

Summit TIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Unknown assailant shoots Gangtokian at Tharo Line

NEITHER THE SHOOTER NOR THE REASON KNOWN THUS FAR

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 JUL: A person was shot by as yet unidentified

assailants here in the heart of the capital at around 8:30 p.m. Thursday night at Tharo Line, the stairs leading up from Lall Bazaar to MG Marg. The victim was shot in the thigh and is currently undergoing treatment at STNM Hospital here. Although he is out of danger, the incident is bound to send a shiver of worry through Sikkim's collective spine, given what appears thus

far to be a random act of violence, only, this time involving a gun.

Ajaz Shah, popular in the area as Munna, was on his way home from a nearby medical store at the time of the incident. The lane was largely deserted when someone shot him from the back. The bullet has shattered Mr Shah's left thigh bone and he currently undergoing treatment the Orthopaedic ward of the STNM Hospital.

The victim is a businessman and has a shop at Tharo Line near Denzong cinema hall.

"I was on my way home from a medical store. I hear a bang which I now know was a gunshot. I blacked out for a moment when I felt something smash into my thigh. Somehow, I willed myself to stay conscious and called out to people passing by who brought me to the hospi-

tal," Mr Shah shared with Summit Times.

He says that it was too dark for him to recognize the person who shot him.

"I could not see the person who shot me as it was dark. I just saw a shadow of a person move away from the general direction of where I think the bullet was fired from," he said.

"I have no any idea who shot me or for what reason," he said.

It is informed that the victim is currently out of danger, but the bullet has not been extracted from his leg due to lack of blood. It is informed that the operation to extract the bullet from the leg is scheduled for Tuesday.

Sadar Thana has registered a case under section 307 of the Indian Penal Code [Attempt to Murder] and section 27 of Arms Act 1959. The case is under investigation.

GJM Yuva Morcha starts fast-unto-death in hills

DARJEELING (WB), JULY 21 (PTI): The youth wing of the GJM began a hunger strike today on the 37th day of the indefinite agitation in the Darjeeling hills to press for the demand of a separate state of Gorkhaland out of West Bengal.

Thirteen GJM Yuva Morcha activists started a fast-unto-death at four places - Kurseong, Kalimpong, Darjeeling and Sonada.

GJM Yuva Morcha president Prakash Gurung told PTI that 13 members began the strike initially and their number would increase gradually.

"We will continue our fight till Gorkhaland is achieved," Gurung said.

Meanwhile, the 30-member Gorkhaland Movement Coordination Committee (GMCC), a body of hill parties, which has postponed its decision to hold hunger strike till its next meeting in New Delhi on August 1, said it had nothing to do with the hunger strike.

"The GJM Yuva morcha is doing this hunger strike on its own. It has nothing to do with

GMCC," a GMCC member said. This despite the fact that the GJM leadership threw its support for the hunger strike by its youth wing.

Meanwhile, GNLFF and other hill parties today lodged a missing complaint against Darjeeling MP and BJP leader SS Ahluwalia who, they alleged, "has not been seen in the hills in the last few months."

"The hills are burning. We want to know where is our MP.

He has been missing for the last few months. We have not seen him since the unrest began in the hills. So we have filed a missing complaint," a GNLFF leader said.

Ahluwalia could not be contacted for a reaction.

The supporters of the GJM and other hill parties also held a demonstration today outside the district magistrate's office demanding restoration of Internet services which remained suspended.

Some political party activists, dressed in traditional Nepali attire, took out rallies in the morning.

CM to be conferred honorary Doctorate by SU

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 JUL: Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling, will be conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy [Honoris Causa] during the 4th Convocation ceremony of Sikkim University to be held at Chintan Bhawan in Gangtok on 22 July.

A press release from SU informs that Chancellor of the University, Justice [Retired] Ruma Pal, will preside over the convocation function along with Honorary Research Chair Professor of IP Law, Nirma University, Professor Shannad Basher, as chief guest.

Also attending the function will be Governor & Chief Rector of the University, Shrinivas Patil, and Mr Chamling.

Under Graduate and Post Graduate students **turn to pg06**

Govt withdraws bill on North East Council from RS, to bring new one

NEW DELHI, JUL 21 (PTI): The government today withdrew from the Rajya Sabha a bill to further amend the North Eastern Council Act, 1971 and may introduce a new bill in its place soon.

The North-Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, 2013 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on March 11, 2013 by the previous Congress regime.

The Upper House gave its nod to Minister of State for Development of North Eastern region (DONER) Jitendra Singh for withdrawing the bill, but did not introduce another one in its place.

The Act sets up the North-Eastern Council (NEC) to ensure balanced and coordinated development among the north eastern states.

turn to pg02

HRD Minister inaugurates Atal Tinkering Lab at TNSSS

GANGTOK, 21 JUL [IPR]: Minister of Human Resource Development Department, RB Subba, inaugurated the Atal Tinkering Labs of Government Schools and Robotic Workshop today at Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School.

The two-day workshop is being organized by IIT Guwahati, under NITI Aayog, for seven Government Senior Secondary Schools of Sikkim namely Tashi Namgyal SSS, Namchi SSS, Namchi Girls' SSS, Yangang SSS, Temi SSS, Sombaria SSS, and Kyongsa Girls' SSS.

After the inauguration of Atal Tinkering Lab, the chief guest along with Principal Secretary-HRDD, senior officials, principals, teachers of various government schools visited and examined the various demonstrations by the students.

While addressing the gathering, Mr Subba said that this is a very unique and innovative programme by NITI Aayog where students are being motivated and given opportunity to explore their capability and creativity. He also urged the teachers to give proper guidance and create a platform to foster their talent and innovations.



Atal Tinkering Lab are workspaces where young minds can work with equipments and kits to understand the concepts of science, technology, engineering and math and he said that the objective of setting up such labs is to foster curiosity, creativity in young minds and inculcate skills such as design mind set, computational thinking and adaptive learning. Thus, he advised the students to take full advantage of the facilities being provided to them.

Secretary, HRDD, GP Upadhyaya, expressed his gratitude and said that brilliant programmes and schemes have always been provided by the central and state government and students need to grab such opportunities. He urged them to work hard so that they can utilize all the schemes which the state government has provided which will help them achieve their goals in the long run.

He also talked about the aims/missions of Atal Tinkering

Labs where young minds can give shape to their ideas and get a chance to work with tools and equipments to understand the concepts of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math [STEM].

Power point presentations were made during the event by PD Chettri [Physics Post Graduate Teacher-TNSSS] and Tarun Ballah [CEO, Building Blocks, New Delhi].

The vote of thanks was delivered by Principal of Temi SSS, Dushyant Tamang.

Martyrs' Day occasion, but it is BJP all the way!

SUDIPTA CHANDA SILIGURI, 21 JUL:

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday declared war against the BJP, pledging to send the saffron party into political exile.

And, while doing so, she also hinted of an alliance with the Congress, which in the present circumstances looks significant.

The Trinamool observes July 21 as Martyrs' Day. Speaking at a party rally in Kolkata on the occasion, Mamata declared her party would launch a 'BJP Quit India' movement starting August 9, which would continue for the month.

She also sounded a word of caution against the forces that have turned the Darjeeling hills restive claiming that those pulling strings from Delhi to keep the hill conflagration alive would not be able to continue for long.

While such development was in progress in Kolkata, a different script unfolded in Delhi in which, the Parliamentary Affairs minister, Ananth Kumar squarely blamed Mamata and her policies for the unrest in the Darjeeling hills.

Mamata's diatribe against the BJP on Friday was all-encompassing. Blaming the

BJP and by extension Prime Minister Narendra Modi for practically all problems in the country, Mamata chided her supporters to ensure Modi did not return to power after the next general elections.

Political parties have their agenda and the schema of one political party does not necessarily have to dovetail into another's. But, the all-consuming attack Mamata launched against the BJP on Friday, both in context of the state and country, exposes she is worried with the BJP's progress in West Bengal and therefore needed to activate the rank and file against the saffron brigade particularly with panchayat elections due in 2018.

The BJP has made major inroads in several parts of West Bengal including areas bordering Bangladesh, which has a reason. In a major departure from the past when Bangladeshis of all hue and community used to sneak into India primarily for economic reasons, infiltration in recent times is more on religious lines.

Settling along the border, these new arrivals threaten to upset the community equilibrium that existed along the Bangladesh border, which is leading to friction as happened a fortnight ago at the Barasat area in North 24 Parganas. These new settlers

are swelling up the BJP support base posing a headache for the Trinamool.

Moreover, after the almost clean sweep in Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, the BJP top brass has declared to turn attention towards east India with special focus on West Bengal and Bihar for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Mamata Banerjee has sensed what is coming and so the message of alert for her supporters. But, her soft stand towards the Congress beggars curiosity.

The West Bengal Congress is rabidly anti-Mamata and if forced by its national leadership to accept an alliance with the Trinamool, the Congress might witness a rebellion in the state, if not disintegrate. Moreover, the Congress has an unwritten adjustment with the CPI-M in the state and the Marxists would simply not enter any political negotiation with Mamata's Trinamool.

Coming together on a national cause like demonetization or President election is one thing, but forging a political alliance to contest elections even to stymie the BJP, is a different ball game.

A national alliance therefore might be in Mamata's dream to stall the BJP, but the slips between the cup and the lip may be too many.

World Heritage Centre concerned about DHR, damage to its stations



DARJEELING (WB), JULY 21 (PTI): The World Heritage Center (WHC) has expressed concern over Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) in view of the ongoing violence by GJM and may bring it to the attention of World Heritage Committee when it meets next year.

It has already sent two letters to the Centre to verify the nature and extent of the damage caused to two stations of DHR by GJM supporters in the ongoing indefinite shutdown in Darjeeling Hills, WHC director, Mechthild Rossler told PTI.

The letters have also inquired about the overall state of conservation of the DHR, she said adding UNESCO is ready to provide assistance to India in its efforts to safeguard this "invaluable

heritage".

The WHC is a coordinator within UNESCO for all matters related to world heritage and Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, which was built between 1879-1881 and was declared a World Heritage Site by the UN agency in 1999.

"Please let me assure you that the UNESCO World Heritage Centre is following with concern the outbreak of civil unrest in Darjeeling Hill. We have received reports of arson attacks at the Ghayabari and Sonada stations as well as of an arson attempt at the Elysia Building, all of which are important elements of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), a component part of the serial World Heritage property 'Mountain Railways of India'," she said in **turn to pg02**

Tendong Lho Rum Faat celebration at Daramdin this year

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 JUL:

A meeting of the Executive Body of Renjyong Mutanchi Rong Tarjum [Sikkim Lepcha Association] was held at Kurmoo Lee in TNS-SS Road, Gangtok, on 20 Jul in order to discuss the preparations for the upcoming Tendong Lho Rum Faat 2017 which falls on 08 Aug.

An RMRT press release informs that the celebration this year has been proposed to be organized at Daramdin in West Sikkim and the preparatory works for the same has already been started in collaboration with the West district branch of RMRT. President of RMRT has appealed to all to attend the function and be a part of the grand celebration.

