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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Pages 8 | ₹ 5

Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup kicks off

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 AUG: The Independence Day Football Tournament for Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup organised by Sikkim Football Association under the aegis of Home Department, Government of Sikkim, will be kicked off at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok on 08 Aug from 2.30 p.m., an SFA press release informs.

The inaugural match will be played between Sikkim Aakraman FC and

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Heavy to very heavy rain forecast in sub-Himalayan Bengal

KOLKATA, AUG 7 (PTI): The Met department today forecast heavy to very heavy rain in the sub-Himalayan districts of West Bengal for the next four days and light to moderate rainfall in the southern districts.

The sub-Himalayan districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar and Alipurduar are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall for the next five days with the intensity of precipitation likely to increase in the latter days,

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PIL seeks Court directions to ensure that LPG distributors make home deliveries

Rules have been misinterpreted to the disadvantage of consumers, petitioner contends

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 AUG:

A Public Interest Litigation filed in the High Court of Sikkim has accused the Food and Civil Supplies & Consumer

Affairs Department, in connivance with the LPG cylinder distributors, of violating norms laid down by the Indian Oil Corporation and over-charging consumers here. The PIL contends that since the distributors were already being subsidised by the IOCL for home delivery of LPG refills, it was wrong for it to still charge transportation cost from consumers.

Prem Goyal, a senior

Gangtokian, has approached the High Court seeking that directions be passed to ensure delivery of refilled LPG cylinders to the registered addresses of consumers as mandated by IOCL and ending the system of dropping cylinders off at road-heads and requiring people to queue for their refills. The PIL argues that the Notification of the Food and Civil Supplies & Consumer

Affairs Department which allows for levying of transportation cost from consumers also be quashed.

The division bench of the High Court, following the PIL, had issued a notice on 04 July last month itself to the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, IOCL, State Government and 12 Distributors, including the State Trading Corporation of Sikkim. Now,

the division bench comprising of Chief Justice Satish Kumar Agnihotri and Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai has given two weeks' time for filing of counter affidavit and two weeks thereafter for the petitioner to file a rejoinder.

In the PIL, the petitioner has contended that as per the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order 2000, the

delivery of LPG Cylinder is required to be done at the registered address of the consumers. Mr Goyal has also pointed out that rules do not allow distributors to sell LPG at a price higher than that fixed by the Government Oil Company or the parallel marketer.

He further argues that the Regulation of Supply and Distribution Order 2000,

turn to pg03

Gurung threatens to intensify protest in Darj hills

DARJEELING (WB), AUG 7 (PTI): Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) supremo Bimal Gurung today threatened to intensify the agitation in the Darjeeling hills if the Centre did not intervene to resolve the crisis as the indefinite strike demanding a separate state of Gorkhaland entered its 54th day.

The GJM leadership, on July 30, had given a 10-day "deadline" to the Centre to intervene to resolve the crisis in the hills, arising out of its Gorkhaland demand.

"The deadline will end soon, but if the Centre decides to sit idle, we will intensify our agitation in the hills. The GJM is a constituent in the NDA government at the Centre. We hope they (BJP) will intervene to resolve the situation," Gurung told reporters.

GJM activists took out rallies in various parts of the hills, demanding restoration of the Internet services, which have been suspended since June 18, and an immediate withdrawal of police personnel from the hills.



Tendong Lho Rum Faat: The Great Deluge

SD TSHERING

Tendong Lho Rum Faat was a little known festival in the premerger days; it came into prominence only during the reign of the Sikkim Democratic Front government.

The story of the flood belongs to the genera of flood folktales which is common to a wide range of cultures. Stories of floods are found in folklore of many countries though the

cause of the flood differs from country to country. The biblical flood story is the most famous while in India the story of the first avatar of Vishnu saving the earth in Matsya avatar from the flood originates in the Vedic age.

Most flood tales are considered symbolic narratives of divine punishment sent to punish people for their evil acts. Flood tales usually contain a cultural hero who strives to ensure the

rebirth of a new civilization.

However, the flood of Tendong Lho Rum Faat differs in many ways from most other flood stories. A majority of the flood stories concern flooding of the world but the Lepcha legend concerns only Sikkim and unlike other stories where few favored families are saved, the Lepcha story does not mention any particular persons who are rescued. Saving of animals is

also not included in the Lepcha story while majority of flood stories mentions rescuing of animals during the flood.

