

Wednesday

08.12.2021

hindustantimes.com.htpace
htschooltimes

NEW DELHI
VOL. XXVII NO. 291 PRICE
₹2.50 8 PAGES.

Hindustan Times
PACE



PARTNERSHIPS
FOR ACTION
IN EDUCATION



FRIDA KAHLO

WISE WORDS »

I paint self-portraits because I am so often alone, because I am the person I know best.



Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

politics and sport

US WILL PAY THE PRICE FOR DIPLOMATIC BOYCOTT OF BEIJING OLY: CHINA >P4



football

BARCA BRACE FOR DO-OR-DIE CLASH AGAINST IN-FORM BAYERN MUNICH >P8



Xavi Hernandez, the FC Barcelona head coach GETTY

'trap' for virus

CHEWING GUM THAT MAY CUT COVID-19 SPREAD >P5



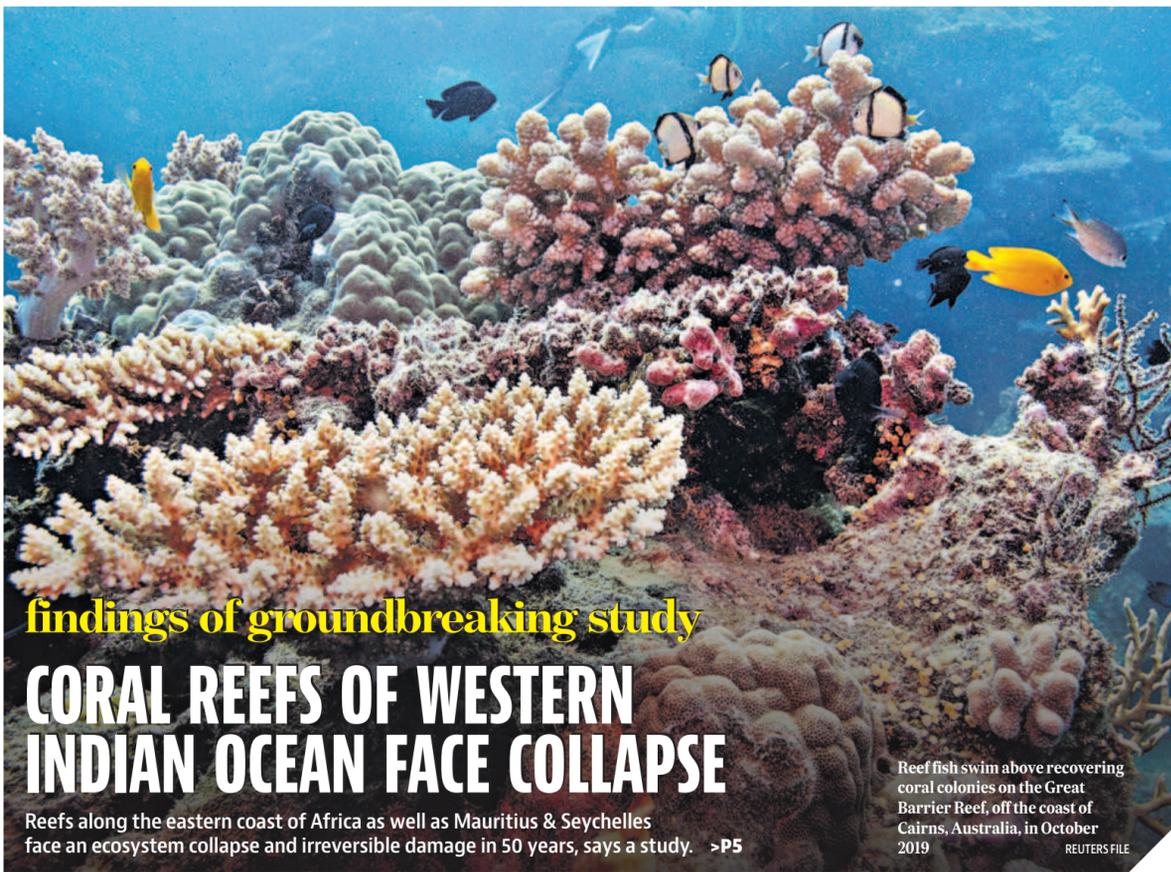
tongue twisters

CHEUGY, OMICRON ARE AMONG WORDS THAT ARE HARDEST TO UTTER >P4

findings of groundbreaking study

CORAL REEFS OF WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN FACE COLLAPSE

Reefs along the eastern coast of Africa as well as Mauritius & Seychelles face an ecosystem collapse and irreversible damage in 50 years, says a study. >P5



Reef fish swim above recovering coral colonies on the Great Barrier Reef, off the coast of Cairns, Australia, in October 2019 REUTERS FILE

NATION

IMA warns of massive 3rd Covid wave unless caution is exercised amid Omicron surge

NEW DELHI: The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has issued a warning about the third wave of the coronavirus (Covid-19) disease hitting the country if necessary precautions are not taken amid the surge in Omicron cases. The new variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has so far infected 23 people across the country.

With the scientific evidence available and the experience noted in countries of origin, it is evident that the Omicron variant will have high penetrability and will affect more people, the IMA claimed at a press conference on Monday.

"At a time when India is limping back to normalcy, this is a great setback. If we do not take adequate measures, we may have a massive third wave," it said. The doctors' body also demanded that the government expedite the proposal of vaccinating individuals aged 12 to 18 years.

"At this juncture, IMA also appeals to the government to officially announce additional dose (of vaccine) be given to healthcare, frontline workers and immunocompromised



A health worker takes a sample for a Covid-19 test at the Dadar railway station in Mumbai on Tuesday PTI

individuals to augment the immunity," the IMA officials said.

The Omicron strain was first detected in southern African countries late last month, and categorised as 'variant of concern' by the World Health Organization (WHO). The rapidly-spreading variant is believed to be more resistant to vaccines.

Since being detected in Botswana, Omicron has spread to two dozen countries. The Indian government has implemented strict measures for international travellers, especially those arriving from countries identified as 'at risk' by the Centre. HTc

Nilmani Phookan, Damodar Mauzo win Jnanpith Award

NEW DELHI: Noted Assamese poet Nilmani Phookan won India's highest literary honour, the Jnanpith Award, for his outstanding contribution to Indian literature.