ICAR Tadong observes Maize Day

GANGTOK, 21 JUL [PIB]: ICAR-National Organic Farming Research Institute, Tadong, observed Maize Day on 20 Jul in order to showcase the technologies to the state government officials and farming community of Sikkim.

Special Secretary-Rural Management & Development Department, Dr Senthil Kumar of Sikkim attended the function as chief guest while Chief Executive Officer- Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency, Dr Yashoda Pradhan, was the guest of honour.

In his inaugural speech, Dr Kumar applauded the role of ICAR-NOFRI in Sikkim with outstanding research contributions, better cooperation and collaborative programmes for the betterment of Sikkim farmers. He urged the farming community for production, processing and val-



ue addition for efficient marketing for higher returns of their commodities. He also requested the gathering to adopt organic package and practices for maize in system mode.

Guest of honour, Dr Pradhan, briefed about the procedure for certification of different

crops. She elaborated in detail the functioning of the SSOCA. She also discussed the NPOP guidelines for adoption of certification process.

In the Farmers' Scientists Interaction programme, Joint Director-ICAR NOFRI, Dr RK Avasthe, briefed about the Central Government

sponsored schemes like Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna, Paramparagat Krishi Vikash Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana in the presence of state government officials.

The state officials suggested suitable measures to be undertaken for the problems raised

by the farmers during interaction. After the farmers - scientist interaction, improved technologies were showcased to the farmers at Research Farm. The interaction session was convened by Boniface Lepcha [Subject Matter Specialist-Horticulture, KVK East Sikkim].



Each Friday Field Day team visits schools in South

SUMMIT REPORT NAMCHI, 21 JUL:

Under 'Each Friday Field Day', a team led by District Collector-South visited various schools of Ravangla, Borong and Kewzing today. The team comprised of Joint Director-HRDD, Sub Divisional Magistrate-Jorethang, Deputy Director-HRDD, Additional District Collector-Development [Ravangla], Deputy Director- Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Block Development Officer-Ravangla and other officials of different departments.

A press release from DC-South informs that the DC inaugurated the newly constructed Science Block Building of VGCL Ravangla Government School during the visit. The visiting team observed the requirement of protection of weak areas as there was a sinking zone right in front of the newly constructed building of the school. The upgradation work for the same has been sanctioned.

The team further observed that some students of VGCL Ravangla had problems in solving mathematical problems and the Principal has been directed to continue with remedial classes. A small programme to celebrate the formal inauguration of Science Block was also held.

Joint Director-HRDD, in his brief speech, informed that CBSE pattern has changed. Hence, the students have to score 33 out of 80 marks to pass. He requested the teachers to keep conducting class tests to help the students. He urged the students to work hard towards excellence. He informed that interview for the post of Principal is being conducted and a new able Principal shall be transferred to the school soon.

The DC South con-

gratulated the students on the inauguration of a new Science Block and urged the teachers to select various categories of students for improvement. On the basis of this, the appropriate teaching technique for different levels of students is to be used, he added.

The team then visited Borong Secondary School. It is informed that the school has been adopted under DISHA, a flagship programme envisaged by the District Administration. The footpath here had been washed out by heavy rainfall. The ceiling of MDM and Meeting Hall was also in deplorable condition. Hence, the repair and restoration works was sanctioned under DLRC in convergence with MGNREGA.

The DC-South and his team visited Kewzing Senior Secondary School. Kewzing SSS has been nominated for the Best School Awards 2017. The BDO informed that the school flooring has been sanctioned through Zilla fund already. The DC South has urged the Principal to focus more on 9th and 10th Standard students and conduct frequent remedial classes in Mathematics. The school footpath, floor repairing and protection of weak areas sanctioned on spot in convergence with MGNREGA and DLRC.

The team also visited Handmade Paper Industry run by Borok Polok Cooperative Society and supported by Sikkim Development Foundation and Aus Aid.

At the end of the visit, the DC-South visited Badminton Court at Parking Complex in Ravangla. The public have requested for laying mat on the court. The DC South has informed that LED lighting and mat will be provided under Corporate Social Responsibility activities.

Inner Wheel Club conducts plantation drive at Marchak

NITESH R PRADHAN GANGTOK, 21 JUL:

The Inner Wheel Club of Gangtok today held a plantation drive of Phoenix Rupicola [Cliff Date Palm] at Marchak in East Sikkim. This drive is in line with 'Vanamahotsav' being observed this month.

The Phoenix Rupicola is a flowering tree of Palm family found in Himalayan ranges of Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan. However, this particular variety of tree is now facing habitat loss in its natural home.

Plant saplings were provided by In-charge of GB Panth Institute, Sikkim, Dr Mitlesh Singh, who attended the programme as chief guest.

"This is a small step towards protecting our environment," said Sunita Sirohia of the organising team.

Vanamahotsav is organised in India to raise awareness about the importance of trees. The festival was started in the 1950s and has continued since then.



Highlighting the importance of trees in today's time, Ms Sirohia has said that Sikkim should be kept clean and green like it is today for future generations to witness.

She also added that near extinct plant and tree species need to be protected and conserved.

"The focus should now not just be in planting random trees but variants that are natural to

the ecology of the surroundings," she said.

She also hoped that more people plant trees and such awareness drives continue to take place.

Trucks return to business of supplying Sikkim

GANGTOK, 21 JUL: There has been an improvement in the flow of trucks carrying goods to Sikkim from Siliguri over the past few days, inform truckers.

Earlier this month, several trucks carrying goods to Sikkim had been targeted at various locations in Siliguri following which there was a sharp drop in the movement of trucks along the highway.

"The number of trucks plying to Sikkim from Siliguri has now increased to 300-400 per day over the past few days. No reports of truck vandalism or any other incidents have come up lately and this has led to more trucks plying to Sikkim," informed All Sikkim Truck Drivers Association president, Mingma Sherpa.

Mr Sherpa further added that West Bengal police is extending safe passage to trucks ferrying goods to Sikkim. Police at Siliguri is providing escort to the trucks from Siliguri market areas to Salugara.

"Trucks registered with both Sikkim and West Bengal Governments are transporting food supplies, construction materials and essential commodities to Sikkim now," adds Mr Sherpa.

Govt withdraws bill on North East Council from RS, to bring new one

contd from pg01

The NEC comprises Governors and Chief Ministers of the constituent states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.

The bill also seeks amendment to the Act to reflect the change in the Department of Development of North-Eastern Region, which was formed within the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2001, and has been upgraded to full-fledged Ministry in 2004.

The Act redefines the functions of the

NEC as a regional planning body for the north eastern region, include Sikkim as a member state of the NEC and provide for three members and the Chairman of the Council to be nominated by the President.

Meanwhile, a number of private member's bills were introduced in the Rajya Sabha today, which included one seeking to amend the Constitution to provide adequate housing to all citizens in the country.

Another bill seeks to protect individual liberty, right of association, movement and bodily integrity and the right of adults

to choose their own partners in marriage and to prevent victimisation by prohibiting unlawful assemblies and other conducts interfering with matrimonial alliances in the name of honour and tradition.

Another bill seeks to provide for removal of hunger and malnutrition and prevention of starvation deaths while another sought to prohibit growing of water intensive crops and setting up of thermal power plants and other water-intensive industries in water scarce regions of Marathwada, Vidharba, Bundelkhand and other such regions.

World Heritage Centre...

contd from pg01

an e-mail. "... Should the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage property remain under threat, the state of conservation of the Mountain Railways of India may be brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018," Rossler said.

Railways officials and tour operators expressed concern over the damage to DHR, which is commonly known as 'toy train' and is a major attraction for tourists, in the agitation. But the GJM, which is leading the indefinite shutdown, remained indifferent.

"Due to the unrest in the hills since mid-June,

we have been unable to run any sort of service of the DHR and its revenue has dropped sharply. The destruction of several DHR stations has worsened the situation. We are suffering huge losses," the Chief Public Relations Officer of Northeast Frontier Railway Pranav Jyoti Sharma told PTI.

The tour operators say the toy train and its quaint stations are among the major USPs of tourism in the scenic Himalayan town and it was necessary to protect them.

"If the DHR services are not maintained or are stopped, tourism in Darjeeling will be badly hit," chairman of eastern chapter of Travel Agents Federation of India, Anil

Punjabi told PTI.

"You are talking about losses of DHR, but what about the loss of lives of nine pro-Gorkhaland supporters?" GJM general secretary Roshan Giri shot back when contacted by the news agency.

He alleged that it was the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal who have destroyed DHR property to "malign" GJM.

Countering his allegations, state tourism minister and senior TMC leader Gautam Deb said, "The GJM claims that it is fighting for the heritage of the Gorkhas. Is the toy train not part of the heritage of Darjeeling? Then why are they trying to destroy it? What will they get out of it?"

SHREE VENKATESHWARA

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Gangtok on Saturday, 22 July

Temp: 25°C / 18°C
Forecast: A couple of morning t-showers followed by a thundershower in parts of the area in the afternoon.
Sunrise: 04:52 AM
Sunset: 06:31 PM

'Toilet...' leaks online, Akshay urges fans to say no to piracy

MUMBAI, JUL 21 (PTI): Ahead of its August 11 release, Akshay Kumar's much awaited project "Toilet-Ek Prem Katha", has been leaked online and the actor has asked his fans to support him in the fight against piracy.

On Friday, few reports suggested that the movie featuring Akshay and Bhumi Pednekar was available online, and choreographer Remo D'Souza brought it to the notice of the filmmakers.

Remo confirmed the news to a leading daily and said that he has informed the producers about the same.

"The fight against piracy is critical and it's reassuring to see the swift action taken by the Crime Branch on the unfortunate incident involving our film "Toilet-Ek Prem Katha.

"I would like urge my friends, colleagues, fans and audiences to please say no to piracy. Thank you all for support," Akshay, 49, posted on Twitter.

The movie, directed by Shree Narayan Singh, is based on a love story against the backdrop of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Supreme Court allows SMIMS to take in 100 students this year as well

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 JUL:

The Supreme Court has allowed the Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences here to provisionally admit 50 MBBS students in excess of the sanctioned limit of 50 MBBS students despite objections raised by the Medical Council of India. SMIMS will thus continue to take in 100 students for the new MBBS batch as well.

The apex court has directed that the order passed on 31 Aug 2016, which granted the Institute permission for additional 50 seats, shall

apply for the present academic year as well.

The three bench judge comprising of Justice Dipak Misra, Justice AM Khanwilkar, and Justice Mohan M. Shantanagoudar of the Supreme Court, in its Order passed on 17 July last week, directs that, "Regard being had to the totality of the facts and circumstances of the case, we are inclined to direct that the order and direction passed on 31st August 2016 shall apply for the present academic year."

