

Trump safe

after second failed assassination attempt

■ By Lalit K Jha

WASHINGTON, Sept 16 (PTI)

FORMER US President Donald Trump is safe after he escaped an apparent assassination attempt while he was golfing on his course in Florida, a second bid on his life in two months.



The incident took place on Sunday at the Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Secret Service agents "opened fire on

a gunman located near the property line" of Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Rafael Barros, the special agent in charge in Miami, said during a news conference, adding that the agency was "unsure whether the individual," who is in custody, "was able to take a shot at our agents."

Trump, who was golfing at the club at the time, was unharmed.

According to Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, a Secret Service agent spotted the suspect with a rifle sticking through the fence of the golf course and immediately fired at the man before he fled the scene.

Republican presidential nominee

(Contd on page 5)

Top Navy commanders' 4-day meet from today

■ **Delhi Bureau & Agencies**

NEW DELHI, Sept 16

TOP commanders of the Indian Navy will carry out a comprehensive review of India's maritime security challenges, including China's growing forays into the Indian Ocean, at a four-day conclave beginning Tuesday. The commanders are also likely to deliberate on the overall situation in the Red Sea and adjoining areas that witnessed a series of attacks by Houthi militants on cargo vessels till a few weeks back.

The conference would witness

comprehensive review of the operational preparedness, discussions on the Navy's capability enhancement plan, promoting national vision of indigenisation and realising combat effectiveness of Naval forces, officials said. The ambitious theaterisation plan of the Government is also set to figure prominently during the deliberations.

The naval commanders conference is the apex level biannual event that facilitates deliberations on significant strategic, operational and administrative issues.

Being held against the backdrop

of evolving geo-political and geo-strategic dynamics, regional challenges and complexity in maritime security situations in West Asia, the conference will play a crucial role in shaping future course of the Indian Navy, officials said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address the commanders, Navy spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said. The Chief of Defence Staff along with the Chiefs of Indian Army and Indian Air Force will engage with naval commanders to foster collaborations amongst the three services.

Typhoon Bebinca hits Shanghai, leaves a trail of destruction

■ By **K J M Varma**

BEIJING/SHANGHAI, Sept 16 (PTI)

Bebinca, the strongest typhoon to have hit China's Shanghai city in 75 years, on Monday left a trail of destruction, bringing the megacity with a 25 million population to a grinding halt.

Bebinca, the 13th typhoon to hit China this year, made landfall in Shanghai around 7:30 am, according to the Shanghai Central Meteorological Observatory.

The typhoon, with the maximum wind force near its centre reaching 42 meters per second, churned ashore at the Lingang area of Pudong district.

Bebinca, believed to be the strongest typhoon to hit Shanghai in 75 years, has unleashed gales and torrential rain in the city, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Pictures on social media showed trees uprooted and light poles toppled. The typhoon ruined the three-day Mid-Autumn Festival holiday for the people of Shanghai.

Shanghai authorities have advised residents to stay indoors unless necessary.

On Sunday, the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters activated the Level-IV emergency response for China's eastern Anhui Province and raised the

response in Shanghai and Zhejiang provinces to Level III.

Bebinca has led to flight cancellations over Shanghai and the suspension of passenger ferry operations in the city. Shanghai Railway Station also suspended passenger trains on several routes passing through the city from Sunday to Monday.

Shanghai Disneyland, Disneytown and Wishing Star Park remain closed on Monday, with the two resort hotels providing services to in-house guests, the Shanghai Disney Resort said in a statement. It added that normal operations are expected to resume from Tuesday.

Phase-I of J&K elections tomorrow

SRINAGAR, Sept 16 (PTI)

MULTI-TIER security arrangements have been put in place to ensure free and fair Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, a senior police official said.

"As the first phase of voting will take place on September 18, Jammu and Kashmir Police have made elaborate security arrangements for the Assembly polls so that maximum number of people can exercise their

■ Multi-tier security arrangements put in place

right to vote," Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone V K Birdi told PTI.

Birdi said Central Armed Paramilitary Forces (CAPF), Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police and J&K Police will be deployed as part of the multi-tier security for the elections in the union territory, which will be first since abrogation of

Article 370 in 2019.