While Phookan was chosen for the 56th Jnanpith Award, Konkani writer and novelist Damodar Mauzo was conferred the 57th Jnanpith Award.

The prize was given to the Assamese author in recognition of his lifelong devotion to literature.

Phookan is an intellectual and poet who writes in the Assamese dialect. His work is full of symbolism and is indicative of the genres in Assamese poetry.

He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1981 for his poetry collection, Kavita (Kobita). He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1990 and received the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship in 2002.

Apart from being a noted writer, Goa-born Mauzo is also a critic, scriptwriter and activist who was conferred the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1983. AGENCIES

Nation's plastic waste generation doubled in 5 years

NEW DELHI: India's plastic waste generation has more than doubled in the last five years with an average annual increase of 21.8%, the Centre said on Monday.

Responding to a query raised in the Lower House of Parliament, minister of state for environment Ashwini Choubey said that more than 34 lakh tonnes of plastic waste was generated in 2019-20 and 30.59 lakh tonnes in 2018-19.

According to data shared by the minister, in the last five years, the quantity of plastic waste in the country has more than doubled, as the country produced 15.89 lakh tonnes of plastic waste in 2015-16.

The ministry said that annual data on the generation of solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, construction and demolition waste, bio-medical waste and hazardous waste in the country is compiled by the Central Pollution Control Board. He said India produced 677 tons of biomedical waste per day in 2020 while in 2019 it produced 619 tons BMW per day. PTI

CITY LIGHTS

Patient care services at 3 Centre-run hospitals hit

NEW DELHI: Patient care at Delhi's Centre-run Ram Manohar Lohia, Safdarjung and Lady Hardinge hospitals were hit as resident doctors boycotted all routine and emergency services for the second consecutive day on Tuesday as part of a nationwide protest over the delay in NEET-PG 2021 counselling. The protest was called by the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association. The AIIMS Resident Doctors' Association said its members will wear black ribbons at work in support of the support the cause of the overburdened resident doctors of the country and against the delay in NEET-PG counselling. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention to ensure that post-graduate admissions are done on a war footing. PTI



Doctors of the Safdarjung Hospital stage a protest against the delays in the NEET Postgraduate 2021 Counselling process in New Delhi on Tuesday ANI

AQI sees improvement settles in poor category

NEW DELHI: Delhi's air quality saw an improvement on Tuesday morning to settle in the 'poor category'. The Air Quality Index (AQI) in the city read 268 at 9.05 am. The AQI in Gurgaon and Greater Noida was recorded at 258 and 215, respectively. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered good, 51 and 100 satisfactory, 101 and 200 moderate, 201 and 300 poor, 301 and 400 very poor, and 401 and 500 severe. Delhi's air quality was recorded in the "very poor" category on Monday. The ministry of earth sciences' air quality monitoring agency SAFAR had said on Monday that a moderate wind speed is likely over the next two days. The minimum temperature on Tuesday morning was recorded at 11.4°C, two notches above the season's average. PTI

Rare striped hyena spotted in Asola Sanctuary

NEW DELHI: A striped hyena — a near-threatened species with a global population of less than 10,000 individuals — has been spotted in Delhi for the first time in around seven years, according to forest and wildlife department officials. Camera traps installed in the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary have confirmed the presence of the nocturnal animal in the forest, they said. "This is the first time a striped hyena has been caught on a camera trap in Delhi. According to reports, a striped hyena was killed in a road accident in Dera Mandi area in 2015. That was the last sighting," deputy conservator of forests (DCF), South Division, Amit Anand said. A wildlife guard in the Asola sanctuary said the staff had found the pugmarks of the animal on a few occasions in 2017-18. PTI

SCHOOL EVENT

BILLABONG HIGH INT'L SCHOOL, NOIDA, HOSTS LITSPREE CHAPTER 6

Billabong High International School (BHIS), Noida, celebrated literary event Litspree Chapter - 6 2021-2022 with enthusiasm. The event began with an ode to our nation celebrating 75 years of independence. School director Jasmine Gandhi and principal Sharmila Chatterjee were the light-bearers of the event. More on p2



WORD POWER

Superficial

Soo-per-fish-uhl

Adjective

Meaning: Existing or occurring at or on the surface. Not thorough, deep, or complete; cursory.

Origin: Late Middle English from late Latin superficialis, from Latin superficialis.

Synonyms: cursory, frivolous, one-dimensional, perfunctory, silly, sketchy, slight, trivial

Antonyms: complete, important, mature, sensible, serious, significant, thoughtful, wise

Usage: The damage was superficial and the problem fixed.

WORLD

Mixing Pfizer, AstraZ, Moderna shots gives better immunity

LONDON/NEW YORK: A major British study into mixing Covid-19 vaccines has found that people had a better immune response when they received a first dose of AstraZeneca or Pfizer-BioNTech shots followed by Moderna nine weeks later, according to the results on Monday. Britain's health minister said on Monday there is now community transmission of the Omicron variant across regions of England but it is too early to say if this will "knock us off our road to recovery". The UK recorded 336 cases of the variant. Meanwhile, all private employers in New York City will have to require their workers to get vaccinated against Covid-19, the mayor announced on Monday in the most sweeping vaccine mandate of any state or big city in the US. AGENCIES

German parties sign 'new start' coalition deal

BERLIN: Germany's Social Democrats (SPD), Greens and Free Democrats signed a coalition deal on Tuesday that sets out how to accelerate a green transition and modernise Europe's biggest economy when they take office this week. The alliance between the unlikely bedfellows, the first such grouping at a national level, brings to an end 16 years of conservative-led government under Angela Merkel who did not stand for a fifth term. The SPD's Olaf Scholz is due to be elected chancellor by the Bundestag lower house of parliament and officially take office on Wednesday. REUTERS

Thailand envisages sustainable revival of DiCaprio beach

KOH PHI PHI LEY: While travel stopped and the world locked down, in the dazzling blue waters of Thailand's idyllic Phi Phi islands, a gentle renaissance was under way. Mass tourism had brought the archipelago, immortalised in Leonardo DiCaprio movie The Beach, to the brink of ecological catastrophe. Now Thailand hopes to make Phi Phi the standard-bearer for a new, more sustainable model of tourism as the country reopens to visitors after the long Covid shutdown. AFP

SCHOOL REPORTS

JKPS, Shalimar Bagh, organises annual project show with zeal

Jaspal Kaur Public School (JKPS), Shalimar Bagh, organised its annual project show titled 'The Magic Within...' on a virtual platform with enthusiasm. The solemn evening commenced with invoking the blessings of the Almighty with a sacred shabad recital and the lighting of the ceremonial lamp.