The apex court had modified the Sikkim High Court Order of 26

May 2015, granting stay on Medical Council of India's Show Cause Notice for revoking or withdrawing the recognition granted for 50 additional medical seats at SMIMS. The apex court also directed its Registrar General's Office to list the matter for 22 November for final hearing.

Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, senior counsel appearing for the petitioner, submitted that last year, while allowing the Institute additional 50 medical seats, the Apex Court had said that, "...needless to say, any resultant effect of the counselling shall be subject to result of the special

leave petition. The counselling shall take place for filling up of 50 seats. Be it clarified, the Medical Council of India had already granted recognition which is in vogue for 50 seats. We are granting permission for additional 50 seats as similar interim orders have been passed from time to time, regard being had to the special features of the case."

It may be mentioned here that the Medical Council of India had filed a Special Leave Appeal against the Sikkim High Court's stay order passed on 26 May 2015. The MCI had challenged the High Court's or-

der allowing admission to 100 MBBS students against 50 intake seats allotted to the Institute.

The apex court, on 10 June 2015, while modifying the High Court direction, had asked SMIMS to make a specific mention in the admission cards that the admissions shall be subject to the result of the writ petition pending before it. The Court has also asked the Institute to clearly mention that these provisionally admitted students shall not be entitled to claim any equity in the event that the institute lost the case.

Officials check stock of essential commodities in bazaar areas of East Dist

GANGTOK, 21 JUL [IPR]: An inspection of all the bazaar areas of East District was conducted today. The Special Task Force constituted as per the provisions of section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 comprising of SDM Gangtok, Joint Director [Food & Civil Supplies Department], Food Inspector, ASI inspected the wholesale and retail stores in Sang and Ranipool bazaar.

Similarly, teams headed by SDMs of Rangpo and Rongli along with respective SDPOs and officials from Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department inspected, Rangpo, Majhitara, Rhenock and Rongli bazaars. The inspections



were carried out in continuation of the checking being done by the District Administration, East Sikkim along with the Food,

Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department to ensure that malpractices such as black marketing, hoarding, over pricing

are curbed and sufficient supplies of essential commodities are available in the market for the public. During the inspection

at Sang and Ranipool bazaars, it was found that there is adequate supply of essential commodities and the situation has

REGISTER YOUR COMPLAINT

At Control Room, MG Marg: You can register your complaints and grievances regarding shortage of essential commodities in the district. Call at **03592-204995** from **8 a.m. till 8 p.m.**

improved tremendously. Stock of rice, sugar, etc., was also checked and while rice was found to be sufficient in these places, there was some shortage in sugar stocks. Adequate stock of essential commodities was found in Rangpo, Majhitara, Rongli and Rhenock bazaars.

The teams also checked the Fair Price Shops and their issue

registers and ensured that rate board with government approved rates were displayed at all the shops. The shops where such rate boards were not displayed have been warned and directed to comply with the instruction at the earliest. Vegetable vendors have also been asked to display the rate boards as well.

It was observed that the stock position of essential commodities in the district is improving day by day. However, it was also decided that surprise checking would be conducted at places where complaints have been registered for over pricing so that fluctuation in prices can be avoided.

Demand in LS for repeal of AFSPA from north eastern states

NEW DELHI, JULY 21 (PTI): A demand was made in the Lok Sabha today by a Congress member for repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) from north eastern states like Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

Congress member Ninog Ering also took a dig at the government for its "agreement" with NSCN(I-M) militant outfit reached about two years back, saying its details were shrouded in secrecy.

turn to pg05

Miss Sikkims line up for Sunday showdown

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 JUL:

The top-16 finalists of Playwin Miss Sikkim 2017 are all set for the grand finale scheduled for Sunday evening. The fourth edition of the event is being organised by a Gangtok-based event management company, Positude, themed 'Value Education'.

The finalists have been shortlisted from around 300 contestants who participated in the audition rounds held at Gangtok and Namchi recently. The final-16 have been undergoing grooming sessions being conducted by experts from within and outside the State since 13 July.

In an interaction session with media persons here today, contestants shared that the Miss Sikkim platform provided them with an opportunity to explore and move



ahead with their passions and interests.

They added that the grooming sessions have proved very helpful in boosting their confidence and helping them in overall development.

Positude CEO, Gyurmiela Bhutia, mentioned that earlier the grand finale was scheduled for

22 July has been postponed to 23 July following the week-long state mourning on the passing away of former Chief Minister, Nar Bahadru Bhandari.

"We are proud to have been associated with Miss India since last year and the top-ten of Miss Sikkim will participate in

the zonal round of Miss India this year," she said.

The event has a fashion designer from Nepal, Manish Rai, a Manipuri Transgender beauty queen, Bishesh Huirem, the reigning Miss Diva- Miss India Universe, Roshmitha Harimurthy, a lecturer of Sikkim University, Dr

Swati Akshay Sachdeva and Bollywood Assistant Director, Dorji Phempu as judges.

The event also has an experienced fashion choreographer and make-up artists from Nagaland, Johnny D' Ascoli. Anjali Chettri and Yougan Tamang are hosts for the grand finale.

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HIGHER I 7.15AM - 9.15AM	BASIC II 11.00AM - 1.00PM	BASIC I 1.30PM - 3.15PM
Visiting Times : 9.00am - 12.00pm & 3.00pm - 6.00pm Daily including Sunday until 27th July	For further information go to Stepwise English Language Centre facebook page	BASIC I 4.45PM - 6.30PM OR BASIC II / BASIC III 4.45PM - 6.45PM

INVITING RATION DONATIONS FOR EDITH WILKINS STREET CHILDREN FOUNDATION, DARJEELING

The Edith Wilkins Street Children Foundation in Darjeeling is home to 70 orphan children. Due to the ongoing strike this orphanage is running out of essential supplies and have requested for our help and support.

We at Orphanage Relief Darjeeling are trying to raise relief supplies and would appreciate any help either in cash or kind. They have requested the following items: rice, atta, milk powder, oil, biscuits, soyabean nuggets, chana-mattar and tea leaves.

The pick-up points for your contributions are:

1. Orient Pharmacy (Dr.Chettri's clinic), M.G.Marg
2. Pick N Pack, Deorali
3. Rachna Books, Development Area

Alternatively, if you give us a call on the number below we can arrange a pick-up. We are aiming to send the supplies by the end of this week. For further information, questions please contact: 7679654427.

Donors are also urged to leave behind their contact details so that we can keep them updated about the relief effort.

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE SIX

Sikkim Sidelined on Sikkim Sector Issues

But spare a thought for Bhutan as well – it's their territory that the neighbours are fighting over

The standoff at Dokala is now more than a month old. Indian and Chinese soldiers, news-reports generated from Delhi and Beijing inform us, are bristling eyeball to eyeball, pushing and shoving each other on Bhutanese territory which, we are told, would provide China strategic leverage over India in the "Sikkim Sector" if it were to fall permanently under Chinese boots.

The Dokala pass, as this section has mentioned in the past, sits on the Sikkim-Bhutan border, the last pass on this alignment of the Cho-La range. The next pass, Batang La, leads into Tibet Autonomous Region of China after which follow, in sequence, Jelepala, Nathula and Chola. Beyond Dokala lies the Doklam pasture, which media reports continue to insist is a plateau even though high school geography would tell us that it cannot be one. Be that as it may, ever since tension peaked over the Chinese road-building exercise in the Doklam meadows, save the smartphone video grab of Indian and Chinese soldiers trying to push each other off Bhutanese soil, all information, updates, claims and posturing have come from either New Delhi or Beijing. Accepted that this is a Defence and MEA issue, but hello, the staging ground is in Sikkim. The people living in the shadow of Dokala and the villages which have been advised to evacuate are in Sikkim. It is unfortunate that no one has bothered to brief the Sikkimese people directly about what is cooking up there. The army brass stationed in Sikkim should have thought it worthwhile to reassure the Sikkimese that its territorial integrity was not in peril and conveyed to the people here what the State could extend by way of support to the faujies deployed at Doklam and the rest of the "Sikkim Sector". No one expects the concerned agencies – Defence and MEA – to share their battle plans or strategy with lay people (so long as they have a plan i.e.), but communication is necessary not only to ensure that the people have the army's back, but also because they have a right to hear things directly from the horse's mouth since they sit in the theatre where the drama is being played out.

Sikkim could have taken the first step with its elected representatives reaching out to the army here and seeking not just an update, but also reiterating what is always a standing offer of extending any support that the armed forces might require. It is possible that such a communication has taken place, but it is of no use to the people if they are not told about it. It is also unfortunate that there have been no comments in the public domain about the tension in the East. The CM's throwaway mention in the "sandwich" analogy and the Oppositions immature repartee do not count as comments. To qualify as a comment, a position needs to be taken. There will be no surprises in the position Sikkim takes on Dokala or its soldiers there, but a comment still needs to be made. And no, claiming that the incident is playing out in Bhutan and is hence out of Sikkim's jurisdiction or because it is the concern of the armed forces and the MEA is no excuse. The entire exercise is being mounted from Sikkim, so the State has the right, in fact a responsibility towards itself and the country to say something. The Army should also reach out, even as a PR exercise, to take the people into confidence. If they don't, rumours will circulate, and that can never be good for a situation like this.

But all of Sikkim's "feelings" pale in comparison to what the average Bhutanese must be feeling about the situation. It is there land that has become contentious, and even though it has other sectors where the border areas with China need to be settled, Doklam is perhaps the only one in which it has been elbowed out into silent spectator status. It is Chinese and Indian soldiers in a stand-off on Bhutanese soil, and from available information, there is no Bhutanese army presence there. My research into diversity and literature — specifically representations of Muslims therein — indicates that this isn't a passing trend. Racialized writers are being charged with writing their own narratives and consumers are indicating their desire to read them.

In fact, education researchers have long touted the benefits of using culturally relevant materials and lesson plans in North American classrooms to reflect a real student body. Students are diverse: they come from different races and religions; their orientations and genders vary. Their reading materials should reflect such diversity.

Teachers hoping to foster inclusivity and equitable practices in their classrooms realize that when schooling speaks to all, it can lead to more democratic spaces and, by extension, a more just society.

But culturally relevant materials are hard to find — not only because culture itself is a complex and nuanced entity but also because the materials themselves don't typically exist in white mainstream platforms.

WRITE US: Readers are invited to comment on, criticize, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence.

Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

JASON HANNAN
theconversation.com

Last month, the New York Times took on the seemingly impossible task of counting the lies of Donald Trump. To make this task manageable, they counted all the lies over the course of his first six months in office. They arrived at a grand total of 100 lies. And that's without even including in their count such categories as the president's "dubious statements" and "careless errors."

It is difficult to imagine a more demoralizing job than counting the lies of a man commonly labelled a pathological liar. The lies have left us numb. We have grown accustomed, passive, and helpless before them. We fully expect the lies as surely as we expect the sun to rise and fall.

So how did we get here? How did we arrive in this Twilight Zone, in which the norms of public discourse appear to have broken down — this alternate universe in which brazen lies and grotesque spectacles of incivility feel like the new normal?

