

Downpours drench homeless survivors of Myanmar quake

AFP, YANGON: Heavy rains have lashed the Myanmar region stricken by last month's earthquake, aid officials said Wednesday, drenching homeless survivors and bogging down relief efforts.

Some 60,000 people are living in tent encampments in central Myanmar, according to the UN, three weeks after a 7.7-magnitude tremor damaged and destroyed thousands of homes and killed at least 3,700 people.

Downpours around 7:00 pm on Tuesday flooded streets and camps in and around Mandalay, the In-

ternational Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said. The city - Myanmar's second most populous - suffered heavy damage in the March 28 disaster with apartment blocks collapsed, religious institutes demolished and hotels razed by the shallow quake.

AFP journalists in Mandalay over the weekend saw hundreds of people living under plastic gazebos and draped tarpaulins, perched on cardboard in makeshift homes that offered little protection from the elements.

ED grills Robert Vadra for 5 hours for second straight day; summoned again today

PTI, NEW DELHI: Robert Vadra, the businessman brother-in-law of the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate for the second consecutive day on Wednesday for about five hours in a 2008 Haryana land deal-linked money laundering case. The 56-year-old businessman termed the ED action a "political vendetta" and claimed the people of the country "do not trust the probe agencies".

He reached the ED office around 11 am accompanied by his wife Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the Congress MP from Kerala's Wayanad. They hugged each other before Robert Vadra entered the office.

Vadra went home briefly for lunch and re-joined the questioning session. He finally left the ED office after 6 pm. Priyanka Gandhi stayed in the visitors' room of the agency's of-



Businessman Robert Vadra leaves from the Enforcement Directorate's office after his questioning on the second straight day, in a 2008 Haryana land deal linked money laundering case, in New Delhi

ice 'Pravartan Bhawan' at the APJ Abdul Kalam Road

throughout the grilling session.

The probe against Vadra is linked to a land deal in Haryana's Manesar-Shikohpur (now sector 83) in Gurugram. The deal of February 2008 was done by a company named Skylight Hospitality Pvt Ltd, where Vadra was a director earlier, as it purchased a 3.5 acre of land in Shikohpur from Onkareshwar Properties at a price of Rs 7.5 crore

He has been called again on Thursday for further questioning.

Sources said Vadra has been confronted with about a dozen questions during the around 10 hours he spent at the ED office over two days. His statement was being recorded by the federal probe agency under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Vadra asserted that he has always cooperated with investigating agencies and has furnished a multitude of documents while saying that cases as old as 20 years need closure.

Speaking to PTI, Vadra claimed that he was being "targeted" by probe

agencies as he is part of the Gandhi family and that things would have been different had he been part of the BJP.

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A Congress government led by Bhupinder Singh Hooda was in power at that time. Four years later, in September 2012, the

company sold the land to realty major DLF for Rs 58 crore.

The land deal got embroiled in controversy in October 2012 after IAS officer Ashok Khemka, then posted as the director general of Land Consolidation and Land Records-cum-Inspector-General of Registration of Haryana, cancelled the mutation of this categorising the transaction as violative of state consolidation Act and some related procedures.

The BJP, which was in opposition then, had termed the case an instance of "corruption" in land deals and that of "nepotism", hinting at Vadra's kinship with the first family of the Congress party.

Haryana Police had filed an FIR to probe this deal in 2018.

Vadra has been questioned multiple times by the federal probe agency in two different money laundering cases earlier.

LORD I AM COMING HOME
CONSTANTINO CALDEIRA
Resident of Pixem Dongrim, Vasco
D.O.B: 21/07/1957 D.O.D: 16/04/25
Ex Staff of Directorate of Health Centre Campal / Asilo Hospital / Urban Health Centre (Vasco) / Govt Health Centre (Cansaulim)
Loving husband of Francisca Nogueira, loving Father/Father-in-law of Chelsea/John Fernandes. Loving brother / brother-in-law of Ana Maria/late Olimpio, late Caetano/Flaviana, John/Filomena, Jose Mariano/Adelaide, Sr Divina, sfn (Sancosale), Lourdes/Late Joaquim, Jose Antonio/Juliana, Pobrira, Savio, late Natalino/Rosy, Menino/Carmina, Augustino/Dorothy. Loving Uncle of nephews/nieces.
Funeral cortege will leave his residence on Thursday 17/04/25 at 10.00 a.m to St Andrews church cemetery. Eucharistic mass will be held on Monday 21/04/25 at 8.15 a.m at St Andrews Church (Vasco).
RELATIVES AND FRIENDS KINDLY ACCEPT THIS AS THE ONLY INTIMATION
Sunshine Ads, Ponda 8380074704

RETURNED TO THE LORD
DOLOROSA AVELINA FERNANDES
-: Piedade Vaddo, Rachol -:
Loving wife of Mateus C. Fernandes. Loving mother/ mother-in-law of Deudita/ John Travasso, Marina/ Hasly Travasso. Dearest grandmother of Grace, Ignituous, Neves, Agnes. Passed away peacefully.
Funeral cortege will leave her residence at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, 17th April 2025 (TODAY) to Our Lady of Snow's Church, Rachol for Eucharistic Celebration & burial.
Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.
Confidant Advtg. & Funeral Services, Margao. Ph. 9823022194

Berlin evacuating more than 20 Germans from Gaza

AFP, BERLIN: The German government said Wednesday that it was evacuating around 24 of its nationals from the war-battered Gaza Strip.

"There is currently an operation underway in close cooperation with the Israeli authorities to allow people to leave", foreign ministry spokesman Christian Wagner told journalists at a regular press conference.