The guests of honour for the event were member of legislative assembly Bandana Kumari and JKPS alumnus Dr Mayank Mukhi, who is presently working as senior consultant in the department of orthodontics and dentofacial orthopaedics.

School principal Asha Saran Srivastava welcomed both of them along with other dignitaries and the parents. Institute's chairman Sardar Surjit Singh Ji and vice-chairperson Rasna Singh also graced the occasion with their presence.

The show began with an emotional and empathetic anecdote 'Gullak' which showcased the bond of love which we share with our siblings. It was followed by a melodious medley 'Anmol Rishtey' which exhibited a beautiful relationship among friends, cousins, and siblings. Thereafter an enthralling play titled 'I'm Possible' conveyed the message of believing in ourselves. No matter how many



The students took part in a variety of activities and their splendid performance overwhelmed the audience

adversities life creates in our path, our hope can never be killed as the magic lies within all of us.

The students also danced to the foot-tapping song 'Waavin' Flag with the desire to do their best to make their institute reach great heights. The splendid performance of all the students overwhelmed the audience.

Kumari addressed the audience

and appreciated talents of the staff and students involved in the project show. She was thrilled to see the enthusiasm among the children who presented the mesmerizing show.

Dr Mukhi recalled his old times spent in the school and motivated the students to give their best.

He also expressed his gratitude towards the institution and

applauded the efforts of the JKPS team.

The show ended with a vote of thanks proposed by headmistress Shikha Dhameja, who expressed gratitude to the dignitaries for their presence. The event culminated with the singing of the national anthem. The show, which was appreciated by the audience, was a huge success.

Billabong High Int'l School, Noida, hosts Litspre Chapter 6

Billabong High International School (BHIS), Noida, celebrated literary event Litspre Chapter - 6 2021-2022 with enthusiasm. The event began with an ode to our nation celebrating 75 years of independence. School director Jasmine Gandhi and principal Sharmila Chatterjee were the light-bearers of the event.

Litspre this year comprised a variety of offline and online competitions held across Grades 1 to 5. All the activities held during the event focussed on sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the role of young minds working together to achieve them. In one of the events titled 'Green Rangers', the participants portrayed themselves as eco-friendly superheroes and articulated about various powers they had which would help them protect environment from hazardous pollutants.

In another event 'Sustainable Market', the participants presented an advertisement on selling an eco-friendly product. In the event 'The Stream of Thought', they (partici-

pants) showcased their awareness and creativity by reciting self-composed cinquain and limerick (forms of verse) on the topic 'India of My Dreams'.

In another event 'Technique', they shared fruitful ways that can be adopted by everyone to make the earth a clean and green planet to live on.

That literary event stood as a way to journey with the youth, a way to empower the youth in a manner that will connect them with each other and our SDGs like never before.

The power of speech gave the participants an opportunity to share their perspectives and stories with each other in the form of vlogs, advertisement designing, poem recitation, and many more. The jury members for all the competitions were delighted to be part of the event and they appreciated the efforts put in by the participants and their mentors. They also expressed their gratitude towards BHIS for inviting them as jury members.



All the activities held during the event focussed on sustainable development goals and the role of young minds working together to achieve them

Ahlcon Int'l, Mayur Vihar, shines in swimming competition



Two of Ahlcon International students represented the 8-member Indian team

Two students of Ahlcon International School, Mayur Vihar, made their institute proud when they represented the Indian team in the XV Fin-Swimming World Cup Golden Final Competition held at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt and performed well.

Neerav Kumar (Class II) and Aayushree Jayesh (Class 8) represented the 8-member Indian team.

A total of 16 countries participated in that grand competition. Both Kumar and Jayesh were trained by Sameexa Pandey.

Both Kumar and Jayesh performed wonderfully in the open water and pool events and made everyone proud.

Apart from that competition, both the students also enjoyed the scenic beauty of Egyptian pyramids and did different adventurous activities like snorkelling, water sailing etc.

Ahlcon International School believes in giving a plethora of experiences to the young ones.

Myriad activities contribute holistically towards their growth.

RIGHT PATH

'Parents are a pillar of strength for their children'

Whenever we hear the word parents, a thought of true support, love and their sacrifices for us come to our minds. They are the greatest and everlasting blessings of God.

A child gifted with parents is a child with eternal care and immeasurable blessings. A parent is someone who shapes his/her child in the best way possible. A parent is also responsible for making his/her child the wealthiest of love, health and every possible facility.

A child who does not care for his/her parents is the worst person who does not think of anyone. What do we call that person? Such a person is nothing but full of selfishness and disrespect not only towards his parents but to all his loved ones.

Parents are like God, who love us no matter what and are always there as a strong pillar for their children even in the toughest of times.

A child who lacks this gift is the one shackled by chains of poverty and miseries. So, one who has gift of



A child gifted with parents is a child with eternal care and immeasurable blessings, writes Reet Tetarway, Class 7B, Bhatnagar International School, Paschim Vihar

parents should feel blessed and should always care and respect them!! Always understand their importance and never forget their sacrifices!

VERSE ZONE

Don't Lose Hope in Your Heart

When things go wrong, as they sometimes go,
When the road you're tramping seems
an uphill,

Don't lose hope in your heart,
Even on days when success seems far.

Rest if you must but don't lose hope in your heart.

If you hope there won't be fear,
If you hope there won't be tears,

Hope is a word that believes us to do things,
Hope is a word that propels everything.

Life is a day with twists and turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learns.

Often the goal is nearer than it seems to faint a faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up,

When he might have captured the victors cup
So, stick to the fight when you are the hardest hit,
It's when things seem worst, then you must not quit,
So don't lose the hope in your heart.



MIND GAMES

SUDOKU

2				4			
8				9		7	
			5	1	8		9
		1		5			6
							7
9	6			8	1		
				6	5		1
	9		4		2		8
						2	3

SCRAMBLE

Solve the four anagrams and move one letter to each square to form four ordinary words

LVAEE
LEMON
IORCDH
DEWING

*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*

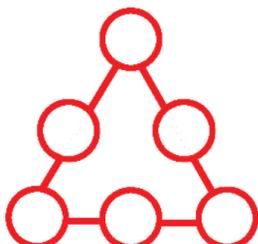
Now arrange the letters marked with an asterisk (*) to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing words as indicated.