WHO'S TO BLAME?

There are at least two ways of framing the problem. One is to zero in on the media, that is, on journalism. This way of framing the problem sees fake news as the primary culprit. If only we could find some way of keeping fake news in check, this line of reasoning goes, we could restore some order and rationality to our public discourse. Presumably, then, the answer lies in more aggressive fact-checking on the part of traditional journalism and greater media literacy on the part of the public.

A second way of framing the problem is to focus on media, that is, on technologies of communication. This way of framing the problem sees the dominant media of the age, not their content, as the primary culprit. According to this second line of reasoning, if only we could understand how our dominant media shape not just content, but the entire affective structure of public discourse, we might come to appreciate the nature and severity of our present chaos.

Both ways of framing the problem have their respective merits. But between the media and media, which, if either, can be said to be the driver behind what has come to be known as our post-truth world?

DEMOCRACY AS ENTERTAINMENT

In his 1985 book, *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*, Neil Postman offered an early version of the second view. Taking his cue from the media theorist Marshall McLuhan, Postman argued that public discourse had been recreated in the image of television. American democracy had become a form of entertainment — equal parts sitcom, soap opera, and tabloid TV — in which the trivial and the superficial had come to hold greater persuasive power than the logical and the factual.

Television, Postman claimed, offered nothing less than a "philosophy of rhetoric," a theory of persuasion according to which truth is decided by en-

tertainment value. The more entertaining a public figure, the more persuasive the message. Postman, of course, wrote in a more innocent time, the age of Ronald Reagan. Would that he had written in the age of Donald Trump.

We can extend Postman's argument about television to social media. If television turned politics into entertainment, then social media might be said to have turned it into a giant high school, replete with cool kids, losers and bullies. The presidencies of both Barack Obama and Donald Trump are very much social media presidencies. But they tell two different stories.

Obama represents the more positive, rosy, feel-good story of social media. He was wildly popular on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, displaying a tech-savviness that put his rivals John McCain and Mitt Romney to shame. Obama's photogenic appearance, witty humour, sense of irony, knowledge of popular culture, friendships with Beyoncé and Jay-Z, and impressive grace under pressure made him a social media natural.

But Obama's social media success turned out to be a curse for his party. His fellow Democrats arrogantly assumed that the future belonged to them — that social media was the terrain of a younger generation of liberal hipsters fluent in irony, memes and hashtags — all the while assuming that conservatives were a largely clueless generation of technologically challenged old people scarcely able to make sense of the exotic world of "the Facebooks," "the Twitters" and "the Snap Chaps."

CONSERVATIVES AS NEW REBELS

They could not have been more wrong. What they failed to recognize was the rise of the alt-right, a new generation of conservatives equally as cyber-savvy as their liberal counterparts, but whose politics are driven by a burning, insatiable rebellion against liberal orthodoxy.

In some sense, we've seen a reversal in the narrative of the culture wars: the rebels of yesterday are said to have become the mainstream, while the new generation of conservatives has become the new rebels, a reversal brilliantly documented by Angela Nagel in her book, *Kill All Normies*.

The alt-right, as Nagel observes, grew out of the subversive culture of 4chan, the obscure image-board on which anonymous users freely post all manner of images, no matter how graphic or tasteless. The anonymity of 4chan early on fostered a spirit of rebellion against authority. What we today know as memes originated on 4chan. Anonymous, the anarchist-hacktivist collective known for its DDoS attacks on government websites, also originated on 4chan. But the same spirit of rebellion that gave birth to Anonymous also gave birth to the alt-right, which formed in reaction to feminist critiques of video games and gamer culture. One of the most vocal supporters of the Gamergate movement was Milo Yiannopoulos, the public, if now disgraced, face of the alt-right.

Trolling ourselves to death in the age of Trump

It's not for nothing that Milo, a self-identified and quite proud troll, led the new generation of conservative rebels in support of Donald Trump, in whom they saw the most effective and consistent force against the tyranny of political correctness. The rest of the 2016 Republican field was just too civil, too submissive before the liberal enemy to warrant their allegiance. Donald Trump, however, was the real deal: a man whose irreverence toward liberal propriety and whose absolute lack of principle made him the perfect instrument against the enemy.

TWITTER WARS

If Facebook is a high-school popularity contest, then Twitter is a schoolyard run by bullies. It is the medium in which both Milo and Trump honed their craft as trolls. Although originally designed as a social tool, Twitter soon devolved into an anti-social hellscape. The 140 characters are hardly conducive to civil disagreement. They do, however, lend themselves to reactionary, paranoid behaviour: vicious insults that seek to hurt and offend, to get under the other's skin, to find their weak spot, to stick the knife in and violently twist it to exact the maximum degree of psychological torment.

It's difficult not to get pulled into the black hole of Twitter trolling. Even the most dignified users will feel tempted to respond to vicious personal attacks. Twitter wars have become a kind of media spectacle in themselves, worthy of full-blown news coverage, often with headlines like, "...and Twitter lets [him/her/them] have it."

WHOEVER INSULTS HARDEST WINS

The problem is that trolling has gone mainstream. It is no longer confined to the darker corners of the internet. The president of the United States is a troll. It is not a wild exaggeration to say that American public discourse is being recreated before our eyes in the light of Twitter.

We are witnessing the birth of a new political game, in which one of the primary moves is the act of trolling. Politicians now routinely troll each other online. Citizens troll politicians and politicians troll them back. The common denominator in all this white noise is the logic of the insult: whoever insults hardest wins.

The problem with zeroing in on fake news as the culprit for a post-truth world is that it does not explain what's driving the fake news. It would be naive to think that fact-checking and more skepticism of news sources can somehow contain the problem. Indeed, the problem is much deeper.

Revisiting Postman's classic book and applying his insights to social media can go a long way not only in explaining the proliferation of fake news, but also the political tribalism that's pitting citizens against each other. If Postman were alive today, he might be concerned that we are not so much amusing, as trolling ourselves to death.

[The writer is Associate Professor of Rhetoric & Communications, University of Winnipeg]

Put Muslim characters who don't need to be 'saved' on school reading lists

HEBA ELSHERIEF
theconversation.com

As the film industry begins to heed criticisms from places like the "Oscars So White" movement, the advocacy of groups like We Need Diverse Books, with its mission to offer children more books that reflect them and their lives, is making waves in publishing too.

Over the past year, books written by people of colour and featuring multicultural characters made the New York Times young adult best-sellers list.

My research into diversity and literature — specifically representations of Muslims therein — indicates that this isn't a passing trend. Racialized writers are being charged with writing their own narratives and consumers are indicating their desire to read them.

In fact, education researchers have long touted the benefits of using culturally relevant materials and lesson plans in North American classrooms to reflect a real student body. Students are diverse: they come from different races and religions; their orientations and genders vary. Their reading materials should reflect such diversity.

Teachers hoping to foster inclusivity and equitable practices in their classrooms realize that when schooling speaks to all, it can lead to more democratic spaces and, by extension, a more just society.

But culturally relevant materials are hard to find — not only because culture itself is a complex and nuanced entity but also because the materials themselves don't typically exist in white mainstream platforms.

MUSLIM CHARACTERS OFTEN
PORTRAYED AS VICTIMS

Children's stories either written by Muslim writers or featuring Muslim main characters are typically nonexistent or problematic in their representations of Muslim experiences.

This becomes a problem when it comes to creating a school curriculum that truly reflects our society. Materials available to upper/middle grade and high school English teachers generally reinforce negative stereotypes.

Take, for instance, *The Breadwinner* (Ellis, 2000), about an Afghan girl under the Taliban who has to dress up as a boy to support her family. It is frequently found on book lists in Canadian classrooms in an attempt to be inclusive. Yet putting the book on such lists misses the mark.

An analysis of the novel reveals its focus as primarily on the real or imagined plight of "othered" females. That is, this novel, along with others like it, divides the world into a typical "us" and "them" model, as defined in 1978 by cultural critic Edward Said. The novel ends up reinforcing the stereotype of Muslim girls as needing to be saved. Therefore, this is not an empowering narrative for young girls.

Plight narratives, such as the one in *The Breadwinner*, are problematic because they enact a "care ethic" that has been central to the project and history of schooling in the West. It reinforces colonial relations between colonizer and the "inferior," colonized "other." In other words, novels written about a "far away victim" that Western readers need to "save" isn't a very authentic character representation of the everyday experiences for

most young North Americans.

In my research interviews, some students report enjoying such literature but feeling confused about the terrible representations of themselves as Muslim women. These are high level and confusing problems for middle-school children who are still forming their identities. Research shows that young people need to see themselves positively reflected in the books they read.

As well, my research into the responses of young Muslim women to 1000 *Splendid Suns* (Hosseini, 2007) — another novel about Afghan women treated badly — reveals a troubling trend: Muslim girls reading this novel in Grade 8 classrooms were disturbed by the book.

For example, a student in a Toronto-area school told me that, as someone who wears the hijab, references to the burqa in the novel and the inhumane oppression of Muslim women had her non-Muslim classmates feeling either pity for her or ridiculing her culture. The sad part, she said, was that the book was not at all true to her own experiences as a young Muslim woman in Canada. Instead of enhancing her classmates' understanding of her, she felt the book contributed to her feelings of alienation.

AN EXCITING SOLUTION: SALAAM READS AND SAINTS AND MISFITS So, what's a well-intentioned teacher looking to incorporate culturally relevant and sustaining materials in her classrooms to do? In a time when Islamophobic and racist sentiments abound, how might teachers help to counter the negative and harmful rhetoric and real-life harm that's being done?

Simon and Shuster's "Salaam Reads" imprint is an exciting solution. Founded in 2016, it "aims to introduce readers of all faiths and backgrounds to a wide variety of Muslim children and families and offer Muslim kids an opportunity to see themselves reflected positively in published works."

Saints and Misfits is its first contemporary offering. Published this spring, and written by Toronto-based author S.K. Ali, it is a good fit for educators looking for recommendations on what would be a good book to put on their syllabuses.

The book features the nuanced life, struggles, and joys of a Muslim main character. The main character, Janna, is a 15-year-old who loves Flannery O'Connor, photography and her black pashmina hijabs because it's her "feel-good colour."

On a personal level, this book took me back to many of my own experiences as a young woman growing up in Winnipeg's Muslim community. More importantly, my 13-year-old daughter told me she would love to share it with non-Muslim peers in her literature circles at school.

I don't mean to imply that Saints and Misfits is the one representative work for the experiences of all young Muslim women. But the book is an excellent choice. And the "Salaam Reads" imprint plans to publish eight other books for young readers featuring Muslim characters. It is a hopeful solution for teachers who endeavour to bring culturally relevant books into their classrooms.

[The writer is PhD Candidate, Language and Literacies Education, University of Toronto]

60% shortfall of central funds to Assam for flood management: CAG report

NEW DELHI, JUL 21 (PTI): A Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report has observed that there has been a 60 per cent shortfall in release of central funds to Assam for implementing flood management programme.