On the other hand the Lepcha story like most of the other stories concerns being saved on a mountain top. The role of a bird is also similar to the flood story of the bible and Babylonian stories where a raven and a dove are sent to see if the flood has receded while in the

Lepcha story a partridge comes to the rescue. Unlike other flood stories the Lepcha tale of flood does not concern divine punishment but rather involves a love story of Teesta and Rangit rivers. The Lepcha legend says the deluge occurred because Teesta being a male unable to reach the appointed meeting point before Rangeet was ashamed and disappointed and wanted to return to his origin

causing the flood.

Another unique feature of the Lepcha festival is that the day is celebrated as a day of deliverance and prayers are offered for the well being of sentient beings and the world. The festival shows the strong connection and affinities of Lepchas with nature.

[The writer is former Secretary, DESME, Government of Sikkim]

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF STNMH

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GANGTOK, SIKKIM
COMMUNITY & ENTERTAINMENT

SUJANG ARPANA RINCHEN THUZEY KARMA

Premiere Screening of the Tales of Tribes

(a collection of short animated folktales, including *Nye Mayel Kyong* from Sikkim) produced by the Adivasi Arts Trust will be held at The Namgyal Institute of Tibetology (NIT).

We solicit the pleasure of your company at the Premiere Screening at NIT, Gangtok on 10th August 2017, at 2.00pm.

Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim Shri Shrinivas Patil will inaugurate the ceremony as the Chief Guest

**STNM's
100 years
celebration
fine but
improve
services: SKM**

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 AUG:**
Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party has said that before celebrating the completion of its 100 years of establishment, STNM Hospital needs to survey its present condition to improve its service. However, the party has expressed its happiness on the centenary celebration by the hospital management and Health Department.

An SKM press release issued by its publicity secretary, Arun Uprety, states that STNM hospital is a heritage of the State so the government needs to find out the reasons behind the declining service of the hospital and further improve its level.

The party has alleged that the service and facilities of the hospital was at its height from the time of the Chogyal to NB Bhandari's regime but it has been declining day by day under the SDF government.

The release further adds that the poor people of the State face a lot of problems in availing the services of the hospital.

According to SKM, doctors and specialists of the hospital have not been able to excel in their field due to lack of equipments and facilities in the hospital. It is added that it is disappointing that the people of Sikkim are compelled to depend on CRH and nursing homes in Siliguri despite having a hospital in the State.

Woman falls to death

GANGTOK, 07 AUG:

One 52-year-old woman hailing from Aho in Pakyong, East Sikkim, reportedly fell from a height while crossing a stream at Aho and lost her life. Investigation further revealed that the deceased was an alcoholic.

Heavy to very...

contd from pg01

the Met department said.

The districts in Gangetic West Bengal are likely to receive fairly widespread rains or thundershowers during the period, it said. Most of the districts in the state, including the metropolis, received light rainfall in 24 hours till 8.30 am today.

Kitam school tops South in STNM@100 quiz competition

SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 07 AUG:

Continuing the district wise inter-school quiz competitions as part of the centenary celebrations of Sir Thutob Namgyal Memorial Hospital, the hospital organized a quiz contest at Namchi Government Girls Senior Secondary School today for South district, a press release informs.

The preliminary round of the competition had ten schools competing for the coveted prize with six schools, namely Namchi Public School, Namchi Girls Senior Secondary School, Kitam Senior Secondary School, Jorethang Senior Secondary School, VCGL Senior Secondary School and Nandugaon Senior Secondary School reaching the finals.

The engaging finals had four rounds wherein Kitam SSS clinched the maximum number of points and emerged winners of the South District competition with NPS as the first runner up and Nandugaon SSS as the second in a tie breaker.



Appreciating the effort of STNM Hospital to reach out to students across districts, Senior Superintendent of Police - South Sikkim, Pratap Pradhan, who attended the programme as chief guest congratulated the hospital and also shared his gratitude towards STNM as an institu-

tion which has been taking care of the people of Sikkim for the past 100 years.

He shared personal anecdotes on the contributions of STNM to the people of Sikkim and also urged the youngsters to acknowledge the services of the hospital and prepare to serve the people

of Sikkim in the future.