To keep every ___ is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering. - Aldo Leopold (3,3,5)

Answer: To keep every log and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering. - Aldo Leopold

NUMBER FUN

Fill the empty circles with numbers 1 to 6 in such a way that the total of each side is 9.



Amrita Bharati Features

QUICK THINK

1. Find the missing letters in the series: R _ B Q _ B K R

2. If there are 365 days in a year, 24 hours in a day, 60 minutes in an hour and 60 seconds in a minute, how many seconds are there in a light year?

3. Rob goes fishing in the sea while on holiday. Though he waits patiently for a long time, he catches nothing for hours. A passer-by tells him that there are no fish in the sea. Where is Rob fishing?



Answer: 1. K and R; Rook, Knight, Bishop, Queen, King, Bishop, Knight, Rook. It is the order of the chess pieces arranged behind the white row of pawns. 2. None. A light year is a unit of measurement of distance, not time. 3. Rob is fishing in the Dead Sea. Its salinity is so high that no marine creatures can live in it.

MATHDOKU

8+	3+		1-
	7+	2+	1-
		1	4:
7+	3-		5+
		6x	

Place numbers into the puzzle cells so that each row and column contains each of the digits from 1 to 5. No number is to be repeated in any row or column. Each bold-out lined cells contain a hint of a number and one of the mathematical symbols + x - /. The number is the result of the operation represented by the symbol to the digits contained.

ILLUMINATED SHOW



People wearing masks gather around a light fixture depicting an animal at the Christmas Market, amid the Covid-19 pandemic, in Montreux, Switzerland, on Monday

REUTERS

Solutions

6	4	8	1	9	7	2	2	3	5
1	9	5	4	3	2	2	7	7	6
8	8	3	7	2	8	6	5	9	1
4	6	4	7	8	1	3	5	2	2
5	8	3	2	2	4	6	1	9	7
6	8	3	2	1	9	5	3	8	4
4	3	7	5	1	8	6	2	2	9
8	5	6	3	3	2	9	4	7	1
2	1	9	6	7	4	5	8	3	3

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

4	5	2	3	1
3	2	4	1	5
1	3	5	4	2
5	4	1	2	3
2	1	3	5	4

MATHDOKU SOLUTION

SCRAMBLE Solution Words: Leave, melon, orchid, winged

Students express creativity with art and poetic verse

Students while are kept busy with their studies and schoolwork they have still not neglected their artistic aptitude. From painting beautiful artworks to writing profound poetry children have kept their imagination alive. Here are some wonderful works done by such talented students.



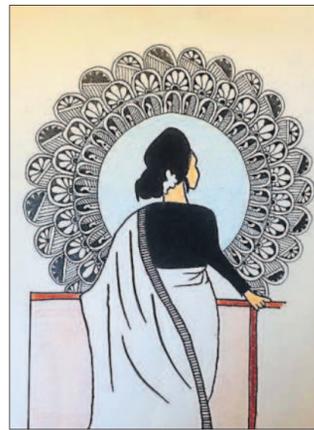
Japsirat Kaur, Class 4, Air Force Golden Jubilee Institute, Subroto Park



Nishchay Jain, Class 6, Lotus Valley International School, Noida



Kishika Arora, Class 6, Bhatnagar International School, Paschim Vihar



Aaradhya Jha, Class 6 E, DAV Public School Sector 14, Faridabad

VERSE ZONE



What is happening in the world?

What is happening in the world, there is no peace, there is no unity
What is happening in the world?
Countries are fighting with each other, they are falling behind to become No. 1, they are not standing with each other.
What is happening in the world?
People are just thinking about themselves, they are becoming too proud, why are they cheating on each other,
What is happening in the world?
The earth has been coloured with blood; they made the air very dirty. Now the world is behind the water.
How much a human being can become great but a human being has not been able to treat animals like humans.
What is happening in the world?
How many generations have come, humans have gone away, humanity has ended, now it is no longer human?
What is happening in the world?

Nitin Shukla, Class, 7 B, St. Martin's Diocesan School, Delhi Cantt

The war of emotions

We laughed and giggled,
Jumped and wriggled,
But never expected the way we struggled.
It entered with fears,
And left us in tears,
It taught us good and bad,
It's on us what to collect from that.
Beautiful weather but couldn't go for walks,
Feeling tied with no friends and their talks.
A hug from a friend which always mends,
Never expected to be the end.
Juxtaposed were some feelings good and bad,
Sometimes making us happy, sometimes sad,
It taught us to value what we have,
And not to cry for that we could save.
It is the time to realize life is beautiful and gay,
Value every moment as it's a new day,
To start a life in a new way.
All odds but we didn't lose the hope,
We found out ways to cope,
It was technology which brought us close,
The spirit to celebrate life will never die,
Love, gratitude, happiness are the emotions,
Which will always make us feel high.



Anika Mehra, Class 8 A, Ryan International School, Vasant Kunj

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NOT ON A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

China says US will 'pay the price' for diplomatic boycott of Olympics

Reuters

BEIJING: The United States will have to "pay a price" for its diplomatic boycott of the Winter Olympics in Beijing, China said on Tuesday, just weeks after talks aimed at easing tense relations between the two sides.

The White House said on Monday US government officials would boycott the Winter Olympics because of China's human rights "atrocities", although US athletes were free to travel there to compete.

The US boycott comes despite an effort to stabilise ties, with a video meeting last month between US President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping. China opposes the boycott and would take "resolute countermeasures", foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a regular media briefing in Beijing on Tuesday.

"The United States will pay a price for its mistaken acts," he said, without giving details. "Let's all wait and see."

The United States is set to host the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles and is preparing a bid to host the 2030 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Asked if China would consider a diplomatic boycott of Olympic Games in the United States, Zhao said the US boycott had "damaged the foundation and atmosphere" of sports exchange and co-operation on the Games, which he likened to "lifting a stone to crush one's own foot".

He called on the United States to keep politics out of sports, saying the boycott went against Olympic principles. Chinese media and scholars criticised the US decision.

Many Chinese internet users reacted to news of U.S. boycott with expressions of "good riddance".

Biden's administration highlighted as the reason for its boycott what Washington calls genocide against minority Muslims in China's far western region of Xinjiang. China denies all rights abuses.