The report comes at a time when the state is grappling with flood situation in 13 districts in which 73 people have died. Till July 19, five lakh people were affected in the latest wave of floods.

In its report tabled in Parliament today, the CAG noted that the Centre was to share Rs 2043.19 crore with Assam for implementing 141 projects in the state between 2007-08 and 2015-16. Of this, it released Rs 812.22 crore,



a shortfall of Rs 1230.97 crore or 60 per cent.

"There was a shortfall in release of central assistance by 60 per cent. Further, the state govern-

ment also did not release 84 per cent of the allocated budget provision.

Insufficient flow of funds adversely affected the implementation

of schemes," the report said.

The CAG also recommended the Union Water Resources Ministry to release adequate funds in

a timely manner as per flood management programme (FMP) guidelines and impress upon state governments to release funds to executing agencies in a time-bound manner.

The ministry may also maintain a strict vigilance on utilisation of funds by the state government and executing agencies so as to avoid parking and diversion of funds.

"The ministry may release/reimburse the funds to the state governments only after ensuring receipt of statements of expenditure, utilisation certificates and other requisite documents," the report said.

According to the FMP guidelines, the proportion

of central and state share of funds for flood forecasting projects approved up to July 2013 was 75 per cent to 25 per cent.

For the projects sanctioned after July 2013, the proportion of central and state share of funds was to be 50 per cent each.

In the case of special category states (north eastern states, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir) the proportion of central and state share was to be 90 per cent and 10 per cent respectively.

For the projects approved after July 2013, the central and state share was 70 per cent and 30 per cent respectively in case of special category states.



Zeliang wins trust vote in Nagaland Assembly

KOHIMA, JUL 21 (PTI): TR Zeliang today won the trust vote in the Nagaland Assembly, two days after he was reappointed the chief minister amid high drama.

He secured 47 out of the 59 votes in the House which included 36 votes of the NPF, 4 of the BJP and 7 from the Independents, Speaker Intiwapang said.

Former chief minister Shurhozelie Liezietsu bagged 11 votes -- 10 of

the NPF and one Independent, the Speaker said.

He was not present in the assembly as he is not a member.

Zeliang was sworn-in on Wednesday replacing Shurhozelie Liezietsu, who was sacked by Governor P B Acharya.

He was appointed chief minister shortly after Liezietsu and his supporters failed to turn up in the Assembly to face the floor test.

Demand in LS for repeal...

contd from pg03

"There were two big secrets - Why Kattappa killed Baahubali and what was the agreement between the central government and NSCN(I-M). We got the answer why Kattappa killed Baahubali but nobody knows about that agreement...I asked about that but nobody replied," he said while speaking on a private member bill.

"You signed an agreement. It is good but then what is the need for AFSPA now in states like Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. Arunachal is a peace loving state... When you have resolved the issues, then AFSPA should be repealed particularly from the north eastern states," Ering said.

AFSPA gives sweeping powers to the armed forces.

Speaking on the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015, he talked about the plight of scheduled castes in the states and said those people are living in bad condition as they do not have proper infrastructure like schools for children.

Supporting the bill which relates to tribals' welfare, he said amendment is required to promote the overall development of this area.

T Baite (INC) said amendments are required as scenario is changing in the country.



GJM youth begin indefinite fast for Gorkhaland

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 21 JUL:

Three members of the Gorkha Janukti Yuva Morcha, the youth wing of the GJM, began a fast-onto-death at Dambar

Chowk here today. The three are Raju Biswakarma (38) from ward number 5, Sagar Diyali (26) of ward number 11 and Ajit Roka (42) from ward number 15.

In the declaration letter, they explain that they are going on fast to extend a final support to the agitation for statehood.

"We are participating in the programme organised by

Gorkha Jan Mukti Yuva Morcha. The fast organised to acquire the constitutional demand of Gorkhaland will not be withdrawn at any circumstance," the letter states.

Blame game after cross-voting in WB during prez poll

KOLKATA, JULY 20 (PTI): The ruling Trinamool Congress and the opposition Congress and CPI(M) were today engaged in a blame game over cross voting that took place in West Bengal during the presidential poll, with the opposition accusing the TMC of covertly helping the BJP.

The Trinamool Congress has denied the allegation.

President-elect Ram Nath Kovind, who was supposed

to get votes of six MLAs of the West Bengal Assembly - three of GJM and three of BJP - got votes of 11 MLAs which has kicked off a debate among political parties here.

The cross-voting, however, was welcomed by the BJP, which termed it as a signal of "the TMC fast losing ground in Bengal".

Apart from cross-voting, 10 votes from the Assembly were also declared invalid.

The Congress, the Left

Front and the Trinamool Congress had decided to support joint opposition candidate Meira Kumar.

The total number of MLAs of these three parties is 287.

The BJP and its ally the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) each has three MLAs.

"All 211 MLAs of the Trinamool voted for Meira Kumar. We do not know what the legislators of other parties may have done," the TMC said in a statement.

"Why are you asking us? Please ask the CPI(M) and the Congress," a senior TMC leader, who did not wish to be named, told PTI.

The opposition Congress and CPI(M) denied the allegations that its legislators were involved in cross-voting and accused the TMC of "entering into a covert deal with the BJP" in order to save its leaders from CBI probe into Narada and Saradha scams.

"The CBI is investigating the Narada and Saradha scam cases. Several leaders of the TMC have already been summoned.

That is why they have entered into a deal with the BJP in this presidential election. That is why TMC MLAs have cross voted," West Bengal Congress chief Adhir Chowdhury said.

"Earlier also the TMC and the BJP had played a fixed

match in Bengal. In presidential poll also the TMC has helped the BJP through cross-voting and invalid votes," CPI(M) legislative party leader Sujan Chakraborty said.

However, BJP general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya told PTI, "The TMC is fast losing its grip over Bengal and that is their biggest frustration. Leaders and elected representatives of the TMC have started to revolt against the party.

Six telcos understated revenues by over Rs 61,000 cr: CAG

NEW DELHI, JUL 21 (PTI): Bharti Airtel, Vodafone, Idea and three other private telecom firms understated revenues by more than Rs 61,000 crore over five years, resulting in short payment of nearly Rs 7,700 crore in statutory dues to the government, the CAG said today.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) said another Rs 4,531.62 crore was due from the six operators as interest on the short paid revenue share.

Airtel, India's largest telecom operator, Vodafone India, Idea Cellular, Reliance Communications, Aircel understated revenues during 2010-11 to 2014-15 period (for Sistema Shyam the period begins from 2006-07).

This was done through accounting adjustments for commission or discount paid to their distributors, promotional schemes

like free talk time and discounts to post-paid subscribers and on roaming services.

The revenue was understated also by netting of revenue from infrastructure sharing and non-inclusion of forex gains, interest income and sale of investment, the CAG said in a report tabled in Parliament.

CAG calculated that Airtel owes to the government Rs 2,602.24 crore in licence fee and spectrum usage charge (SUC) for 2010-11 to 2014-15. It owes another Rs 1,245.91 crore in interest.

Dues from Vodafone totalled Rs 3,331.79 crore including Rs 1,178.84 crore in interest. For Idea, the statutory dues stood at Rs 1,136.29 crore plus Rs 657.88 crore in interest.

Anil Ambani-led RComm owed a total of Rs 1,911.17 crore (including Rs 839.09 crore interest),

Aircel Rs 1,226.65 crore and SSTL Rs 116.71 crore.

As per the New Telecom Policy, telecom licensees are required to share a percentage of their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) with the government as annual License Fee (LF). In addition, mobile telephone operators were also required to pay Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) for the use of radio frequency spectrum allotted to them.

CAG said the Gross Revenue (GR) of the licensee operator, as per the licence agreement with Department of Telecom, prohibits any set-offs of related expenditure from revenue and norms for preparation of the accounts for payment of revenue share are built into the licence agreement.

"We observed non-conformities with conditions of licence agreement in the accounts pre-

pared by all the six operators covered in the audit due to which their GR computed for sharing revenue with the government was understated," it said.

CAG said even though computation of the GR was not in compliance with the licence agreement, the statutory auditors had always certified that the accounts were prepared in accordance with the guidelines/norms.

"These statements submitted by the operators appeared to be only a perfunctory practice as they consistently departed from the stipulations in the Unified Access Service License (UASL) agreements while computing GR (gross revenue).

"DoT on its part did not take any proactive steps to ensure that the licensees disclosed their revenue as stipulated in the licence agreements," CAG added.

CAG said private service providers employ distributors, dealers, agents and franchisees to sell their prepaid products for customer acquisition and pay commission/discounts to them.

These companies reduced the gross revenue by the amount of commission paid.

Also, promotional offers were not recognised as revenue by the companies while discounts/waivers given to post paid subscribers over and above tariff plans submitted to sector regulator TRAI were deducted from revenue.

Discounts offered to international operators for roaming services were also deducted and so was revenue from infrastructure sharing, CAG said.

Stating that forex gains and interest income were components of revenue, CAG said the

operators excluded them from calculations. Also excluded was profit from sale of investment.

RComm evaded revenue share payment through an arrangement with its subsidiary, CAG said.

Besides, the operators did not include miscellaneous revenue and profit on sale of fixed assets and dividend income in the revenue while claiming deduction on bad debts written off.

The CAG report comes at a time when the large telecom companies are battling challenges on multiple fronts.

The revenue and profitability of established operators have come under severe pressure, following the disruptive entry of Reliance Jio. As it is, the telecom industry owes Rs 6.10 lakh crore to various financial institutions and banks.



Proposed MZP bandh put off in Mizoram

AIZAWL, JUL 21 (PTI): Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP), the apex Mizo students' body, has put off its proposed indefinite bandh after reaching an agreement with the state government that no Chakma students would be admitted in medical colleges under Mizoram quota.

The MZP had given a call for a state-wide indefinite bandh from today until the state government cancelled the counselling for the Chakma students selected to study medicine.

According to the agreement, 11 students of the Mizo community

would be sent to three medical colleges to study MBBS and BDS, and the counselling for the selected candidates, which included four Chakma students, was cancelled, a press release issued by the MZP said.

The police had yesterday dispersed agitating students by using baton and teargas in Aizawl, leaving several students injured.

The students had protested after four students belonging to the Chakma community had entered the venue of the counselling, under police escort.

Court orders de-sealing of suite in which Sunanda Pushkar died

NEW DELHI, JUL 21 (PTI): A Delhi court today ordered de-sealing of a suite in a five-star hotel where Congress leader Shashi Tharoor's wife Sunanda Pushkar was found dead in 2014 under mysterious circumstances.

Metropolitan Magistrate Pankaj Sharma passed the order on a plea by the hotel to de-seal suite number 345.

The hotel has claimed that due to the sealing of the suite, which costs between Rs 55,000 and Rs 61,000 a night, it has suffered a loss of over Rs 50 lakh in the last three years.

It has claimed that a number of times, police and forensic teams had visited the suite and it was no longer required to be kept sealed.

