

BANDRA-WORLI SEA LINK ACCIDENT

Driver of speeding vehicle in day's custody; kin of two of deceased arrive in city

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 6

THE BHOIWADA court on Thursday sent Irfan Abdul Raheem Beelkia, who was driving the speeding vehicle that killed five people and injured several others on the Bandra-Worli Sea Link early on Wednesday, to a day's police custody. The police had sought his custody claiming they needed to record the statements of the witnesses. They also wanted to confront him with other witnesses and evidence that he had procured. On the other hand, defence lawyer Vikram Chavan pointed out that workers of the Bandra-Worli sea link are responsible for the accident as they did not take adequate safety measures.

He also told the court that the police have wrongly charged Beelkia with Section 304(ii), even as the police maintained that investigation revealed that he was distracted by his phone at the time of the accident. The police said they have sent his blood samples for forensic examination to ascertain whether he was driving under the influence of alcohol or contraband substances.

"We are also trying to ascertain whether there are any previous cases registered against him," said an officer adding, "We have written to the traffic authorities to understand at what speed he was driving the car when the accident took place." According to the police, the incident took place between 2.40am and 2.53am and all the injured are still admitted in hospital. "We could record the statement of only Krushna Yadav, the driver of the ambulance. The rest of the injured are still recuperating," said a police officer.

Meanwhile, family members of two of the deceased arrived in Mumbai on Thursday to take their bodies to their respective states. They said that the families of the two women - Rajendrakumar Rajput and Gajraj Singh - were under the impression that the two were still alive and were undergoing treatment. Singh's younger brother Vijaypal said, "They are constantly calling to check on him. I have told them that he is still admitted in hospital because his wife will be devastated if she comes to know that he is no more."

Madhya Pradesh native Singh had come to Mumbai six-seven years ago after he suffered losses in farming. The 31-year-old was earning around Rs 15,000 a month and would regularly send money to his family. He is survived by his wife, 8-year-old son, 12-year-old



(Left) Accused Irfan Abdul Raheem Beelkia at Bhoiwada court on Thursday; Gajraj Singh, one of the five accident victims.

daughter, and parents. Singh's cousin Sujam Singh, who was waiting at the mortuary for his body, said, "He has two brothers but they have their own responsibilities. He also took care of his parents. How will his wife continue with her life? The company that employed him and the government must compensate them so that the children can complete their education."

Meanwhile, Rajput's son, Manohar, also told his family in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, that he is still being treated at the hospital. Manohar was accompanied by his grandfather Jayatram (70) who was seen running around Nair hospital's mortuary for completing the formalities to be handed over to Rajput's body.

"I just want my son's body so that I can go home. I just want the government to help my son's children," Jayatram said. "My mother will be shocked to see his body. I just don't want to be there to take care of her when she learns about his death, that's why we haven't told her yet," he added.

Lareina Residency is being constructed by SSV Builders and Developers at Vikhroli East. Despite repeated attempts, the builder remained unavailable for comment.

19-year-old found dead in swimming pool structure

The youth died by suicide, said police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 6

A 19-YEAR-OLD youth allegedly died by suicide by drowning in a swimming pool-like structure at Lareina Residency, an incomplete residential housing project, in Vikhroli.

Senior Inspector of Vikhroli police station, Shubhada Chavan, said deceased Sunil Jambde had come to the city from Kolhapur for Navratri.

"On Monday night when he came home, his grandmother got upset, as he was under the influence of alcohol and she shouted at him. He then went to his maternal uncle's place and from there, to the building, where the incident took place," the officer added.

"The project has been incomplete for over a decade... people go there to hang out sometimes. Jambde, who was upset, went to the fourth floor where a small swimming pool-type structure has been built and water had assembled there. He then died by suicide," Chavan said. She added that it was only on Wednesday that his body was fished out after the building watchman found it.

Lareina Residency is being constructed by SSV Builders and Developers at Vikhroli East. Despite repeated attempts, the builder remained unavailable for comment.

Somaiya records statement, wants 80 Sainiks, former mayor booked for murder attempt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 6

THE KHAR police on Thursday recorded the statement of BJP leader Kirit Somaiya in connection with the alleged attack on him outside the police station on April 23 this year by Shiv Sena workers. Somaiya, who in the past refused to record his statement alleging that police made a weak FIR, recorded his statement while asking police to book 80 Sainiks led by former Sena mayor Vishwanath Madheshwar for murder attempt, death threat, and grievous injury. "We will verify the allegations and take appropriate action," said a Khar police official.