The occasion was also addressed by Senior ENT Specialist-STNM Hospital, Dr CS Rai, who gave a historical perspective on STNM.

The South district competition brings the district level competition of STNM@1000 to a

closure with four senior secondary schools viz Mangan Senior Secondary School, Mangalbaria Senior Secondary School, Holy Cross School and Kitam Senior Secondary School entering the finals, the date for which will be announced later, the release adds.



Pehchaan ID cards distributed in Soreng

SUMMIT REPORT

SORENG, 07 AUG:

The distribution of Pehchaan ID cards and Handicraft Artisans awareness camp was held today in Soreng, West Sikkim, in the presence of Minister for HRDD & Law-cum-Area MLA, RB Subba, as chief guest, along with Director-Nehru Yuva Kendra, NK Kayak, Chairman-Youth Development Board, Khem Prasad Dahal, and Block Development Officer-Soreng, Ratan Pega.

The camp was organized by Office of the Development Commissioner [Handicrafts], Marketing and Service Extension Centre, Gangtok.

It may be mentioned here, Pehchaan cards scheme is a part of the initiative of Union Textile

Ministry to register and provide identity cards to handicraft artisans and link them to a national database. It is a new upgraded ID card for artisans that will be linked with their Aadhaar numbers and Bank accounts so that they can receive direct cash transfer benefit.

Besides, the ID card will enable the artisans to avail easy loan at 04% interest rate and they get the benefit of life insurance and Rs1200 per year for their children studying between Class IX and Class XII. It is an initiative to improve the socio-economic conditions of rural artisans. Through this ID card, artisans can participate in any domestic and International Handicraft fair/events, etc.

Tendong Lho Rum Faat celebration in Namchi



NAMCHI, 07 AUG [IPR]: Tendong Lho Rum Faat celebration themed 'Unity and Brotherhood' was observed amidst much gaiety at the Community Hall in Namchi today. The programme organized by Renzong Mutanchi Rong Tarjum [RMRT] in collaboration with Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association had Advisor-Water Security & Public Health Engineering, Binod Rai, as the chief guest alongside Namchi Municipal Corporation Chairperson, Uday Rai, Municipal Councillors, officials and the local gentry.

At the onset of the celebration, a spiritual prayer ceremony was held at Central Park wherein Bongthings as well as religious heads from various other communities performed the rituals. Thereafter, a peace rally from Central Park to Community Hall was taken out where the rally culminated into a daylong grand Tendong Lho Rum Faat celebration.

It may be mentioned that on 08 Aug,

a prayer ceremony will be performed on top of Tendong Hill.

Addressing the gathering, chief guest Mr Rai extended his warm wishes on the occasion of Tendong Lho Rum Faat. Highlighting the significance of the celebration Mr Rai said that this festival is one of the oldest traditional festivals celebrated by the Lepcha community and underlined that diligent efforts should be undertaken in documenting and protecting this unique festival.

Resource persons for the programme were Senior Superintendent of Police, Pratap Pradhan, and Additional SP, Linda Palmo. They spoke in brief about a variety of laws prevalent in the state and emphasized on the importance of generating awareness in our society about child abuse, drug abuse and many more.

During the course of the event, students from different schools showcased a variety of cultural and traditional extravaganza.

Help for Darjeeling

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 AUG:

Jyoti Samaj of Development Area, Gangtok along with Manepa and Committee of Dechen Choling Gumpa, Sichey, collectively extended support to the people of Darjeeling and its surrounding areas recently.

The members of Jyoti Samaj and Dechen Choling provided various essential commodities to the people of areas like Takdah, Lebong Valley, Peshok Kaman, Hanuman Dara and others.

"Our Samaj is trying to help people in need and will continue the process in days to come," said member of Jyoti Samaj, Binita Gurung.



Tendong Lho Rum Faat celebration begins at Daramdin

Gangtok, 07 Aug: Two-day long festival of Tendong Lho Rum Faat commenced today here at Daramdin in West Sikkim. An ancient festival of the Lepchas, it is a festival which witnesses the worship of nature.