"The hotel continues to suffer loss with each passing day. The continuous sealing of the suite is also affecting the use of other rooms/suites on the same floor," it has said.

The suite was sealed on January 17, 2014 during the investigation into the death of Pushkar. An FIR was registered by Delhi police on January 1, 2015 against unknown persons under the section of 302 (murder).

CM to be conferred honorary...

contd from pg01
who have passed their examinations from the University in 2015 and 2016 and M.Phil and Ph.D students will be conferred degrees during the convocation. More than 100 students will be awarded gold and silver medals, the release adds.

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'Kaurnage' at Derby: Harmanpreet guides India to Grand Finale

DERBY (UNITED KINGDOM), JUL 20 (PTI): Harmanpreet Kaur produced one of the greatest ever ODI knocks in women's cricket as India stormed into the ICC World Cup final, demolishing Australia by 36 runs in the semifinal, here today.

It is only the second time that India have entered the summit clash of the global event, having lost to Australia in the final of the 2005 edition.

Skipper Mithali Raj and senior pacer Jhulan Goswami were part of the Indian team which had lost then in Centurion.

The 'Women In Blue' will meet hosts England in the final at the Lord's on Sunday.

The Indian vice-captain smashed her way to a career-best magical 171 off 115 balls, leaving the Australian bowlers in a daze as India put up an imposing 281 for 4 after rain reduced the match to 42-overs a side.

This was India's highest ever total against the Southern Stars and proved to be match-winning even as Alex Blackwell's power-packed 90 took them to 245 in 40.1 overs.

The day belonged to Harmanpreet as her innings could well be termed as one which will be remembered for years to come. It drew comparisons with Kapil Dev's historic 175 against Zimbabwe at Tunbridge Wells during the 1983 campaign with members of the men's team, including skipper Virat Kohli, showering accolades on her.



Harmanpreet's third ODI century was embellished with 20 fours and as many as seven sixes.

It was also the second highest individual score in ODIs for India behind Deepti Sharma's unbeaten 188 against South Africa earlier this year.

With enough runs on the board, confident Indian seamers Goswami (2/35 in 8 overs) and Shikha Pandey (2/17 in 6 overs) came up with brilliant opening spells.

Opener Beth Mooney and skipper Meg Lanning were cleaned up by Pandey and Goswami respectively.

Elyse Perry (38) and Elyse Vil-

lani (75) added 105 runs for the fourth wicket but it was always a catching up game for the title contenders.

Blackwell however gave some jittery moments, hitting 90 off 56 balls with 10 fours and three sixes before she missed the line off a Deepti Sharma (3/59 in 7.1 overs) delivery, much to the delight of the Indian team.

The Derby Ground proved to be a happy hunting one for Mithali Raj and her team as they won all five matches here.

It was out of the world power-hit-

ting by the girl from Moga district in Punjab -- something that has made her a stand-out player for India.

The milestone from 51 to 100 was reached in 26 balls while she raced to 150 from 101 in mere 17 balls. The sixes flew from her bat with monotonic regularity as the Aussie bowlers had no clue as to what hit them.

After a dry run during the better part of the league stage, India's most sought after T20 cricketer stepped up just when it mattered the most.

What worked to Harmanpreet's advantage was her experience

of playing the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) for Sydney Thunder due to which her familiarity with the current Aussie attack was much more than any other player.

After a useful 60 against New Zealand in the virtual quarter-final, Harmanpreet upped the ante like never before.

She batted like as if there was no tomorrow as she repeatedly hit the troika of left-arm spinner Jess Jonassen (0/63 in 7 overs), off-break bowler Ashleigh Gardner (1/43 in 8 overs) and leg-spinner Kirsten Beans (1/49 in 8 overs) with utter disdain.

Her footwork against the spinners was exemplary as she would repeatedly come down the track to loft them in the arc between long-on and deep mid-wicket.

She seemed in some discomfort with side strain but that did not deter her from targeting the on-side as a whopping 137 runs was added in 13.4 overs along with Deepti Sharma (25) for fourth wicket.

Such was her focus that once she scampered home for a double to complete her hundred, she was seen shouting at Deepti after she flung her helmet in disgust.

She regained her composure, said sorry to a teary-eyed junior and like a woman on mission completely annihilated the opposition bowlers finishing the match as contest by the time they went into the break.

Bhaichung conferred Baroda Sun Achievers Award

SAURABH RAI

SILIGURI, 21 JUL:

Former Indian Football Team Captain, Bhaichung Bhutia, was conferred with the Baroda Sun Achievers Award in Mumbai on 19 Jul.

Along with Bhaichung, five other eminent personalities from various fields were also honored with the Award.

"It was an honor to receive the



award along with respected personalities like Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and the CMB of State Bank of India, Arundhati Bhattacharya," said Bhaichung.

He further informed that along

with the trophy, he was handed a cheque of Rs 10 lakh which he will be donating to his foundation, the Indian Football Foundation, which helps underprivileged children to pursue a career in football.

Manik FC in quarters, Sadarain FC in semis of C-Div league

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 JUL:

Manik Football Club made it to the quarter-final round of the Sikkim Football Association C-Division Sikkim League following and convincing win over Korinthain Football Club 7-1 here at Paljor Stadium today.

Ongdup Lepcha and Pem Tshering Sherpa scored a brace each for Manik FC while their

teammates, Penjor Lepcha, Samten Lepcha and Rinchen Lepcha contributed a goal each in the team's victory. The face-saver for Korinthain FC was scored by Kunhaman Thapa.

In a quarter-final match played today, Sadarain Football Club edged past Sumin Football Club in a tie-breaker. The full time of the match ended in a 2-2

draw. Pranay Gurung and Tshering Norbu scored a goal each for Sumin FC while Suman Dewan and Sagar Subba contributed a goal each for Sadarain FC.

In the tie breaker, Sadarain FC converted three shots while Sumin FC was able to score just two goals. Sadarain FC won the match by 5-4 to secure a berth in the semi-final round.

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Vector-borne diseases claimed 1,010 lives this year

NEW DELHI, JUL 21

(PTI): Vector-borne diseases have claimed 1,010 lives so far this year, including 632 deaths due to H1N1, the government informed the Lok Sabha today.

Stating that there is a broad strategy to control vector-borne diseases, health minister J P Nadda said the government would strengthen surveillance and diagnostic systems.

A total of 632 people died due to influenza (H1N1), while Aedes Aegypti (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) claimed 279 and 60 lives, respectively, this year till July 16, according to data provided by the minister as part of a written reply.

As per data available for this year, while 22 people died on account of dengue till July 9, Malaria claimed the lives of 17 people in 2017 up to May.

Altogether, 1,010 people have died this year due to these vector-borne diseases.

Listing out the steps taken to combat vector-borne diseases, the minister said there is



also coordination with the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) to detect early warning signals such as any upsurge in fever cases or any reports of malaria outbreaks.

Asked whether the government plans to start a national programme in public private partnership mode for prevention of vector-borne diseases, Nadda said there is no such proposal as on date.

He, however, mentioned about the memorandum of understanding between Madhya Pradesh, ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) and Sun Pharma for the malaria elimination initiatives, among other such programmes.

The minister also said the Centre ensures

deputation of teams with specialist doctors to guide and supervise the efforts of the state governments to help in reduction of morbidity and mortality due to the outbreak of vector-borne diseases.

To another question, Nadda said there is no proposal at the ministry level to get ISO certification for primary and community health centres.

"National Quality Assurance Programme (NQAP) has been rolled out, under which quality standards for different health facilities, including primary health centres and community health centres have been defined and these health facilities are assessed against them and certified," he said.

Unwavering Anand to focus on Chess World Cup

C SHYAM SUNDAR

CHENNAI, JUL 21 (PTI): "Retirement" and "stopping" are two words Viswanathan Anand hears quite often these days. But despite 2017 not quite turning out to be his year so far, the chess wizard has not given any thought to quitting.

The 47-year-old former world champion is taking some time off before he gets down to tournament play in St. Louis, USA, where the focus would be on Russian chess legend Garry Kasparov, who is making a surprise return to the game.

Anand has been spending time with his family here and recently watched Roger Federer win his eighth Wimbledon title at 36. The Swiss superstar too had hung in there, despite facing difficult times.

"I had been following Federer at Wimbledon. It turned out to be too easy in the end (the final)," he told PTI about the Swiss' 19th Grand Slam triumph.



"What a difference the new schedule has made to Federer.

He skipped the entire clay court season, the French Open and his march through Wimbledon was amazing," Anand said.

"I just hope to keep working

hard. When one has a tough season it is easy to get thinking. It is important to have stubbornness, keep things going even when down," said the Chennai-born five-time world champion, after a season which has been up-and-down.

"I still believe that I can win tournaments and keep doing well," he said.

Despite modest results and unexpected reverses, Anand said repeated questions about a possible retirement didn't upset him.

"I am used to it these days. I don't get upset. I am not the one asking it," he said in a matter of fact manner.

He finished eighth among 10 players in the Leuven leg of Grand Chess Tour early in July and later missed an opportunity to win his 10th title in Leon, Spain.

He is rather excited about Kasparov's decision to make a comeback and also face him.

"I am curious like everyone to see how he goes. It will be interesting. I am sure that he has not decided to come back all of a sudden. He is not the person to take impulsive decisions. I assume that he has been training for (the St Louis)

event," Anand said.

About the current world champion Magnus Carlsen's dip in form, the Indian ace said, "he has had some tournaments without winning. But he was very convincing in Belgium. It can be very hard to maintain that kind of domination. Also, his rivals have improved. I have been impressed with the form of Aronian and Wesley So in recent times."

Anand, after the St Louis event, will be focusing on the Chess World Cup to be held in Georgia in September. The top two finishers from the tournament will qualify for next year's Candidates tournament which would decide Carlsen's challenger for the 2018 World Championship.

"My first aim is to qualify from the World Cup, which is a tough and unpredictable tournament. It is a very strong event. Once I get through, I will think about the Candidates."

About the talent back home,

Anand said there are quite a few players who have been doing well and picked P Harikrishna, K Sasikiran, Vidit Gujrati and B Adibhan as ones to watch out for.

"Hari, Sasikiran, Vidit and Adibhan are a bunch, who can be expected to do well and move to the next level. Then there is a big group of players who are close to crossing the 2700 ELO points barrier. They all will be there at the World Cup and it will be interesting to how they perform," he said.

Among the women, Anand, who is ranked ninth with 2783 points as per the FIDE July rating list, said, "D Harika is growing in strength and has recently played in some strong events. Koneru Humpy is also there, but has not played much of late."

He said the chess in school programmes in Tamil Nadu was a good initiative and it would bring results in the long run, by producing quality players.

'Closely and carefully' following India-China standoff: US



Modi's policies burning Kashmir: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI, JUL 21 (PTI): Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi on Friday charged that the Narendra Modi government's policies are "burning" Jammu and Kashmir and flayed any attempt for third party intervention to resolve the issue, saying "Kashmir is India".