He said "roughly two dozen" Germans were leaving the territory.

He added that there remained "a small, single-digit number" of other Germans whom the authorities were aware of in Gaza and who wish to leave.

Earlier this month Germany said that 19 of its citizens and 14 of their relatives had been evacuated from Gaza.

Israel has resumed intense aerial and ground assaults after a ceasefire deal that came into effect on January 19 fell apart two months later over differences regarding its next phase.

DEMANDING WAGE



Contractual workers under the banner of 'Lohia Swachh Bihar Abhiyan' protest, in Patna, Bihar

Mamata claims Murshidabad riots pre-planned, fuelled by BJP, BSF; BJP demands her resignation

PTI, KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday termed the communal violence in Murshidabad as "pre-planned", accusing BSF, central agencies and the BJP of orchestrating tension by allegedly facilitating outsiders and enabling cross-border influx from Bangladesh.

Addressing a meeting with Muslim clerics, Banerjee urged PM Narendra Modi not to implement the "atrocious" Waqf (Amendment) Act, warning that it would divide the country, and requested him to rein in Union Home Minister Amit Shah, whom she accused of "harming the nation most for his own political agenda".

The TMC supremo claimed that despite the volatile situation in Bangladesh, the Centre rushed through the Act and allowed cross-border infil-



People listen to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during a meeting with Muslim religious leaders regarding the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, in Kolkata

tration, both of which, she alleged, contributed to the unrest in Bengal.

The opposition BJP, however, dismissed the allegations as baseless and demanded Banerjee's resignation, accusing her of being more focused on "appeasement politics".

Banerjee also alleged that

a section of the BSF and certain central agencies under the home ministry played a "role in facilitating the violence", and ordered a probe into the role of the border force.

"I came across news quoting home ministry sources claiming the role of elements from across

the border in the Murshidabad unrest. Is it not the role of the BSF to guard the border? The BSF is under the MHA. The state government does not guard the international border. The Centre can't evade responsibility," the chief minister said.

"I will find out whom the BSF had financed in the border areas by paying money to local youths to pelt stones during the violence," she alleged.

Banerjee announced compensation of Rs 10 lakh each for the families of the deceased and instructed the chief secretary to initiate a formal inquiry into the BSF's actions, including the alleged opening fire during the violence.

The CM accused Shah of misusing central agencies and orchestrating a systematic propaganda campaign to malign the image of Bengal.

SAD DEMISE



Born
23/12/1971



Died
16/04/2025

Shri. PRABHAKAR (NILESH) YESHWANT HALARNKAR

(Halarn Waddo, Ecoxim, Bardez - Goa)

Untimely passed away on Wednesday, 16th April 2025.

Funeral Cortege will leave his residence on Thursday 17th April 2025 (TODAY) at 4:30 pm for Hindu Crematorium, Halarn waddo, Ecoxim, Bardez- Goa.

Beloved Son of

Late Yeshwant Shamba Halarnkar & Laximi Yeshwant Halarnkar.

Loving Husband of

Smt. Pratiksha Prabhakar Halarnkar.

Loving Father of

Pratik Prabhakar Halarnkar & Prajal Prabhakar Halarnkar.

Beloved Brother of

Shamba Yeshwant Halarnkar, Smt. Sulaksha Satyavan Phadte, Smt. Nileema Jayant Bhosle, Smt. Meenaxi Chandras Kolwalkar.

Brother in law of

Sushma Shamba Halarnkar

Uncle of

Purva Shamba Halarnkar & Kunal Shamba Halarnkar.

Sanil Satyavan Phadte, Harshad Jayant Bhosle, Sanish Jayant Bhosle.

Nephew of

Smt. Anusaya (Ganga) Parab, late Anandi (Zai) Volvoikar, late Anant Halarnkar.

Cousin of

Jayesh Parab, late Rajaram Volvoikar, Akansha Desai, Shital Fadke, Sweta Parab, Poonam Parab.

Relatives & Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

Trump admin sues Maine over participation of transgender athletes in girls' sports

AP, WASHINGTON: The Trump administration said Wednesday it is suing Maine's education department for not complying with the government's push to ban transgender athletes in girls' sports, escalating a dispute over whether the state is abiding by a federal law that bars discrimination in education based on sex.

The lawsuit follows weeks of feuding between the Republican administration and Democratic Gov Janet Mills that has led to threats to cut off crucial federal funding and a clash at the White House when she told the president: "We'll see you in court."

"We are going to continue to fight for women," Attorney General Pam Bondi said at a news conference alongside former University of Kentucky swimmer Riley Gaines, who has emerged as a public face of the opposition to transgender athletes.

Trump's departments of Education and Health and Human Services have said the Maine agency is violating the federal Title IX antidiscrimination law by allowing transgender people to participate on girls teams.

The lawsuit reflects a stark philosophical turnaround from the position on gender identity issues tak-

en during Democratic administrations.

Under President Joe Biden, the government tried to extend civil rights policies to protect transgender people. In 2016, the Justice Department, then led by Attorney General Loretta Lynch, sued North Carolina over a law that required transgender people to use public restrooms and showers that corresponded the gender on their birth certificate.

Maine officials have refused to agree with a settlement that would have banned transgender students from sports, arguing that the law does not prevent schools from letting

transgender athletes participate.

Trump signed an executive order in February, "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports", that gave federal agencies wide latitude to ensure entities that receive federal funding abide by Title IX in alignment with his administration's interpretation of "sex" as the gender someone was assigned at birth.

During a February meeting with governors, Trump threatened to pull federal funding from Maine if the state did not comply with his executive order. Mills responded: "We'll see you in court."