some allied with al-Qaida and the Islamic State group.

Following military coups in all three nations in recent years, the ruling juntas have expelled French forces and turned to Russia's mercenary units for security assistance. The three countries have vowed to strengthen their cooperation by establishing a new security alliance, the Alliance of Sahel States.

But the security situation in the Sahel, a vast region on the fringes of the Sahara Desert, has significantly worsened since the juntas took power, analysts say, with a record number of attacks and civilians killed both by Islamic militants and government forces.

Ten soldiers were killed and seven others injured in an attack near Nigeria's border with Burkina Faso last December, the army said.

Singapore puts Indian-origin ex-minister under home detention

PTI, SINGAPORE: Singapore's former transport minister of Indian origin, S. Iswaran, who was jailed last October for 12 months on corruption charges, was placed in "home detention" on Friday, a news report said.

"Like all inmates placed on the Home Detention Scheme, S Iswaran will serve his remaining sentence at his residence under specified conditions, including curfew monitoring using an electronic monitoring tag, being gainfully occupied either in work, study or training and reporting to SPS for counselling," Channel News Asia quoted Singapore Prison Service (SPS) as saying.

Iswaran began his

CORRUPTION CASE

12-month jail term on October 7, 2024. Under the Prisons Act, inmates who display good conduct in prison are eligible for remission after serving two-thirds of their sentence or 14 days of their sentence, whichever ends later.

According to the Channel report, prisoners serving sentences of four weeks or more and serving at least 14 days of their sentence are also eligible to be released on the home detention scheme for a period not exceeding 12 months.

SPS said factors such as conduct, progress, and response to rehabilitation during prison time are taken into account when determining eligibility for home detention.

"(Iswaran) has been assessed suitable for emplacement on the scheme as he is of low risk of re-offending, did not commit any institutional offence in prison, and has strong family support," said the prison service.

"During home detention, inmates who have approved employment can leave the home during their working hours while inmates who are unemployed usually only have a few hours out of the home in the afternoons," Adrian Wee of Lighthouse Law LLC here told the Channel.

SPS added that last year, about 44 per cent of the inmates eligible for home detention were placed on the scheme. Iswaran pleaded guilty on September 24, 202,4 to four charges under Section 165 of the Penal Code, which forbids all public servants from obtaining any valuable thing from someone involved with them in an official capacity.

Search underway in western Alaska for plane carrying 10 people

AP, ANCHORAGE (US): Rescuers searched on Friday for any sign of a plane that went missing while carrying 10 people across Alaska's Norton Sound south of the Arctic Circle.

The Bering Air Caravan was heading from Unalakleet to Nome on Thursday afternoon with nine passengers and a pilot, according to Alaska's Department of Public Safety. Authorities were working to determine its last known coordinates.

Unalakleet is a community of about 690 people in western Alaska, about 150 miles (about 240 kilometers) southeast of Nome and 395 miles (about 640 kilometers) northwest of Anchorage.

The disappearance marks the third major incident in US aviation in eight days. A commercial jetliner and an Army helicopter collided near the nation's capital on January 29, killing 67 people.

A medical transportation plane crashed in Philadelphia on January 31, killing the six people onboard and another person on the ground.

The Cessna Caravan left Unalakleet at 2:37 p.m., and officials lost contact with it less than an hour later, according to David Olson, director of operations for Bering Air. The aircraft was 12 miles (19 kilometers) offshore, according to the US Coast Guard.

"Staff at Bering Air is working hard to gather details, get emergency assistance, search and rescue going," Olson said.

Bering Air serves 32 villages in western Alaska from hubs in Nome, Kotzebue and Unalakleet. Most destinations receive twice-daily scheduled flights Monday through Saturday.

Airplanes are often the only option for travel of any distance in rural Alaska, particularly in winter.

The Nome Volunteer Fire Department said in a statement on social media that ground crews were searching across the coast, from Nome to Topkok.

"Due to weather and visibility, we are limited on air search at the current time," it said. People were told not to form their own search parties because the weather was too dangerous.

A stream turns blood red in Argentina, residents blame pollution

AFP, BUENOS AIRES: A stream on the outskirts of Buenos Aires turned blood red on Thursday, causing anxiety among residents who blamed it on pollution.