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**Gangtok on
Tuesday,
08 August**

Temp: 25°C / 19°C
Forecast: Cloudy
and not as warm
with showers.
Sunrise: 05:02 AM
Sunset: 06:20 PM



SISCO ATM at Mangan inaugurated

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 07 AUG:**

Minister of Forest-cum-MLA of Lachen Mangan constituency, TW Lepcha, inaugurated Sikkim State Co-operative Bank Limited's [SISCO] new ATM that has been installed at Mangan Branch in North Sikkim today. The ATM supports ATM cards of all other Banks.

The inauguration programme was also attended by District Magistrate-North, Karma R Bonpo, Senior Superintendent of Police-North, Sammi Rai, Sub Divisional Magistrate-Mangan, PW Lepcha, Manager- SISCO Mangan, Tshering Doma Bhutia, Assistant General Manager, TR Dorjee, and other staffs of the Bank along with Mangan Nagar Panchayat councillors and inspector.

Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup kicks off

contd from pg01

D'zongri FC. There are eight teams participating in this tournament.

Last year's winner ARC, Shillong will play their first match on 10 Aug against Sikkim Police FC. Special Secretary-Home Department, Pratap Pradhan, has consented to declare open the tournament as chief guest.

Sikkim Football Association, in the release, has requested all football enthusiasts to come to Paljor Stadium and enjoy the match.



INTACH Sikkim organizes quiz contest for school students

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 AUG:

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage [INTACH], Sikkim Chapter, organized an All India Quiz Contest for students of Class 7-10 of schools located in and around Gangtok on 04 Aug at the auditorium of Sir Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School in Gangtok, a press release informs.

Welcoming the participating students and their teachers in charge, convenor of INTACH-Sikkim Chapter, PK Dong,

expressed happiness over the good turnout of participants and thanked the principals and teachers in charge for motivating the students to participate in an all India quiz competition like that of INTACH.

"INTACH quiz for school children seems to be becoming more and more popular in Sikkim every year. From less than 80 participants from 10 schools four years ago, today the number of participants has gone up by 100%, with 198 students from

26 schools in this year's quiz," added Mr Dong.

He said that this quiz contest is being organized by INTACH on all-India basis, primarily for stimulating the interest of young school children in heritage, both national and local, and recognizing the importance of protecting such heritage. This is the largest ever quiz competition in India on heritage, now in its fourth edition, he added.

The top four teams that made it to the on-the-stage final were Tadong Government Se-

nior Secondary School, Bahai Secondary School, Modern Senior Secondary School and Enchey Senior Secondary School.

In the final round, Tadong Senior Secondary School team comprising of Bhupen Chettri and Palden Lepcha scored the highest marks. They will have the privilege of representing Sikkim in the Zonal Round at Guwahati, the dates for which will be notified later. The National round will be held in Delhi.

Arup Ghosh and Abhishek Khetan of Quizzard-Siliguri took

on the roles of quiz-masters for the day on behalf of Mindtree Edutainment-Delhi, the release adds.

It may be mentioned here that Mindtree Edutainment-Delhi has been given the responsibility by INTACH Delhi for designing and organizing INTACH quizzes all over India.

The conduct of the quiz was overseen by life member of INTACH, GS Lama. All the students who participated in the contest received certificates of participation.

PIL seeks Court directions to ensure...

contd from pg01

Section 9, sub-section (e) clearly states that: "No distributors shall without prior written permission of the concerned Government Oil Company, refuse to make home delivery at the registered address of the consumer, as registered with the distributor: Provide that the State Government may, fix additional charges for home delivery of LPG cylinders to the consumers, as it may deem necessary in view of the geographical terrain and or the distance in the area of distribution".

As any consumer in Sikkim will vouch, this is only partially followed in Sikkim where the additional charges have been fixed, but home delivery ignored.

The PIL complains of as much when it points out that even after levying the transportation charges, the respondents (the distributors) are not delivering the LPG refills to the registered addresses of the consumers.

The petitioner states that the

Food and Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department has made a wrong interpretation of the rules under the shelter of the LPG Regulation of Supply and Distribution Order 2000 imposing additional transportation cost on retail sale price for delivery of domestic LPG refills only till distribution points across the state.

It is also highlighted in the petition that the consumers in Sikkim have been denied the facilities of home delivery within the fixed price regime as per IOCL norms, and that some consumers in Sikkim need to pay nearly Rs. 300 extra to porters due to unfair trade practice of non-delivery of LPG cylinder by the distributors to their homes.