Other countries undecided
It was unclear if other nations would join the United States, although US Secretary of State Antony Blinken had said allies were consulted on a "shared approach".

Australia, Britain and Japan have said they are still considering their positions.

New Zealand's deputy prime minister, Grant Robertson, said the country would not send government officials but that decision was based largely on Covid-19 concerns.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is the only leader of a major country who has accepted an invitation.

Human rights groups welcomed the move, but said Washington could do more to hold China accountable.

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Giant illuminated sculptures on display at the Jardin des Plantes (Garden of Plants) Light Festival in Paris



VIBRANT EVOLUTION SAGA

A colourful, illuminated spectacle awaits visitors at the Jardin des Plantes (Garden of Plants), in Paris these days. The garden and the Menagerie of the National Museum of Natural History in the French capital showcases magnificent lanterns in the shape of animals from the past. While the nighttime walk offers a complete family outing with something of interest for people of all ages, it is the children who are getting the maximum thrills in this many-hued wonderland.

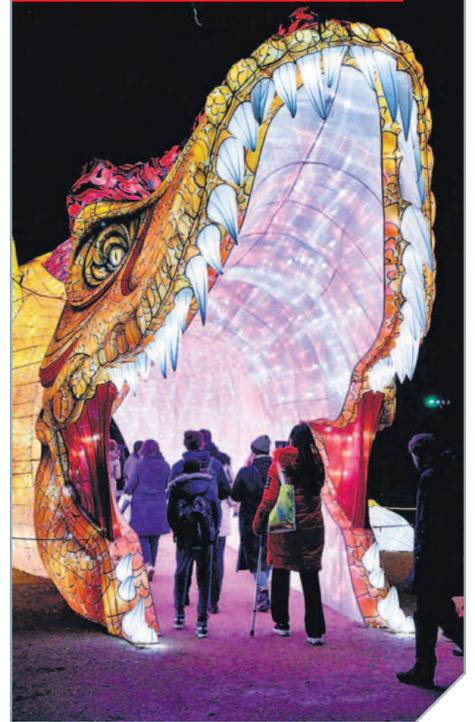
Magnificent lanterns in the shapes of animals from the past transform the venue into a wonderland



A night-time stroll under the Paris sky sheds light on the origin of life



Visitors pass through one of the giant illuminated exhibits



The exhibits were created on the basis of research by the museum's palaeontologists



Cheugy, 'omicron' among 2021's most mispronounced words

Associated Press

WASHINGTON: Cheugy is apparently a lot to chew on. Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Billie Eilish and Philadelphia Eagles center Jason Kelce have something in common — broadcasters butcher their names.

And virtually everyone is having trouble with omicron.

All four made it onto this year's list of most mispronounced words as compiled by the US Captioning Company. The list released on Tuesday identifies the words that proved most challenging for newsreaders to pronounce this year. The caption company said it surveyed its members to generate the list, which is now in its sixth year and was commissioned by Babel, a language-learning platform. "Newscasters in the US have struggled with 2021's news words and names while reporting on key sport-

ing events, viral internet trends and emerging celebrities," said Esteban Touma, a teacher for Babel Live.

"As a language teacher, it's always interesting to see that some of these terms are usually new colloquialisms, or are rooted or borrowed from another language," he said.

Here's how Touma breaks down the proper pronunciations for the most commonly misspoken words:

* **Cheugy (CHOO-gee)**: A trendy term popularized by Gen Z and used to mock an outdated and unfashionable aesthetic typically associated with millennials.

* **Dalgona (tal-goh-NAH)**: A Korean treat made with melted sugar and baking soda

* **Eilish (EYE-ish)**: The singer Billie Eilish.

* **Omicron (AH-muh-kraan / OH-mee-kraan)**: A new variant of Covid-19 first identified in November.

HT CHRONICLE December 8 >> from the archives of the Hindustan Times



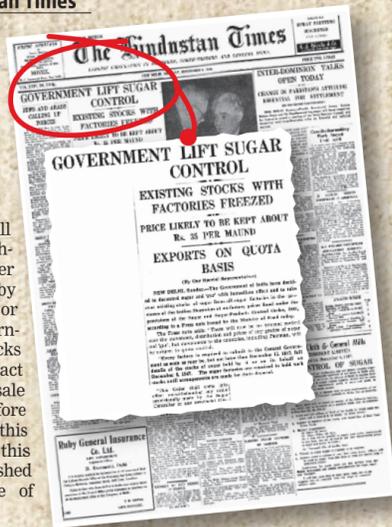
Government lift sugar control

New Delhi - The Government of India have decided to decontrol sugar and 'gur' with immediate effect and to take over existing stocks of sugar from all sugar factories in the provinces of the Indian Dominion at ex-factory prices fixed under the 1947

over the movement, distribution and prices of any grades of sugar and 'gur', but movements to the countries, including Pakistan, will be subject to quota control.

"Every factory is required to submit to the Central Government as soon as may be but not later than December 15, 1947, full details of the stocks of sugar held by it or on its behalf on December 8, 1947. The sugar factories are required to hold such I stocks until arrangements are made for their disposal.

"This Order shall come into effect notwithstanding any order provisionally made by the Sugar Controller or any provincial Government in regard to stocks of sugar and any contract or agreement for the sale of such stock made before the commencement of this Order. Notifications to this effect have been published today in the Gazette of India Extraordinary."



India's well-merited win over New Zealand

Bombay - Hardly an hour this morning was required to complete the rituals: Gupte bowled the New Zealand's last wicket, Alabastar, and India convincingly won the second Test by an innings and 27 runs.

Requiring 64 runs to save an innings defeat, New Zealand could carry their overnight 99 for 7 to only 136.

The wicket was responsive to spin and like the rest of the New Zealand batsmen except of course Sutcliffe, Reid and Guy, skipper Cave, Alabastar and Moir were baffled by Gupte as well as Mankad. Very rightly did Umrigar open this morning with the famous double-spin attack.

For their useful contribution -- if not for saving the humiliation of an innings defeat--both Cave and Moir brought off some delightful sweeps to leg, but were never



comfortable against Gupte or Mankad. Cave finally lashed out to a well-flighted leg-break from Mankad, mistimed and the skier was confidently held by Umrigar running in from cover.

