



RED HOT...

A tomato vendor waits for customers at the city's KR Market on Wednesday. With the price of tomatoes skyrocketing, the demand for the fruit has fallen, say vendors

EXPRESS READ

3 KILLED IN TWO SEPARATE ACCIDENTS IN CITY

BENGALURU: Three persons died in two separate road accidents in the city. In the first case, two friends — Chandan, 21, and Mohan, 22 — residents of Anjananagar, were partying with their friends on Tuesday. At around midnight, the duo went out to get some food on a two-wheeler. The rider rammed the bike into the median on Magadi Road. The duo, who sustained serious injuries, were rushed to a hospital where they were declared brought dead. According to the police, the two deceased were not wearing helmets. The Kamakshipalya traffic police has registered a case. In another accident in Whitefield, a 30-year-old security guard from Nepal died in a hit and run case. The victim was going on a cycle when an unidentified two-wheeler hit the cycle. The deceased has been identified as Raj Katar. He was working as a security guard at a residential apartment complex in Whitefield. He was residing in Bellathur. On Tuesday at around 6.30 pm, when he was going on his cycle on Hosakote Road, an unidentified vehicle hit his cycle. The victim, after getting treatment, had returned home. Around midnight, he again visited the hospital due to unbearable pain. During the treatment, he is said to have died. **ENS**

Double murder accused 'Felix' imitated the Joker

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

THE main accused in the double murder case in Bengaluru, Shabarish alias Felix (27), was working for the fourth accused in his broadband company Gnet Broadband for 12 years.

A reported primary school dropout, Shabarish is a self-proclaimed Kannada rapper and model, and had "assumed the moniker Joker as his stage name", said sources. His Instagram profile, with the name joker_felix_rapper_, has over 16,600 followers. He also has a YouTube channel called JK Media, with close to 9,000 subscribers.

In many of his social media posts, Shabarish has mimicked the legendary actor Heath Andrew Ledger in his critically acclaimed role as the psychopathic clown prince of crime — the Joker — in the film 'The Dark Knight' (2008). According to sources, he had gone to Kashi to expand Gnet Broadband business, and has since been seen with sacred ash (vibhuti) on his heavily tattooed face and body. He had also reportedly created a Kannada rap song 'Nan Shiva' on YouTube, posing on a boat in the Ganga in Varanasi.

Soon after allegedly committing the double murder, he posted

on his Instagram page a regional TV news clipping of the twin murders of MD Phanindra Subramanya and CEO Vinu Kumar of Aironics Media Private Limited, in which he is the prime accused. He and the other two co-accused — Vinay Reddy (23) and Santosh alias Santhu (26) — had allegedly "hacked the two to death with a billhook knife meant to cut coconuts", said sources.

Hours before he committed the cold-blooded murders in broad daylight in Amruthahalli, Shabarish had posted on his Instagram page, "Peoples always flatters and cheaters. So I hurt this planer people. I hurt only bad people. I never hurt any good people (sic)" in a manner which was a poor imitation of the Joker. "He is impulsive, inconsistent and doesn't express much. He is not remorseful about his crime. Those who know Shabarish claimed that he is a ganja addict," sources added.

"Some years ago, he was allegedly stalking a girl in his office and Subramanya had asked him to stay away from her. He may have borne a grudge against him since then," said sources. He is originally from Shivamogga, but has not visited the district for some time. He had recently got married.

Cops probing biz rivalry angle

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SUBRAMANYAM and Vinu Kumar, the victims, were earlier working with the firm on Bannerghatta Road. They later quit the firm and opened Aironics Media Private Limited at Amruthahalli.

Police are investigating if there was any business rivalry between the owner of the firm on Bannerghatta Road and the two victims. During the investigation, it was learnt that Subramanyam used to force the former woman colleague to join his firm, which angered Felix.

"The police are investigating if the broadband firm's owner has any role in the case. However, he has not been arrested. As of now, three persons have been arrested. We are probing all angles. The fight between one of the victims and the main accused over the woman is also being investigated. It is too early to come to any conclusion," Raman Gupta, Additional Commissioner of Police (East), told *The New Indian Express*.