Mr. Goyal is representing himself as petitioner-in-person to present his case in public interest.

IOCL, Kolkata, in its RTI replies to the petitioner clearly stated that all the Regular LPG Distributors of IOCL are required to supply refill on home delivery basis to all reg-

istered customers residing in their respective operating areas as advised by Oil Marketing Companies, for which customer has to pay the Retail Selling Price of LPG refills in that market which is inclusive of delivery charges.

Only under exceptional conditions, filled cylinders deliveries on cash-on-carry basis (non-home delivery) from regular LPG distributors are permitted, wherein the delivery charges (currently) of Rs. 18 per 14.2 kg cylinder will not be charged.

The Food and Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, vide its notification, allows for transportation charges of Rs. 27 beyond 500 meters up to 10 Kms, Rs. 42 beyond 10 kms to 25 Kms, Rs. 57 beyond 25 kms to 40 Kms and Rs. 77 exceeding 40 kms in radius.

The petitioner has also prayed the High Court to issue writ of mandamus to make the rate of the LPG cylinders equal in all parts of the state.

Bear sightings reported in Lachung

SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 07 AUG:

Bear sightings have been reported at various maize fields in Leema, Bi Chu, and Singaphu areas of Lachung in North Sikkim. As there have been some cases of bear attacks on humans in Lachung in the last couple of years during this season, Chungthang Sub Divisional Administration has advised the public to exercise caution, especially in the evening and night.

Wildlife staff of Lachung have also been requested to initiate necessary action towards preventing any untoward incident.

Tendong Lho Rum Faat greetings from Governor and CM

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 AUG:

Governor, Shrinivas Patil and First Lady, Rajanidevi Patil, extend warm greetings to the people of Sikkim on the auspicious occasion of Tendong Lho Rum Faat.

In a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan, the Governor has said, "Tendong Lho Rum Faat reminds us the prominence of Mother Nature in our life and our duty towards Mother Nature. The indigenous festival of our Sikkimese Lepcha brethren, Tendong Lho Rum Faat is an appropriate occasion for us to worship and pay homage to Mother Nature, the ultimate source of life. The festival is symbolic to our commitment to protect, preserve and celebrate nature in all its varied forms. Sikkimese society since time immemorial has always exemplified living in harmony with nature and has given the world a new hope.

As we congregate to worship the sacred Mount Tendong, the 'Mayel Lyang', let us put together our effort for the preservation of this great tradition and heritage alongside acclaimed parts of our sacred geography. May Mother Ma-

ture bless all Sikkimese with eternal peace, harmony and well being."

Likewise, in another press release, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Tika Maya Chamling have extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the auspicious occasion of Tendong Lho Rum Faat.

The Chief Minister has said, "The Sikkimese Lepchas paying homage and worshipping the sacred Tendong Hill as 'Mayel Lyang' or heaven, gives us perfect insight into Sikkimese tradition of revering, preserving and protecting Mother Nature since ancient times."

He has added that the festival is highly significant for the people of Sikkim as it deals with protection of nature through traditional customs and thus it gives the noble message of the importance of preserving nature.

"As worshippers of Nature in various forms, let us all pledge to protect and conserve our natural environment. May the auspicious festival bring happiness and abundance in the lives of our people," the CM has said.



Sikkim taxi drivers help out Kalimpong village

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 AUG:

Sikkim Local Taxi Driver Association, Lall Bazaar, provided a helping hand today to the people of Sangsey vil-

lage in Kalimpong. The association distributed essential commodities at the remote village as a gesture of their support for the cause of Gorkhland.

SummitTIMES
informed, inquisitive, relevant

**TIME TO SIZZLE
THE DRIZZLE AWAY**

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Grassroots
Politics***Panchayat polls arrive soon, hopefully the parties will be there too***

One might not glean it from the public domain, but an election is less than two months away in Sikkim. And save the party in office, no one else seems working towards making an earnest pitch for the people's votes. There is nothing really new in this scenario either because opposition parties, much to their own disadvantage, have traditionally found excuses to dodge the panchayat elections here. In fact, they have shied away from municipal body elections as well, and then they wonder why people won't take them seriously!