MOIR OUT
Moir, who faced the spinners much better today, nevertheless fell with his eye wide open as MacGibbon had done yesterday afternoon.

WATCH OUT THIS SPACE FOR QUIZ ON FRIDAYS

The quiz will be based on HT archives. Send in your answers at htpcedelhi@hindustantimes.com

NOWHERE IN THE REGION ARE THE REEFS IN FULL HEALTH

Coral reefs of western Indian Ocean at risk of collapse: Study

Reefs along the eastern coast of Africa and Mauritius and Seychelles face "complete ecosystem collapse and irreversible damage" in next 50 years, according to a groundbreaking study of these marine ecosystems.

Agence France-Presse

NAIROBI: Rising sea temperatures and overfishing threaten coral reefs in the western Indian Ocean with complete collapse in the next 50 years, according to a groundbreaking study of these marine ecosystems.

The findings, published in the journal Nature Sustainability on Monday, warned that reefs along the eastern coast of Africa and island nations like Mauritius and Seychelles faced a high risk of extinction unless urgent action was taken.

For the first time, researchers were able to assess the vulnerability of individual reefs across the vast western reaches of the Indian Ocean, and identify the main threats to coral health.

They found that all reefs in this region faced "complete ecosystem collapse and irreversible damage" within decades, and that ocean warming meant some coral habitats were already critically endangered.

"The findings are quite serious. These reefs are vulnerable to collapse," lead author David Obura, founding director at CORDIO East Africa, a Kenya-based oceans research institute, said.

"There's nowhere in the region where the reefs are in full health. They've all declined somewhat, and that will continue."

The study, co-authored with the International Union for Conservation of Nature, assessed 11,919 square kilometres of reef, representing about five percent of the global total. Reefs fringing picturesque island nations like Mauritius, Seychelles, the Comoros and Madagascar — popular ecotourism destinations heavily reliant on their marine environment — were most at risk, researchers said.



Climate change poses the biggest threat to coral health overall in the western Indian Ocean, where scientists say seawater temperatures are warming faster than in other parts of the globe. SHUTTERSTOCK

'Double whammy'
Coral reefs cover only a tiny fraction — 0.2% — of the ocean floor, but they are home to at least a quarter of all marine animals and plants.

Besides anchoring marine ecosystems, they also provide protein, jobs and protection from storms and shoreline erosion for hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

Obura said healthy reefs were "very valuable" and their loss would prove "a double whammy".

"For biodiversity, but also all sorts of coastal economies that depend on reefs," he said.

Climate change posed the biggest

threat to coral health overall in the western Indian Ocean, where scientists say seawater temperatures are warming faster than in other parts of the globe.

Oceans absorb more than 90% of the excess heat from greenhouse gas emissions, shielding land surfaces but generating huge, long-lasting marine heatwaves that are pushing many species of corals past their limits of tolerance.

But along the east coast of continental Africa from Kenya to South Africa, pressure from overfishing was also identified in this latest study as another major scourge on

reef ecosystems.

This underscored the need to urgently address both global threats to coral reefs from climate change, and local ones such as overfishing, Obura said.

"We need to give these reefs the best chance. In order to do that, we have to reduce the drivers, reverse the pressure on reefs," he further said.

In October, the largest ever global survey of coral health revealed that dynamite fishing, pollution but mainly global warming had wiped out 14 percent of the world's coral reefs from 2009 to 2018.

SERVES AS A 'TRAP' FOR VIRUS

Developed: Chewing gum laced with protein that cuts Covid transmission

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON: Scientists have developed a chewing gum laced with a plant-grown protein that serves as a "trap" for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes Covid-19, reducing viral load in saliva and potentially lowering transmission.

The researchers noted that people who are fully vaccinated can still become infected with SARS-CoV-2 and can carry a viral load similar to those who are unvaccinated.

"SARS-CoV-2 replicates in the salivary glands, and we know that when someone who is infected sneezes, coughs, or speaks some of that virus can be expelled and reach others," said Henry Daniell at the University of Pennsylvania in the US.

"This gum offers an opportunity to neutralise the virus in the saliva, giving us a simple way to possibly cut down on a source of disease transmission," said Daniell, who led the study published in the journal Molecular Therapy.

Prior to the pandemic, Daniell had been studying the angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) protein in the context of treating hypertension.

His lab had grown this protein, as well as many others that may have therapeutic potential, using a patented plant-based production system.

This system has the potential to avoid the usual obstacles to protein drug synthesis: an expensive production and purification process, the researchers said.

The receptor for ACE2 on human cells also happens to bind the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, which the virus uses to infect the cells, they said.

Previous research has shown that injections of ACE2 can reduce viral load in people with severe infections.

Another line of work by Daniell and colleague Hyun Koo has involved research to develop a chewing gum infused with plant-grown proteins to disrupt dental plaque.

Pairing his insights about ACE2 with this technology, Daniell wondered if such a gum, infused with plant-grown ACE2 proteins, could



Scientists have observed that the gum largely prevents the viruses or viral particles from entering cells, either by blocking the ACE2 receptor on the cells or by binding directly to the spike protein. SHUTTERSTOCK

neutralise SARS-CoV-2 in the oral cavity. To test the chewing gum, the team grew ACE2 in plants, paired with another compound that enables the protein to cross mucosal barriers and facilitates binding.

The researchers incorporated the resulting plant material into cinnamon-flavoured gum tablets.