Kashmir has been facing unrest ever since Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani was killed in an encounter with security forces last year.

"I have been saying this for a long time that Modi's and the NDA's policies are burning Jammu and Kashmir," he told reporters outside Parliament.

"It is being said there should be discussion on Kashmir with China and Pakistan but my opinion is that Kashmir is India and this is our internal matter. Our internal business and no one should interfere in it," he said.

Reacting to China's offer of playing a "constructive role" in resolving the Kashmir issue, India had earlier said its stand of resolving all matters bilaterally with Pakistan, including Jammu and Kashmir, has not changed.

US 'looks forward' to working with President Kovind

WASHINGTON, JUL 21 (PTI): The United States has congratulated president-elect Ram Nath Kovind on his electoral victory and said that it "looks forward" to working with him on regional and global issues.

Kovind, a low-key lawyer-turned-politician, was yesterday elected as India's 14th President, the first BJP member and the second Dalit to occupy the country's highest office.

"We want to congratulate the president-elect Ram Nath Kovind on his victory," State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert told reporters yesterday.

Noting that the US and India have a "deep and growing strategic partnership," she said: "We look forward to working with president-elect on regional and global issues."

Nauert credited the close people-to-people contact between the world's two largest democracies and "our shared democratic values" with the type of partnership they share.

A former Bihar governor, Kovind, 71, defeated the joint opposition candidate Meira Kumar, a former Lok Sabha speaker.

WASHINGTON, JUL 21 (PTI): The US is "closely and carefully" following the border standoff between India and China, the Trump administration said today, urging the two countries to engage in direct dialogue to reduce the tension.

The remarks came a day after India and China appeared willing to resolve the military standoff through dialogue.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj told the Rajya Sabha that India was willing to talk to China on the standoff in Sikkim sector, "but both sides have to first take back their armies." She said the boundaries between the



countries are not yet finalised and it will be done bilaterally through discussions.

In Beijing, China's foreign ministry said that diplomatic channels with India remained "unimpeded". It, however, reiterated that the withdrawal of the Indian

troops from Doklam area is a "precondition" for any meaningful dialogue.

"This is a situation that we are following closely and carefully," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said.

"I'd have to refer you to the governments of India and China for more information on that," she told reporters and added that Indian and China were talking on the issue.

Referring to the visit of India's National Security Adviser Ajit K Doval to Beijing for a meeting of the NSAs from BRICS countries on July 27-28, Nauert said: "They're going to talk to one another."

"We would encourage

them to engage in direct dialogue aimed at reducing the tension," Nauert added.

Chinese and Indian soldiers have been locked in a face-off in Doklam area in the southernmost part of Tibet for over a month after Indian troops stopped the Chinese army from building a road, fearing it may allow China to cut India's access to its north-eastern states.

India has conveyed to China that the construction of the road would represent a significant change of status quo with serious security implications for New Delhi.

India and China share a 220-km-long border in Sikkim.

Tokyo 2020 living with spectre of killer quake

TOKYO, JULY 21 (AFP): For modern Olympic host cities, the twin threats of terrorism and financial ruin constantly loom.

But spare a thought for Tokyo 2020 organisers, who face the added risk of a devastating earthquake or tsunami.

Japan is already stepping up efforts to reassure top athletes and hundreds of thousands of visitors when they flock to Tokyo for the Games, which begin on July 24, 2020, that safety will be paramount.

Tokyo and its surrounding areas sit precariously at the junction of shifting tectonic plates and have suffered violent quakes in the past, notably the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake that killed more than 100,000 people.

In 2011, a giant quake and tsunami which killed more than 18,500 people in northeast Japan -- though the majority died as a result of the latter rather than the earthquake itself.

The disaster left millions in the Tokyo area to cope with rolling power blackouts and a wide-scale breakdown of transportation.

It also triggered a nuclear meltdown at Fukushima, 240 kilometres (150 miles) north-east of Tokyo.

Naoshi Hirata, head of the Earthquake Prediction Research Center at the University of Tokyo, believes a powerful quake before the 2020 Olympics could even cripple Tokyo's ability to host the event.

"If an earthquake directly hitting the capital caused catastrophe before the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, it could be serious enough to prevent the Japanese economy from functioning properly," Hirata told AFP.

"We would have little option but to seek an alternative Olympic host." Tokyo and neighbouring Yokohama topped a list of global quake or tsunami-risk metropolitan areas, according to a 2013 survey by insurance firm Swiss Re.

Tokyo 2020 organisers insist Olympic facilities have all cleared the nation's strict quake-proof building standards.

"I cannot think of any city that is completely safe," admitted Tokyo 2020 chief executive officer Toshiro Muto. "But Tokyo is one of the best-prepared for natural disasters."

Many venues are reinforced by shock-ab-



sorbing technology, they say, such as the 320 million Ariake volleyball arena, which features giant rubber cushions.

"Japan is vulnerable to earthquakes, but building standards are the strictest in the world," said Satoru Sunada, a Tokyo government official in charge of Olympic facilities.

"We will do everything possible to prepare venues so that we can safeguard people's lives in Tokyo in the event of a major earthquake."

Sunada added that waterfront facilities, including the Olympic village, are built on embankments or protected by sea walls high enough to withstand a tsunami of almost two metres (6.5 feet) -- the maximum height predicted inside Tokyo Bay.

But Kojiro Suzuki, a tsunami researcher at Port and Airport Research Institute -- where staff study tsunamis in a huge wave pool -- warned there is a limit to what preventative measures can do.

"The damage could well be beyond people's anticipation," he said. "We should not fully rely

on breakwaters. Evacuation is important."

The Tokyo metropolitan government is busy drawing up a multilingual evacuation manual with instructions for overseas Olympic visitors due to be ready early next year, while disaster awareness exercises have also begun.

These include earthquake simulation systems, which replicate the shaking sensation and people can walk into, and also drills instructing people where and how to take shelter.

Toshitsugu Fujii, a retired professor at the University of Tokyo and leading expert on quakes and volcano studies, warned: "People who are not used to (earthquakes) may get into a panic even at minor jolts."

A sizable quake occurring directly beneath Tokyo is a lingering fear but regional tremors can also affect the Olympics.

A potential Nankai Through mega-quake, which could affect large areas of western Japan and threaten an estimated 300,000 lives, could also deal a crippling blow to the nation's economy, experts predict.



At least two people have been killed and more than 120 injured on the Greek island of Kos after a strong earthquake hit the region. The 6.5 magnitude quake struck on Thursday night with an epicentre approximately 6.4 miles (10.3km) south of Bodrum, Turkey, and 10 miles (16.2km) east of Kos. Dozens of aftershocks have been reported, with significant damage caused to hotels, shops and other buildings.

Pak SC concludes Panama case hearing against Sharif, family

ISLAMABAD, JUL 21 (PTI): Pakistan's Supreme Court today concluded hearing the high-profile Panama Papers case against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his family for alleged corruption, but reserved its verdict that could jeopardise his political future.

The three-member bench headed by Justice Ejaz Afzal and comprising Justice Sheikh Azmat Saeed and Justice Ijazul Ahsan did not immediately give any date to give its judgement.

Justice Saeed observed that the court will not deviate from any law while delivering its judgement. "We are conscious of the fundamental rights of petitioners and respondents."

The apex court also opened the final part of the 10-Volume report submitted by the Joint Investigation Team it had set up to probe the allegations of money laundering by Sharif.

The JIT has recommended that the report's Volume-X should be treated as confidential as it con-

tains the details of correspondence with other countries.

Sharif's legal team has objected to it.

The court has ordered authorities to provide a copy of the volume to Sharif's lawyer Khawaja Harris.

Exercising their right to respond to the arguments by defence lawyers, the petitioners in their brief remarks urged the court to disqualify Sharif and order a trial against him for allegedly hiding assets and failing to disclose the sources of income used to set up businesses by his children.

"The prime minister has failed to give satisfactory answer to the allegation of money laundering and should be disqualified," argued the lawyer of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan, one of the petitioners against Sharif.

The opposition parties in Pakistan have taken on Sharif seeking his disqualification after the Panama Papers last year revealed that he and his sons - Hassan and Hus-

sain - and his daughter Maryam - owned offshore companies which managed their family's properties. The assets in question include four expensive flats in Park Lane, London.

Sharif and his family has rejected the allegations. But the judges hearing the case have made observations that Sharif and his children have been unable to satisfy the court about the sources of money used to buy these properties.

The Supreme Court decision in the case is keenly awaited as it would determine the course of Pakistan's polity and with it Sharif's. An adverse decision may result in Sharif's disqualification and even snap elections.

The scandal surfaced when the Panama Papers leaks last year revealed that Sharif's sons -- Hassan Nawaz and Hussain Nawaz -- and his daughter Maryam -- owned offshore companies which managed their family's properties. The assets in question include four expensive flats in Park Lane, London.

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Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:117 DrawDate on:21/07/17
1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 80K 16448
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 16448 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
13012 24697 26057 28463 36105
41000 51500 67533 72141 94600
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
24988 29611 35977 46514 47186
57461 58644 63630 91818 92630
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
1134 1610 2649 4756 4960 6179 6455 6898 7362 7609
5th Prize Rs.600/-
0501 1076 1223 1769 3093 5384 5561 7421 8100 9821
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0004 0061 0094 0273 0591 0689 0858 0882 1084 1152
1170 1297 1324 1329 1503 1672 2021 2085 2146 2262
2437 2452 2470 2510 2750 2881 2920 2951 3088 3098
3105 3193 3399 3408 3456 3585 3592 3732 3743 3758
3816 3900 3980 4095 4201 4410 4674 4781 4876 4956
5060 5114 5176 5184 5234 5360 5405 5410 5623 5770
5892 6069 6242 6377 6479 6660 6863 7149 7284 7289
7342 7795 7930 7933 7997 8082 8087 8344 8425 8442
8461 8506 8551 8581 8877 8932 8961 9020 9087 9329
9388 9416 9513 9645 9695 9715 9739 9743 9831 9938
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2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
00640 06698 45950 48711 48825
58352 59805 86305 96853 97477
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
14018 22083 40840 47863 49738
51903 75627 86082 86209 92140
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0524 1219 2459 4766 5677 6173 6348 6618 7660 9146
5th Prize Rs.600/-
0715 0809 2116 2583 3989 5061 6438 7633 7753 9076
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0111 0156 0428 0491 0532 0612 0782 0799 0813 0832
0846 0922 0963 1036 1106 1306 1478 1553 1570 1649
1789 1813 1823 1838 2014 2050 2307 2431 2581 2609
2867 2895 2983 3091 3199 3281 3418 3477 3879 3950
4011 4035 4111 4158 4448 4498 4631 4652 4681 4839
4984 5020 5146 5189 5333 5473 5562 5825 5980 6044
6165 6184 6234 6457 6675 6710 7074 7155 7257 7304
7308 7326 7327 7593 7770 7802 7922 8030 8128 8192
8692 8727 8728 8738 8749 8909 8970 8972 9006 9170
9191 9422 9465 9538 9822 9840 9871 9879 9913 9999
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1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 98K 97371
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 97371 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
25155 28991 31275 59764 67433
76689 88372 95640 95935 98121
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
03909 12507 21391 33342 57231
61492 64017 68453 76447 81484
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0945 2414 3420 3780 3903 5399 5845 8101 8573 9051
5th Prize Rs.600/-
0025 3068 4884 5323 5931 6920 6961 8752 8827 9419
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0092 0220 0250 0277 0412 0666 0737 0755 0777 0854
0897 0932 0934 1000 1068 1127 1165 1515 1620 1645
1784 1925 2045 2093 2257 2474 2758 2811 3010 3031
3390 3522 3684 3837 4046 4368 4395 4462 4584 4701
4815 4837 4892 5056 5203 5235 5240 5380 5387 5462
5711 5739 5753 5754 5829 5888 6195 6196 6216 6239
6376 6464 6520 6567 6749 6887 6969 7170 7239 7274
7410 7478 7501 7510 7600 7726 7814 7867 7969 8127
8162 8215 8229 8285 8304 8337 8373 8389 8750 8766
8929 8955 9004 9098 9335 9373 9409 9577 9602 9928
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LINKIN PARK LEAD SINGER CHESTER BENNINGTON DIES IN APPARENT SUICIDE

The singer's bandmates say they are "shocked and heartbroken" at the 41-year-old's death at his California home.