The common excuse offered by political parties to "boycott" panchayat elections is that they are opposed to these being held on party lines. This position is self-contradictory because what they are essentially saying is that they will not participate any which way - boycott if on party lines and not directly participating in the other scenario because then party symbols and flags are not involved. Of course, the truth is obvious to all - most parties do not bother to remain connected with the grassroots during the political off-season years between assembly elections and hence have a difficult time even finding candidates to contest a respectable number of seats. Since only voters of the respective panchayat wards can contest elections there, presence has to be established across the state and supporters kept consistently connected and involved for parties to have enough names in the membership rolls to even field candidates. Yes, a case could be made out against holding panchayat elections on party lines for this very reason, but that cannot be something that political parties argue and should really be something that the civil society builds consensus for. As far as political outfits are concerned, they should embrace the chance to participate in every activity in the public sphere, even elections to executive bodies of social and community organizations. But wait, they already do that surreptitiously. And that is why it is probably better that when it comes to the panchayats, it is all made above board by making the candidates contest as official candidates of political parties. Don't do that, and accountability becomes the first casualty because when the elected representative fails to deliver, there is at least a party high command that can be approached for redress.

This brings one to the other worrying fixture of panchayat elections - there are too many uncontested victories than is healthy for a democracy. During the last panchayat elections held in 2012, of the total 290 Panchayat Wards that Sikkim had at the time, 133 had been won uncontested by the SDF even before election day. Voting was held for 157 wards, and interestingly, a majority of the contested wards went to independents who won 97 of these 157 wards. Of course, one needs to also recognize that a big chunk of the independent victors were ruling party members who contested as independents when they did not get the party ticket. Although the opposition camp claimed many of these as their victories, these remain but claims because they did not field any candidates officially. What can also not be ignored is the fact that in 2012, the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, which even though it had not yet been launched, was already very active as a coalescing political outfit. One does not see any such activity in the political realm at present, and although press releases abound claiming tours and outreach programmes by parties, the ground reality will surface only when nominations open.

What the political outfits decide to do is for them to decide. One hopes they will participate. But what the people should probably resolve to do in the meanwhile is ensure that their wards do not go uncontested. Although it is wonderful to have unanimously-selected candidates, the people lose a prospective representative the moment s/he takes office uncontested because then the loyalties shift to the powers that awarded the ticket. To win an election is to win the people's trust and that comes bundled with accountability towards their aspirations and woes; more responsibility to prioritize people and their affairs. And is that not what one wants most from grassroots representatives?

WRITE US: Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, 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

Who will tell us the stories: A story beyond Tendong Lho Rumfaat

G. LEPCHA

Indeed the much awaited festival has arrived for the Lepchas to gather and celebrate, remembering the Chyu Tendong, an unyielding hill which withstood the great deluge. As the story unravels, the race between the two great rivers the Teesta (Rungnyu led by Paril Bu) and Rangeet (Rungnyet led by Tutfo), to meet at the confluence and travel ahead together beyond the hills ended with the early arrival of Teesta. Dismayed, Rangeet flowed back to where it originated. Teesta failed to convince her lover, Rangeet to move forward to the plains as Rangeet was embarrassed, enraged and hurt on coming second. Seeing his state, Teesta decided to flow back along with her lover but diversion in their plan caused a flood to rise above the hills. The Rong folks, flocked together, took refuge in Tendong Hill, pleading to God to save their lives from the flood which endangered the lives of the people and Kayum Fo (bird), on behalf of Itbu Rum (Creator) accepted the offering of the Rongs and thereby receded the flood.

From time immemorial, the Lepchas have celebrated Tendong Lho Rum Faat to thank God. This year, Tendong Lho Rum Faat is being celebrated at Tallom Purtam (Daerumden), West Sikkim as a grand state celebration. It is also being celebrated in various parts of Sikkim. It gained the status of State festival only in the year 1997, recognized by this present government and as a mark of celebration, this day has been declared as a State holiday. Lepchas from Sikkim, West Bengal, Nepal and Bhutan come together on 7th of Au-

gust to celebrate the Rumfaat at the hilltop and on 8th, in Gangtok or in designated Districts. The festival is all about worship, prayer, thanksgiving and merrymaking.