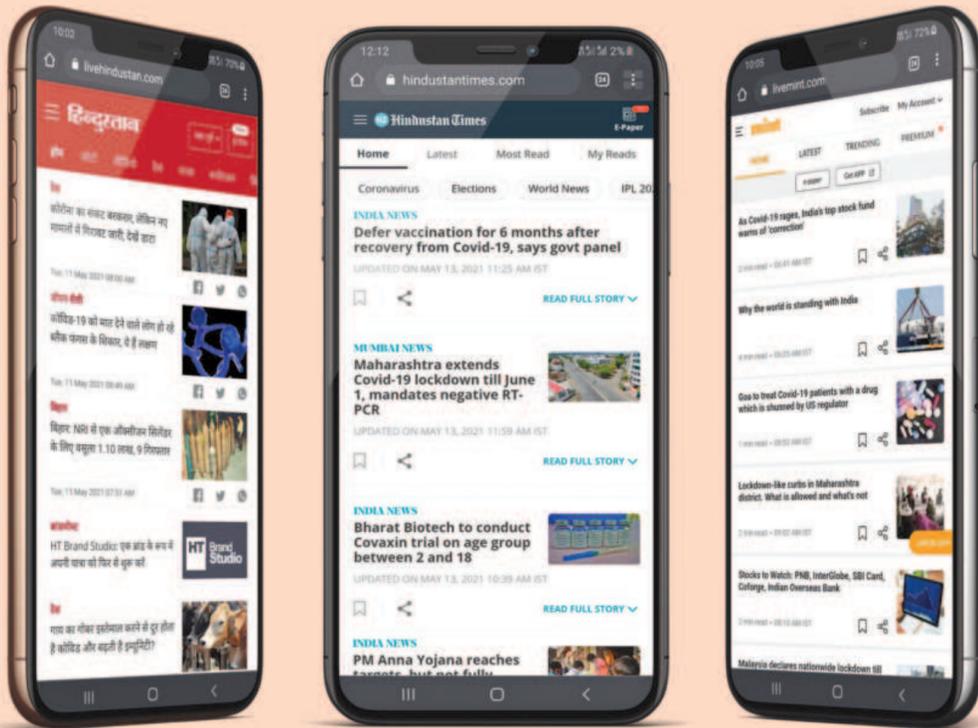
Incubating samples obtained from nasopharyngeal swabs from Covid-positive patients with the gum, they showed that the ACE2 present could neutralise SARS-CoV-2 viruses.

They then modified viruses, less-pathogenic than SARS-CoV-2, to express the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.

The scientists observed that the gum largely prevented the viruses or viral particles from entering cells, either by blocking the ACE2 receptor on the cells or by binding directly to the spike protein. Finally, the team exposed saliva samples from Covid-19 patients to the ACE2 gum and found that levels of viral RNA fell so dramatically to be almost undetectable.

The research team is currently working towards obtaining permission to conduct a clinical trial to evaluate whether the approach is safe and effective when tested in people infected with SARS-CoV-2.

If the clinical trials prove the gum is safe and effective, it could be given to patients whose infection status is unknown, to reduce the likelihood of passing the virus to caregivers, the researchers added.



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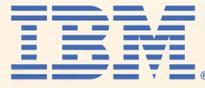
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CRICKET

Hardik to skip Vijay Hazare Trophy

NEW DELHI: Out of favour India all-rounder Hardik Pandya has decided to skip Vijay Hazare Trophy starting across the country from Wednesday as he is undergoing an extensive rehabilitation programme in order to regain his bowling fitness.

"The Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) had sent an e-mail to Hardik enquiring about his availability for the Vijay Hazare Trophy. He has rarely played for Baroda in last three years. However he gave a one-line reply that he is currently doing rehab in Mumbai," a senior official privy to developments in BCA told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Asked what is the injury he is carrying at the moment, the official said: "Even the BCA doesn't know. It is understood that he is trying to do some strength and conditioning module for his back which is no longer in best of shape post surgery in 2019," the source revealed.

The official informed that Hardik's elder brother Krunal had joined Baroda's pre-Hazare camp for a week after he was instructed by the state board that attending the camp is



Hardik Pandya.

REUTERS

mandatory for being part of the final squad.

"BCA told Krunal that he can't just land up during tournaments and he has to be a part of the camp. Then he came and trained with the team for a week," the source said.

If Hardik doesn't play the domestic tournaments, he will not be considered for a comeback in the Indian side for the white ball tournaments.

CRICKET



Kane Williamson.

REUTERS

Williamson out of action for 2 months with elbow injury

WELLINGTON: New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson is likely to be out of action for at least two months with an elbow tendon injury, Black Caps coach Gary Stead has hinted.

A report in stuff.co.nz claimed that Williamson is likely to return only next year for the two-Test series against South Africa starting February 17 in Christchurch.

Williamson was ruled out of the

second Test against India on the morning of the first day with the nagging injury and Stead confirmed on Tuesday that he is likely to sit out at least eight or nine weeks although might be spared of any surgery.

"Kane's going along ok," Stead said of the captain and about his injury. "Last time after the World Test Championship (final) and before the IPL and T20 World Cup was about eight or nine weeks. I expect it's somewhere in that time frame again. We're trying not to put time frames on it at this stage."

New Zealand will face-off against Bangladesh for two Tests, the first of which starts on New Year's Day in Mount Maunganui, and then travel to Australia for three ODIs and a T20 from January 30 to February 8 before preparing for the first Test against the Proteas.

"I think surgery is unlikely," Stead said of treatment for the injury.

"All that surgery would do is ensure that rehab is done. If we don't have to cut a tendon, our choice is not to do that. Kane's doing it tough, don't get me wrong. He loves playing for New Zealand—he hates the thought of missing any cricket, let alone Test cricket for New Zealand," the coach added.

Arteta disappointed with Arsenal's performance

LONDON: Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta was "very disappointed" with his side's performance on Monday after a 2-1 defeat by Everton saw them slip to seventh in the Premier League.

Arsenal had taken the lead through Martin Odegaard's first-half strike but late goals by Richarlison and Demarai Gray saw them suffer a second consecutive league loss.

"I'm very disappointed. I think in the first half we were inconsistent with the ball ... we didn't have enough penetration or threat on the opponents' goal," Arteta said.

"One of the few times we did it we scored a goal from Martin and then in the second half we had to grab the game ... but again, in moments we were sloppy. We gave too many balls away too easily and encouraged them against the movement that they had in the press."

The Spaniard also criticised Arse-



Mikel Arteta.

REUTERS

nal's erratic finishing, and called on his side to be more ruthless in front of goal. "The few times that we did break the press we were open on goal, but we have to do it much more consistently," Arteta added.

"We created four big, big chances, and when you don't put them in the net away from home it's very complicated to win the game, especially if you concede in the way that we did for example with the first goal."

Arsenal next host Southampton on December 11.

RIGHT ON CUE



Pakistan's Sajid Khan (right) celebrates after dismissing Bangladesh's Mominul Haque on Day Four of the second Test in Dhaka on Tuesday. Sajid took 6/36 to reduce Bangladesh to 76/7 in their first innings.

AFP

THE ASHES



Australia captain Patrick Cummins (left) and England skipper Joe Root pose with the Ashes trophy at the Gabba in Brisbane.