Linkin Park lead singer Chester Bennington has died aged 41 in an apparent suicide. The American rock singer was found hanged at his home in California shortly before 9am on Thursday morning, according to website TMZ.

Bennington, who also performed with band Dead by Sunrise, was married and had six children. He died on what would have been the 53rd birthday of his late friend Chris Cornell, the lead singer of Soundgarden and Audio-



slave, who killed himself in May this year. Bennington's bandmate Mike Shinoda posted on Twitter: "Shocked and heartbroken, but

it's true. An official statement will come out as soon as we have one."

Cornell's wife Vicky wrote: "Just when I thought my heart

couldn't break any more... I love you T." The local coroner's office said Bennington's death "is being handled as a possible suicide".

A Palos Verdes Estates police spokesperson told Sky News: "At 8.56 we responded to a call at the 2800 block, Via Victoria.

"This remains under investigation."

Bennington, born in Phoenix, Arizona, battled drug and alcohol addiction at various times throughout his life but in 2011 said he had been sober for six years.

He was sexually abused as a child and suffered physical bullying at school, he revealed in interviews. Bennington's children came from his two marriages and a previous relationship, while he also adopted one of his sons. Linkin Park achieved international fame with their debut album Hybrid Theory in 2000, which reached number four in the UK charts.

The Grammy award-winning band achieved UK number one albums with Meteora in 2003, Min-

utes to Midnight in 2007, and Living Things in 2012. Five of their singles also reached the top 10 in the UK charts, and they famously collaborated with rapper Jay-Z for 2004 EP Collision Course. They released their latest album One More Light on 19 May this year, two days after Cornell hanged himself in a hotel room.

Bennington sang Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah at Cornell's funeral. Linkin Park are currently on a world tour and are scheduled to perform in Massachusetts on 27 July, the night before they are due to co-headline with fellow bands Blink 182 and Wu-Tang Clan at a concert in New York.

what's TRENDING



SHOWING OFF: Justin Bieber put his upper body on display while in Beverly Hills

'JIGSAW' TRAILER: 'SAW' IS BACK TO RETAKE HALLOWEEN

Lionsgate just dropped the first teaser trailer for Jigsaw, and it's striking how different this teaser plays from the last seven Saw movies. That's not a criticism, but there are plenty of exterior

shots, a certain crispness to the digital photography and musical choices that aren't the tried-and-true Saw theme. There is just the slightest hint of said theme at the very end of the trailer, but otherwise, it's trying to have its cake and eat it too. And the tagline, about Jigsaw returning to take back Halloween, is an apt one.

The Saw films opened in late October from 2004 straight through 2010, without missing a year, and they quickly became a defining Halloween franchise. The franchise peaked with Saw II (\$87 million domestic) and Saw III (\$81 million domestic), but it was the somewhat half-hearted Saw V in 2008, which muted interest in the shockingly terrific Saw VI, as well as competition from Paranormal Activity which

began dropping in 2009, that eventually whacked what is arguably the defining horror franchise of the 2000's. And now, seven years after the pretty terrible Saw 3D: The Final Chapter, Lionsgate and friends are bringing the game back.

The trailer still viewers in the dark about the overall plot of the film, aside from the idea that someone is doing the Jigsaw thing again and that a handful of folks are trapped in a room of doom. Of course, since this is a reboot/sequel, that may be all the plot we get for this go-around.

Jigsaw opens on the same day that Netflix drops the second season of Stranger Things.

Anyway, the real challenge is whether or not Jigsaw can goose the worldwide grosses (thanks to an expanded overseas marketplace) and get the entire franchise over the \$1 billion mark in global box office. It needs \$126.7 million worldwide, which is possible without being necessarily likely. But if we can get a ninth Saw movie, it's a done deal for sure.

Jigsaw opens Oct. 27, 2017.



NEWSWORTHY!



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY
Assistant Professor in History,
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22ND JULY

WORLD HISTORY

1832: Napoleon François Charles Joseph Bonaparte sometimes known as Napoleon FJK Bonaparte, eldest son of Napoleon Bonaparte, King of Rome, died at the age of 21.

1894: The first major automobile race with prizes and a promoter was organized as a reliability trial by Le Petit Journal of Paris. It took place on the 78-mile route between Paris and Rouen, France.

1942: The Americans approved Operation Torch, the British alternative to an invasion of Europe. The design of Operation Torch was to secure all of North Africa for the Allies.

1990: Voters in Mongolia began casting ballots in their Communist-ruled nation's first multi-party election ever.

1991: Desiree Washington, a Miss Black America contestant, charged she'd been raped by boxer Mike Tyson in an India-

napolis hotel room 3 days earlier. Tyson was later convicted of rape and served three years in prison.

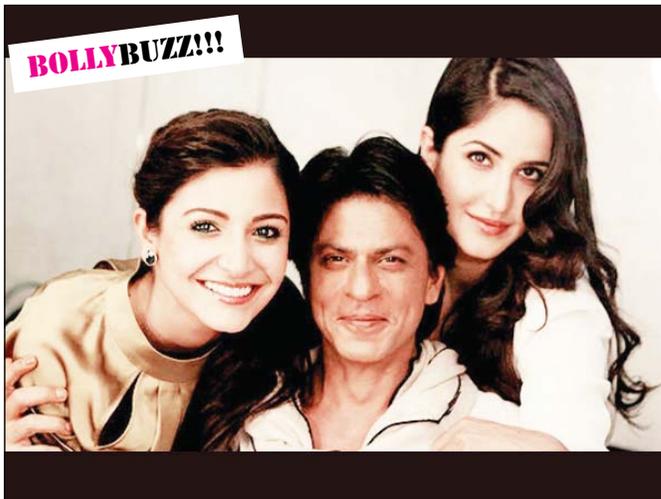
INDIAN HISTORY

1678: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj captured the medieval Vellore Fort from the Bijapur Sultans. The Fort was constructed by Vijayanagara Kings in 1566.

1853: Karl Marx, the father of Socialism, wrote his famous article 'The future results of British rule in India' in London. The article was published for the first time in the New-York Daily Tribune, on August 8, 1853.

1946: Lord Wavell put up a proposal before the Muslim League and Congress for the formation of a National Government consisting 14 members which was accepted by the Indian National Congress.

KATRINA KAIF CLEARS RUMORS REGARDING THE DWARF FILM WITH SHAH RUKH KHAN



BOLLYBUZZ!!!

Katrina Kaif who is juggling between the three Khans of Bollywood, clears the rumors about the untitled 'dwarf' film with Shah Rukh Khan. The film is called 'dwarf', ever since the film was announced. But there were speculations that the film might be called Katrina Meri Jaan or Love You Katrina. While there is no official confirmation on the same; Katrina has justified it won't be any of the two.

Stating her reasons in a recent interaction, Katrina said, "I play an actress in the film, but I don't play myself. I'm not Katrina Kaif. My character has a different name in the film. So it obviously cannot be called Katrina Meri Jaan." The film is helmed by Aanand L Rai and will see the Jab Tak Hai Jaan trio of SRK, Katrina and Anushka Sharma.

ARIES: You might suffer financial loss because some business that seemed promising ends up in failure. Business partnerships could become pretty tense because of your poor communicational skills. You should arm yourself with patience and avoid financial speculations.

TAURUS: You could become somewhat cranky because of financial difficulties. Keep your temper in check or you might hurt a friend's feelings! Today is not favorable for exams, presentations or traveling. On

the other hand, you're likely to have a good time with your loved one and the youngsters from the family. Be careful what you say!

GEMINI: Several obstacles might stand in your way. You may feel like you're wasting energy, and it could be pretty upsetting. Those around will most likely be understanding and supportive. The relationship with your better half should go smoothly. Together the two of you will manage to solve a long-postponed domestic issue.

CANCER: You might tend to be impulsive, and your friends and business partners could turn away from you. You should be more tactful. You need to take care of yourself and rest more. Pay more attention to issues of your family members!

LEO: One of your friends' failure to keep a promise might make you very angry. Keep your temper in check! There may be a reasonable explanation. Being more flexible will help you avoid an argument which could otherwise lead to ruining the relationship.

VIRGO: You shouldn't deal with issues that require tact. You may be cranky and come across as unconvincing. On the other hand, the relationship with your loved one should go very well.

LIBRA: You intend to take on too many responsibilities and might not be able to cope with all of them on your own. In fact, this isn't a favorable time for any kind of business-related endeavors. You're at risk of suffering significant financial loss. If you're driving today, you should be cautious and check

your car and luggage thoroughly.

SCORPIO: During the morning you may experience communicational problems – your social and personal relationships might be affected. This isn't a good time to initiate new endeavors or business projects, no matter how tempting they might seem.

SAGITTARIUS: You'll most likely dedicate your time to intellectual pursuits. Although you're aware that this could make friends turn away from you, you think the satisfaction

is well worth it. You should manage to solve important family issues. If you're invited to go on a trip, you'd better decline the invitation. You seem to be prone to accidents.

CAPRICORN: You seem to be apprehensive and it might prevent you from expressing yourself clearly. You should postpone meetings, because your communicational skills aren't in top shape. This doesn't seem like the time for making investments or buying valuable items – you might not make the best choices.

AQUARIUS: During the morning you might be in a bad mood and become less sociable because of some health issues. You should keep communicating with your friends and loved one. During the evening you could be visited by a relative who will help improve your mood.

PISCES: Today isn't favorable for business trips. Your chances at gaining financially are rather slim. Your love life can go very well, provided you pay more attention to your loved one's needs.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT

