

TWITTER GAFFE

2 Indian ministers left red-faced

AFP, New Delhi

Two Indian ministers were left red-faced yesterday after their attempts to glorify Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government on Twitter backfired spectacularly.

Critics have accused Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of running a relentless propaganda campaign on social media to increase its base of supporters.

Media reports have suggested the party employs a "back-room army of trolls" to attack its rivals and run smear campaigns.

Yesterday, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal shared a video purportedly showing India's first semi-high-speed train zipping past at lightning speed, in order to trumpet Modi's pet "Make in India" initiative.

But it turned out to be a digitally altered video with the speed of the train enhanced by two times, prompting a backlash from Twitter users.

"Massive respect for Piyush Goyal. He just made the video 2X times faster and called it semi-high speed train when he could have made it 6X times faster and called it super high speed train," wrote one user.

Goyal has yet not commented on the video, which can still be seen on his timeline.

India's junior minister for finance and shipping, Pon Radhakrishnan also found himself at the receiving end after inadvertently criticising his own government in multiple tweets.

The minister retweeted posts with the hashtag #ModiforNewIndia without reviewing the content.



Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee (R), Chief Minister of the Delhi Arvind Kejriwal (L) and Indian politician and chairman of Jammu & Kashmir National Conference Farooq Abdullah (C) attend an opposition political rally in New Delhi yesterday.



'I'm sorry'

Thai princess apologises after ill-fated run for PM

AFP, Bangkok

A Thai princess has apologised after her short-lived candidacy for prime minister earned a royal rebuke from her brother -- the king -- and sent jitters across the politically febrile country just weeks before elections.

Thailand has been mired in political drama since Friday, when Princess Ubolratana's name was submitted as a prime ministerial candidate by the Thai Raksa Chart Party.

The party is allied with the powerful Shinawatra clan, which has won all elections since 2001 but whose patron, the billionaire ex-premier Thaksin, lives in self-exile to avoid jail.

Ubolratana's unprecedented bid to enter frontline politics unravelled within hours after King Maha Vajiralongkorn decried the entry of a royal into the political fray as "highly inappropriate".

Thailand's monarchy is seen as above politics, although royals have intervened in public during times of political crisis.

The princess was disqualified as a prime ministerial candidate by the Election Commission on Monday, which cited the royal command. It is now discussing whether to refer Thai Raksa Chart to the constitutional court for dissolution.

In an Instagram post late Tuesday the 67-year-old princess apologised for her role in the drama.

"I'm sorry that my genuine intention to help work for the country and fellow Thai people has created a problem that shouldn't happen in this era," she wrote.

Messi fan now a Taliban target

Ahmadi, 7, and his mother now hide out among many refugees in Kabul

CNN ONLINE

Global fame is hard to handle for any 7-year-old. In Afghanistan, it can also be life-threatening.

In January 2016, a photo of young Murtaza Ahmadi went viral, thanks to his makeshift version of an Argentine football shirt of his idol Lionel Messi.



The shirt, a blue-and-white-striped plastic bag with Messi's names and number etched in pen on the back, earned the child two autographed shirts, a signed football and a meeting with the millionaire footballer 11 months later.

Today, plenty of people now may recognise Ahmadi -- but he's on the run, wishing they didn't.

Ahmadi's problems began after he met his hero in a brief visit to Qatar. They weren't troubled by the constant spotlight or paparazzi that blight footballers' lives. It was the Taliban, who, in November, invaded the district of Jaghori in Ghazni province where he grew up.

"The Taliban were killing our relatives and they were searching houses. They would stop cars and kill their passengers, searching houses and killing people," Ahmadi told CNN.

"We were not allowed to play football by the Taliban or even go out of the house," he said.

Ahmadi in particular became a target for threats, says his mother, Shafiq, citing his fame.

'Little to no change'

Top US commander in S Korea tells Senate about N Korea's military capabilities as second Trump-Kim summit looms

AFP, Washington

The commander of US forces in South Korea said Tuesday that he had seen "little to no verifiable change" in North Korea's military capabilities.

President Donald Trump met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last June in a bid to resolve tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear program, and the two signed off on a vaguely worded document in which Kim pledged to work towards "the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula."

General Robert Abrams, the new head of US Forces Korea, said the summit had helped dial down tensions on the Korean peninsula, but had not led to substantive changes.

"Little to no verifiable change has occurred and North Korea's military capabilities," Abrams told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"Further, North Korea's conventional and asymmetric military capabilities along with their continued development of advanced conventional systems remains unchecked. These capabilities continue to hold the United States, the Republic of Korea and our regional allies at risk."

It had been 440 days since N Korea's last provocative action

Trump and Kim are set to meet in Hanoi from February 27 to 28



missed as "reality TV."

After that first summit, Trump called off large-scale joint exercises with South Korea.

Abrams said "it is necessary to maintain a postured and ready force to deter any possible aggressive actions," but stressed that the two allied militaries continue to train together at a lower level.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Office of the Principal, Bangladesh Institute of Glass & Ceramics. Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. e-Tender Notice (Re-Tender). Includes a table with 5 columns: Tender ID, Number & name of package, Tender publication date and time, Last selling date & time of tender document, Tender closing date & time.

Meghalaya puts bar on schoolbag weight

Sets restrictions on homework

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

In a big relief to students, the Meghalaya government in India has put a cap on the weight of schoolbags for all classes and set restrictions on homework for classes 1 and 2.

According to the state's education department, the official order issued to the school authorities is in tune with the directives of the federal Human Resources Development Ministry.

"The weight of school bags for classes 1 and 2 has been capped at 1.5 kg, while bags for those studying in classes 3 to 5 should not exceed 3 kg," the order said adding that for students of classes 6 to 7, the maximum weight should be 4 kg.

The weight of school bags for classes 8 and 9 has been capped at 4.5 kg and the maximum weight of bags for class X students has been limited to 5 kg.

"We have issued instructions via a notification, setting limits on the weight of school bags. This is in line with the guidelines of the Union Human Resources Development Ministry, keeping in mind that the weights the children carry affect their health," Education Principal Secretary D P Wahlang said.

The department has also asked the heads of institutions to ensure that timetables are designed in a way that students do not have to carry too many books or notebooks to school.

"Schools should make sure that the students are asked to carry only those textbooks that have been mentioned in their time table," the order said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Ministry of Finance, Finance Division. Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) Project. Invitation for Tenders for Goods (National)

Table with 2 columns: Item No., Description. Includes sections for KEY INFORMATION, FUNDING INFORMATION, PARTICULAR INFORMATION, and INFORMATION FOR TENDERER.

Give us our 284 summit cars back

Papua New Guinea police plead

REUTERS, Sydney

Papua New Guinea police are seeking the return of nearly 300 imported cars loaned to officials for driving world leaders around its capital during last year's Asia-Pacific Economic Corporation meeting, a commander said on Tuesday.

The purchase of the fleet, including 40 slick Maserati Quattroporte sedans, sparked public protest in a country beset by poverty, and potholes, and the government had promised to auction the cars after the November summit.

"There are 284 vehicles ... that were issued to personnel to use during APEC that haven't been returned as yet," said Superintendent Dennis Corcoran, who heads the State Asset Recovery Unit.

The vehicles include Landcruisers, Fords, Mazdas and Pajeros, he said, but not the luxury marques, which have been tracked down and recovered.

"All 40 of the Maseratis and the three Bentleys are in top condition and locked away in the old wharf shed down on the main wharf," Corcoran said in a telephone call from Port Moresby.

He said police knew that nine cars were stolen, parts had gone missing and some of the returned cars were "pretty seriously damaged".

The South Pacific archipelago of 7.3 million people pulled out all the stops at the APEC summit, hoping to put itself on the world map and lure investment. Aid money poured in from China and Australia to prepare for the event.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. মাংলা কাস্টম হাউস, খালিশপুর, খুলনা. ফ্যাক্স: ০৪১-৭৬২৫৭১, ৭৬২৫৭৯. ই-মেইল: khulnacustoms@yahoo.com. মাইক্রোবাস ভাড়ার দরপত্র আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি. Includes a table with 2 columns: স.ন, বিবরণ.