AFP

History favours Australia, England confident of upset

Reuters

sportm@hindustantimes.com

MELBOURNE: After a stormy buildup the Ashes will crank into gear when the first Test starts on Wednesday with both Australia and England left guessing about each other and whether the Gabba wicket will retain its usual spice.

With no time for four matches and with internal games hit by rain, players will go in cold for the opening battle of cricket's most enduring rivalry.

Cricket has been in short supply but scandals have filled the vacuum, with the Yorkshire racism saga raging in England and Tim Paine's 'sexting' overshadowing Australia's preparations. "The way the buildup has been here, it's been a little bit challenging in certain ways," said England wicket-keeper Jos Buttler on the eve of Day

One. "What's important is to again, assess conditions and bowl well with what's required on the pitch."

England have generally missed the mark on that score, having not won at the Gabba since Mike Gatting's team at the 1986-87 series. Six of the last eight trips to Brisbane ended in defeats that set the tone for more English pain in the series. It may be no coincidence that the last time England held their own at the 'Gabbator' they went on to win the 2010-11 Ashes, only their second triumph on Australian soil in the last 34 years.

"Don't lose is therefore my best advice to England before the first Test in Brisbane," former England captain Alastair Cook wrote for The Times. "If England can get through the Gabba unscathed we could have a fantastic series ahead of us."

Cook's unbeaten 235 at the Gabba

in 2010-11 ensured a draw that galvanized Andrew Strauss's team at the start of their 3-1 series triumph.

What current skipper Joe Root would give for an opening rock like Cook padding up this week. Instead, the weight of England's batting rests heavily on his shoulders. Most of the squad have never faced belligerent Australian pacemen on their favourite wicket in the heat of an Ashes Test.

Root, the world's top-ranked Test batsman, will be under pressure to keep the runs flowing in a country where he has never scored a century. He will be glad for all-rounder Ben Stokes's support and hope for more from others.

"We all know the form he has been in with the bat this year," said Buttler of Root. "We know he's our best player with the bat so we want to support him and help him share that load."

With old warrior James Anderson on ice until the second pink ball test in Adelaide, Stuart Broad and Ollie Robinson are set to lead England's bowling. If selectors opt for Mark Wood over spinner Jack Leach, England could unleash a five-prong seam attack. Under new fast-bowling captain Pat Cummins, Australia are under pressure to show their series-deciding loss to India at the Gabba in January was an aberration.

Anderson left out of first Test

The task for Root's side was made harder on the eve of the Ashes when Jimmy Anderson—Tests most prolific fast bowler with 632 wickets—was not named in England's 12-man match squad. Anderson was not risked after suffering a minor calf problem, although England did not give any reason for his omission.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Barca face do-or-die clash against in-form Bayern

Agence France-Presse

MADRID: No sooner has reality hit than Barcelona have to believe in miracles again as Xavi Hernandez's team seek a victory away at Bayern Munich on Wednesday to take them into the Champions League last 16.

Four weeks after Xavi was appointed, Barca suffered their first defeat under their new coach on Saturday and as Real Betis' Juanmi celebrated in the corner at Camp Nou, it felt like a bit of hope began to fizzle.

Xavi arrived as the club's iconic former midfielder and devoted student of Pep Guardiola, a symbol of a return to the values and principles that Barcelona hold dear and were seen to have lost. Nobody expected a transformation, that 'tiki-taka' would be rekindled overnight or that Memphis Depay would morph into Lionel Messi or that a porous defence would suddenly tighten up.

Few disagreed that Xavi would need time, and most probably a lot of it, to turn Barcelona even into a contender again, let alone a winner of the game's biggest prizes. But they might have hoped to steer clear of losing at home to Real Betis, an upwardly mobile team under Manuel Pellegrini with talented players but one that is more likely to finish in La Liga's top eight than its top four.

Just as they might have thought it possible Barcelona would win at home to Benfica last month, a result that would have rendered Wednesday's game against Bayern meaningless, with progress to the last 16 safely secured. Instead, the first 30 days of Xavi's tenure have been yet another



It has been a rough ride for Barcelona head coach Xavi Hernandez (right) since he took over from Ronald Koeman last month.

AP

exercise in hammering home reality and perspective. There have been glimpses of innovation and change but the overriding sense is of familiar flaws being underlined and expectations being further downgraded.

"In the dressing room I have told them that I am proud, that this is football," said Xavi. "It is a shame and I hope it doesn't affect us because on Wednesday we have to compete like animals to try to get through."

Barcelona are now 16 points behind La Liga's leaders Real Madrid, and while they can make that 13 by winning a game in hand, it feels almost pointless now to compare. If re-joining the title race recently

appeared a possible, albeit lofty, target to achieve, it has quickly become almost completely out of reach. Catching the top four, meanwhile, seemed doable not long ago even with just a minor upturn in results, but instead that now looks increasingly likely to be a difficult fight.

In the Champions League, consecutive wins over Dynamo Kiev under Ronald Koeman meant there was room for optimism that Barcelona could complete the comeback by beating Benfica at home. Yet the most likely scenario now is that they finish third and drop into the Europa League, a competition they could win if they took it seriously.

CHINA SAYS US DIPLOMATIC BOYCOTT VIOLATES OLYMPIC SPIRIT

Associated Press

BEIJING: China on Tuesday accused the United States of violating the Olympic spirit by announcing an American diplomatic boycott of February's Beijing Winter Games.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian's comment came amid a barrage of Chinese criticism of the announcement by the Biden administration on Monday. Zhao vowed China would respond with "firm countermeasures" but gave no details.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters on Monday that the administration will fully support US athletes competing at the games but won't dispatch US diplomats or officials to attend. Psaki said the US has a "fundamental commitment to promoting human rights" and that the US "will not be contributing to the fanfare of the games".

The Chinese Embassy in Washington tweeted that politicians calling for a boycott are "doing so for their own political interests and posturing".

"In fact, no one would care about whether these people come or not, and it has no impact whatsoever on the #Beijing2022 to be successfully held," the embassy said.

China's mission to the UN called the boycott a "self-directed political farce". "The US just wants to politicise sports, create divisions and provoke confrontation," it said.

It wasn't clear what officials Washington might have sent, and Zhao on Monday said no invitation had been extended by China. It wasn't clear whether other countries would follow the US lead. Japanese PM Fumio Kishida on Tuesday said Japan would make its own decision "from the perspective of national interests and the significance of Japan's diplomacy".