"The CAPF units, JKAP and JKP are part of the security plan. A multi-tiered security plan is there, be it for strong rooms, polling stations or polling booths," he said.

The IGP said, "Jammu and Kashmir police have made proper arrangements to ensure that the elections are free, fair

and held in an atmosphere free of fear. The thing to appreciate is that a maximum number of people should be able to exercise their voting right and take part in the democratic process. It will be our endeavor always to provide a secure environment so that people come to vote in large numbers." Birdi said the security

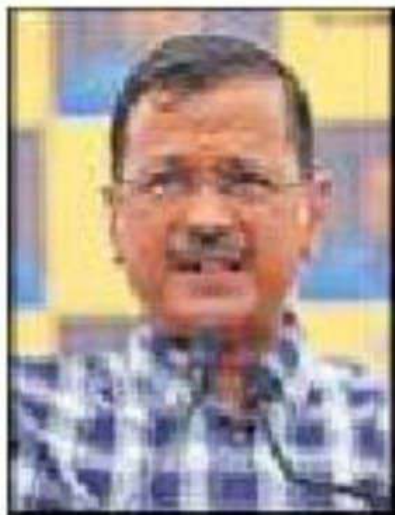
grid is alert and vigilant to thwart any attempts to destabilise the situation in the valley. Elections in Jammu and Kashmir are being held in three phases.

Voting for 24 seats will be held in the first phase on Wednesday, followed by polling for 26 seats in the second phase on September 25. The voting for 40 seats in third phase will be held on October 1 while counting of votes will be held on October 8.

Kejriwal to meet LG today to give resignation

NEW DELHI, Sept 16 (PTI)

DELHI Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will meet Lt Governor



V K Saxena at 4:30 pm on Tuesday, during which he is likely to tender his resignation. Saxena has given Kejriwal

appointment for a meeting at 4:30 pm on Tuesday, official sources said on Monday.

AAP had earlier said Kejriwal sought time for a meeting with the Lieutenant Governor on Tuesday and was likely to tender his resignation.

The AAP supremo had said he would become Chief Minister and Manish Sisodia his deputy "only when people say we are honest".

JPC receives 84 lakh suggestion emails on Waqf (Amendment) bill

NEW DELHI, Sept 16 (IANS)

THE Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), formed to review the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, has so far received around 84 lakh suggestions via email from across India. Additionally, JPC has received approximately 70 boxes filled with written suggestions.

The JPC had earlier invited feedback from the public and various organisations with regard to the bill. To accommodate more input, the deadline for submissions was extended until midnight on September 16.

JPC Chairman Jagdambika Pal informed the media that the committee aims to engage with all relevant stakeholders to gather their views on the bill.

Addressing concerns related

JPC has received approximately 70 boxes filled with written suggestions

to Islamic preacher Zakir Naik's appeal and reports of a QR code-based campaign against the bill, Pal clarified that Naik, who has been declared a fugitive and currently resides in Malaysia, has no connection with the JPC or the legislative process.

He also denied any involvement of the JPC in issuing QR codes or participating in related campaigns in any manner.

Refuting claims that the bill is anti-Islamic, Pal questioned the legitimacy of such accusations, stating that this was the first time in history that such a large volume of emails (84 lakh) had been received on a

bill. He pointed out that there has been a Waqf law in place since 1913, which has been amended multiple times, including significant revisions in 1995 and 2013.

The JPC will only consider suggestions relevant to the 44 proposed amendments and those with legal significance.

The next JPC meetings are scheduled for September 19 and September 20.

The committee will hear first from Professor Faizan Mustafa, Vice Chancellor of Chanakya National Law University, and representatives from various organisations, including the Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz and

the All-India Muslim Personal Law Board.

Next, the JPC will engage with members of the All India Sajjadanashin Parishad (Ajmer), the Muslim National Forum, and Bharat First (Delhi). Between September 26 and October 1, the JPC plans to visit Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Bangalore to meet with Waqf Board officials, Muslim scholars, and Bar Council representatives.

Additional visits to cities like Lucknow and Kolkata in October are also being planned.

Notably, the two bills -- the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024, were introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 8, with an aim to streamline the Waqf Board's work.