The alleged attack took place when Somaiya was visiting the police station following the arrest of Amravati MP Navnet Rana and her husband, MLA Ravi Rana, over the Hanuman Chalisa row. The police said that the Shiv Sena workers who had gathered outside the police station pelted



BJP leader Kirit Somaiya at Khar police station on Thursday. Amit Chakravarty

Somaiya's vehicle with stones and chappals while he was leaving the premises.

Earlier, Somaiya had accused the police of not registering an FIR based on his complaint. "The

Mumbai police refused to register an FIR (based on my complaint). Around 70 to 80 Shiv Sena goondas tried to kill me and the (Uddhav) Thackeray government refused to take any action

or register the FIR," he said, blaming then chief minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Khar police had then arrested former Mumbai mayor and Shiv Sena leader Vishwanath Mahadeshwar along with three other Sena workers for the alleged attack. They were later granted on bail.

However, Somaiya alleged that his statements were not recorded properly by the Khar police and approached the High Court against them.

On September 30, the HC allowed Somaiya to record his statements again with the Khar police.

After recording his statements, Somaiya tweeted, "Fake FIR was registered by police under guidance of then Police Commissioner Shri Sanjay Pandey. Today, the police registered my statement giving the facts. All those involved in the assault should be arrested & face strict action." The police said no chargesheet has been filed in the case so far.

Charni Road's old FOB to remain shut for 45 days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 6

THE OLD foot over bridge (FOB) at the north end of platform numbers 2 and 3 of the Charni Road railway station will be closed for 45 days (October 5 to November 18) for the construction of a link way connecting the newly constructed FOB and the two platforms, said officials of the Western Railways on Thursday.

Both the spans of the existing FOB will be dismantled within the next 45 days, said officials.

Charni Road is one of the important stations on the Western Line. The Western Railways, meanwhile, has also proposed to upgrade passenger amenities and revamp the Charni Road railway station. The renovation process will include restoration of the railway booking office, booking store, station masters office, and ticketing windows.

Dr Homi Bhabha state varsity holds first convocation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 6

THE FIRST convocation ceremony of the Dr Homi Bhabha State University, Maharashtra's first cluster university, was held on Thursday at the Cawajis Jahangir Convocation Hall of University of Mumbai.

In all, 413 students were awarded degrees at the convocation. Thirteen students received gold medals and certificates of merits were also given.

The convocation was attended by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, in his capacity of Chancellor of public universities in the state, former state Lokayukta Justice ML Tahaliyani and Vice-Chancellor Dr Rajanish Kamat, along with other authorities of the university.

At 260, the most number of degrees were conferred on students from the Institute of Science - one of the four colleges earlier under Mumbai University that were combined to form the cluster university.

WIRC of ICAI holds convocation for CAs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 6

THE WESTERN India Regional Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (WIRC of ICAI) on Thursday organised a convocation in Mumbai for more than 3,000 graduating chartered accountants (CA) from its 2022-23 programme.

In all, 5,774 CAs graduated from western region, comprising Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa.

On an all-India basis, convocation was conducted for 20,560 CAs, 45 per cent of whom were women. The convocation was inaugurated by Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

Show how PIL seeking removal of MBMC commissioner is maintainable: HC to petitioner

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 6

THE BOMBAY High Court on Thursday asked a petitioner social activist to show how his PIL challenging the appointment of Dilip Dhole, the incumbent Commissioner of Mira Bhayander Municipal Corporation (MBMC), was maintainable.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Madhav Jambdar was hearing a plea filed by Selvaraj Shanmugam claiming that current Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who was an Urban Development Minister in 2021, had made Dhole a commissioner in MBMC after dislodging then Commissioner who belonged to Indian Administrative Service (IAS) cadre.

The plea said the post was occupied by an IAS officer and he was removed. It said that Dhole was working as a Deputy Commissioner in the Goods and Service Tax Department and then was sent to the Ministry of Urban Development ministry, after which he was made additional municipal commissioner at MBMC in August, 2020. He was appointed the Municipal Commissioner in March, 2021.

Man held from Bihar for death threats to Mukesh Ambani and his family

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 6

THE MUMBAI Police has arrested a man from Bihar in connection with anonymous calls threatening to target industrialist Mukesh Ambani and his family members.

A police team picked up the suspect, Rakesh Kumar Mishra, from Darbhanga district around Wednesday midnight and he was brought to Mumbai on Thursday, said officers. Mishra was produced before a court, which remanded him in police custody till Monday. Sir H N Reliance Foundation Hospital at Gurgaon had received two calls on Wednesday, wherein the unidentified caller threatened to blow up the hospital along with Ambani's residence Antilia in south Mumbai. The caller also issued threats to the industrialist and his family members.

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