People living in Avellaneda, a town six miles (10 kilometres) from the center of the Argentine capital, described being woken by a stench emanating from the river.

"The smell woke us up. In the daytime, when we looked at this side of the river, it was completely red, all stained," Maria Ducomls told AFP.

"It looked like a river covered in blood, it's horrible," the 52-year-old said.

The Ministry of the Environment for the province of Buenos Aires said in a statement that water samples had been taken to determine what substance had caused the discoloration, citing the possibility of an organic dye

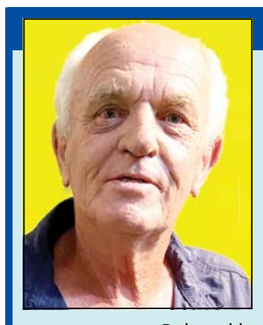
The Ministry of the Environment for the province of Buenos Aires said in a statement that water samples had been taken to determine what substance had caused the discoloration, citing the possibility of an "organic dye".

The color of the stream, which flows through an area of textile and hide processing factories, had faded by late afternoon, according to an AFP journalist.

"It's terrible, you don't have to be an inspector to see how much pollution the poor Sarandi River suffers from," said Ducomls, who has lived in the area for more than 30 years.

"We have seen the river in other colors -- we've seen it bluish, greenish, pink, purplish, with grease on top that looks like oil," she said, blaming nearby factories for dumping waste into the river.

DEATH



KLAUS DIETER MUSEKAMP

(Saligao, Bardez)

Born - 10.03.1956
Died - 07.02.2025

Beloved husband of **Kayoko**
Loving father of **Kiko**
Funeral cortege will leave his residence **Saturday, 8th February 2025 (TODAY) to Mapusa Gramastha Hindu Sabha (Mapusa Crematorium) for last rites at 11 am** followed by cremation.

Relatives, Friends, neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation.

NO CONDOLENCE VISITS PLEASE.

RETURNED TO THE LORD

ANA DITOSA PRISCA MASCARENHAS

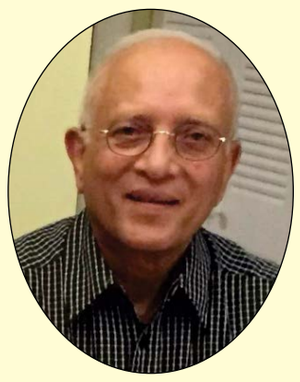
DOB: 28/3/1943 DOD: 7/2/2025

John 3:16 : for God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whomsoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Beloved wife of **George Mascarenhas**
Mother of **Anthony Mascarenhas**
Sister of **Late Matilde/Jerry, Luis/ Late Jolsa, Late Felix /Rufina**
Sister in law of **Alan/Marie**
Missed by nephews and nieces.
Funeral cortege will leave her residence **at 1530 hrs on 9/2/25 (Sunday) to Holy Cross Chapel, Porvorim** for the Eucharistic celebration followed by burial at Porvorim cemetery.

Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation

RETURNED TO THE LORD



Born: 28.09.1938
Died: 05.02.2025

VENCESLAU D'SILVA (LAU)

(SINQUETIM - NAVELIM / USA)

"Deep in our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered everyday"

**Beloved son of late Dona Veronica and late Prof. Rosarinho Da Silva.
Loving husband of Dr. Ewa.
Affectionate father/father-in-law of Vera/Steve.
Doting grandfather of Charlotte.
Brother/brother-in-law of late Inacinho (Cinho)/Lia, late Fr. Byron Anthony (Bebe), SDB, Diana/late Cedric, Zarine/late Teclo, late Lucrecia, late Santana (Chikrin).
Uncle of Lucrecia/Savio, Lynette/Clinton, Brenda/Shaan, Mischel/Valente, Rosarinho (Chopin)/Jessavia, Siddharth/Raina, Sherira/Nick.
Granduncle of Delilah, Reuben, Karen, Kiara, Rhea, Joshua, Jade, Rahul, Sonya, Byron, Jude, Lucy & Viona.**

Funeral mass will be held on Saturday February 8, at 11 am at St Stanislaus Kostka Church 109 York Ave, followed by burial at Our Lady of Czestochova Cemetery, 654 Ferry Rd. Doylestown PA 18901.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We, the bereaved family of late Venceslau, wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Pilar Priests, Relatives, Friends and Neighbours for their prayers.

Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation

Costy's Ads, Chinchinim, Navelim, 9850473904

LORD I AM COMING HOME

"My presence will go with you and I will give you rest" - Exodus 33:14

ANTONIETA CRASTO

Baina-Vasco

Born:24/09/1946 Died:07/02/2025

Loving daughter of
Late Miguel Crasto and Late Patrocina Gama
Beloved wife of
late Antonio Gabriel Barreto
Adorable mother / mother-in-law of
late Oscar /Susan, Oldrin/Sharon, Oswin/Dorene
Affectionate grandmother of
Athan, Tyra & Aric
Loving Sister /Sister-in-law of
late Amancio D'sa / Remizia Barreto, Late Clementin Barreto/late Benny Monterio, late Feliciano Barreto/ Wilma Barreto, late Julieta Crasto/ late Antonio George Gracias, Late Santan Gracias, Vincentino Gracias, Emy /late Melvin Gomes.

Funeral cortege will leave her residence on Saturday on 8th February 2025 at 2:45 pm to Our lady of Candelaria Church Baina for Eucharistic celebration at 3.00 pm followed by Burial..

CONDOLENCE

We deeply mourn the sad demise of our beloved

ANTONIETA CRASTO

BAINA - VASCO

May her soul rest in peace

Deeply mourn by:

**Fr. GABRIEL COUTINHO
PIEDADE FERNANDES & FLY
SOCORRO RODRIGUES& FLY
EDMUND FERNANDES & FLY
ROQUE VAZ & FLY
JERRY FERNANDES & FLY
CRUZ CARDOZ & FLY**

A tearful farewell to our beloved

Venceslau (Lau) D' Silva

28th September 1938 - 5th February 2025
Sinquetim / Staten Island, USA

Deeply mourned by his beloved brother/sister-in-law late Inacinho (Cinho)/Lia, niece Dr. Lynette / Clinton, Mischel / Valente and nephew Rosarinho (Chopin) / Jessavia. Doting grand uncle of Karen,Kiana, Joshua, Jade and Viona

May God grant his family Dr. Ewa, Vera / Steve & Charlotte the courage to bear this irreparable loss.

CONDOLENCE

"He who believes in me will live, even though he dies" - John 11:25

We deeply mourn the sad & untimely demise of

24/09/1946 07/02/2025

ANTONIETA CRASTO

(BAINA - VASCO)

We convey our heartfelt sympathies to her Loving Son- Oswin Baretto & the bereaved family

- Deeply Missed & Fondly Remembered By -

Joaquim Rodrigues, Leo Rodrigues, Ritesh Pandey, Kurt Godinho, Vendrel Barretto, Zico Dias, Simon Wargis, Placiano Dacruz, Francis D'souza, Aaron Alvares, Vijesh Ramachandra, Jijesh Ramachandra, Veron Fernandes, Lenin Raj, Raj Yadav, Zaheer Meer, Vikram Sarmalcar, Taslim Khan, Arvin Vaz, Shivraj Thakur, Suraj Thakur, Ramos Barreto, Vijay Murti, Gauresh Arondekar, Sarvesh Naik, Boris Rodrigues, Anuj Thomas, Rhys Mascarenhas, Lawrie Da Costa, Marydas Sebastian.

Three Years With The Lord

In Loving Memory Of Our Most Wonderful Son

Born to Earthly Life 27 August, 1989
Born to Eternal Life 11 February, 2022

JONAL LUIS MIRANDA

Bicholim, Goa

*Three years of longing, three years of pain,
But we carry your love through every strain,
We honour you today, though words are few,
Our hearts still ache, but we remember you.*

*Your spirit lives on in all that we do,
And forever, dear son, we'll carry you.*

There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved **Jonal Luis Miranda** on **Monday, 10th February 2025** at **4:30 p.m.** at **Our Lady of Grace Church, Bicholim-Goa**, followed by prayers and blessing of the grave.
Offered by his sorrowful family.

Relatives, neighbours and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

ART TRICKS 8390897800