Woman objects to BMTC conductor wearing skull cap

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A video of a Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTc) bus conductor confronted by a woman passenger for wearing a skull cap during work hours has gone viral on social media. The unknown woman, who seems to have shot the 1 minute 37 second video, questions the bus conductor if he is aware of the uniform rules and if wearing a skull cap is allowed.

The conductor, who was on duty, replies with a smile saying,

"I think it is allowed". The woman then goes on to tell the conductor that he can follow his 'dharma' and wear the skull cap at home and mosques and nobody would object. But as a government employee, he is not supposed to wear the cap while on duty.

When the conductor tells the woman that he has been wearing the skull cap for many years and no one had objected to it before, she explains that as per law, he cannot wear the skull cap.

The conductor tells the woman

that he will bring this to the notice of his senior officers and check if wearing a skull cap is allowed or not. The woman replies that she is recording the video so that it reaches BMTc MD Sathyavati.

"A rule is a rule and it is applicable to all. According to you, wearing a skull cap is allowed or not? If you are not sure of the law, remove it (skull cap)," the woman tells the conductor, who at last is seen removing his green-coloured skull cap and putting it in his pocket.

The undated video has now

sparked a debate in favour and against both the bus conductor and the woman. Some users termed the woman 'communal' and appreciated the conductor for remaining calm, while others accused him of not following the law.

While the bus corporation did not bother to share any reaction to this incident, BMTc sources said that as per the bus corporation's 'uniform code', employees

are not permitted to wear religious skull caps or saffron shawls during duty hours. The source recalled that a similar incident happened last year, when a section of Hindu employees of BMTc objected to Muslim drivers, conductors and staff wearing skull caps. In protest, they had worn saffron shawls.

Bengaluru police who have taken note of the video have sought more details.



The woman passenger is heard telling the conductor in the video

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the public that STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY, KARNATAKA (Constituted by Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India) has issued the Environmental Clearance to M/s. Madhavan Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. vide Letter No. SEAA 15 CON 2019 dated 27.06.2023 for "Expansion of Commercial Building Project" by M/s. Madhavan Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. at Sy. Nos. 25, 26/1, 26/2, 26/3, 26/4, 26/5, 26/6, 26/7, 26/8, 26/9, 26/10, 26/11, 26/12, 26/13, 26/14, 26/15, 26/16, 26/17, 26/18, 26/19, 26/20, 26/21, 26/22, 26/23, 26/24, 26/25, 26/26, 26/27, 26/28, 26/29, 26/30, 26/31, 26/32, 26/33, 26/34, 26/35, 26/36, 26/37, 26/38, 26/39, 26/40, 26/41, 26/42, 26/43, 26/44, 26/45, 26/46, 26/47, 26/48, 26/49, 26/50, 26/51, 26/52, 26/53, 26/54, 26/55, 26/56, 26/57, 26/58, 26/59, 26/60, 26/61, 26/62, 26/63, 26/64, 26/65, 26/66, 26/67, 26/68, 26/69, 26/70, 26/71, 26/72, 26/73, 26/74, 26/75, 26/76, 26/77, 26/78, 26/79, 26/80, 26/81, 26/82, 26/83, 26/84, 26/85, 26/86, 26/87, 26/88, 26/89, 26/90, 26/91, 26/92, 26/93, 26/94, 26/95, 26/96, 26/97, 26/98, 26/99, 26/100, 26/101, 26/102, 26/103, 26/104, 26/105, 26/106, 26/107, 26/108, 26/109, 26/110, 26/111, 26/112, 26/113, 26/114, 26/115, 26/116, 26/117, 26/118, 26/119, 26/120, 26/121, 26/122, 26/123, 26/124, 26/125, 26/126, 26/127, 26/128, 26/129, 26/130, 26/131, 26/132, 26/133, 26/134, 26/135, 26/136, 26/137, 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