From a young age, I have heard about Tendong Lho Rum Faat narrated to me by my parents and I have attended the celebration at community hall with much excitement, wearing my attire for the day, with colorful songs and dances, which allured me the most. I am very much indebted towards my parents as my interest in oral history and my affair with reading and listening started when I grew up listening to them narrating folktales. This also increased my knowledge and enlightened my intellect about the socio-economic condition prevalent at that time, which in turn made me curious about the stories of other communities which has helped in the development of my thought process. This made me want to listen to what Thung-Nukung (grandparents) as well as Burra-Pakhas and Azo-Anas of my society had to narrate. I loved and value what they shared with us, at the same time being aware of what their absence will tomorrow behold. I get nostalgic with the scenario at my home, where after dinner, my siblings and I flocked to our parents to hear a story and I am always amazed at my parents' enthusiasm and energy after a long day's work. To this day I ask my parents to tell us a story, if not a folktale, at least a story of their life's struggles so that we siblings know more about our people and our land. These stories may not find a place in academia but what we have heard about our history is engraved in our

hearts. This is how a culture is transmitted and carried forward to the next generation with a new audience in a new scenario.

With firm conviction I can say that the culture of any community survives and thrives when it is told and passed on to the younger generation. Preservation of culture starts at home when we pay heed towards what our elders have to share and what we gain from them needs to be shared and passed on. It's a two-way responsibility of listening and sharing carefully. We need to realize that we have story tellers at our homes and in our society and through their stories we can connect ourselves with our land, people, nature and environment and who better than them to learn from. We need to continue and cultivate the culture of narrating the folktales of ancient days to our youngsters not only to preserve the stories but also to educate them about the culture and tradition of our land. Our tradition is fading away as we are occupied with other activities and most of our time is consumed by social media, making us pseudo-social, where space for such leisure activity is no longer seen as desirable in present day. This type of interaction builds our imagination and our perception. As we grow up, we start questioning the logic and rationality and this turns into a culture of question, debates and discussion.

Coming back to the story of Tendong Lho Rumfaat and the flood which had engulfed eastern and southern parts of Sikkim, one can simply say that the great deluge might have occurred looking at the location of Teesta, the confluence.

For me it was no different, as I entirely believed that there was indeed a flood which killed many Lepchas, as a researcher taking an account of flood occurrences in plains areas of North-Bengal, it spoke to my logic to believe that there was indeed a flood, which might have been caused by a landslide.

As I commute regularly along the banks of Teesta and enjoy the beauty and its changing colours, with each new season, it has become more evident to see the socio-cultural, political and economic significance of river Teesta for Sikkim, North Bengal and even in foreign policy making of India. Teesta remains a prominent part of dialogues between India and Bangladesh. It is a question to ponder on; whether the Indian diplomats know the story of Teesta, how attached Sikkimese are to the river and how nostalgic they become when we hear and sing "Jaha Bagcha Teesta ra Rangeet". Teesta also remains the lifeline of North Bengal, with many lives dependent upon it. Many have tales to tell on Teesta and it is still being worshipped in North Bengal.

On the occasion of the Tendong Lho Rumfaat, I encourage our fellow Sikkimese to celebrate the occasion, reflect on the importance of the great River Teesta, raise the concern and protection it deserves. It is not only a celebration of Lepcha community, rather it is an occasion where we Sikkimese can pause and give a serious thought to nature which has been bestowed upon us and be grateful for what we have.

[The writer is Asst. Professor, Government College Rhenock]

Why kids need risk, fear and excitement in play



MARIANA BRUSSONI

theconversation.com

"Be careful!" "Not so high!" "Stop that!"

Concerned parents can often be heard urging safety when children are at play. Recent research suggests this may be over-protective and that kids need more opportunities for risky play outdoors.

Risky play is thrilling and exciting play where children test their boundaries and flirt with uncertainty. They climb trees, build forts, roam the neighbourhood with friends or play capture the flag. Research shows such play is associated with increased physical activity, social skills, risk management skills, resilience and self-confidence. These findings make intuitive sense when you watch children at play.

Importantly, it's not up to parents or experts to decide what is risky play for a particular child.

Rather, children need to be given the mental and physical space to figure out appropriate risk levels for themselves: far enough that it feels exhilarating, but not so far that it becomes too scary.

My years as an injury prevention researcher have left me well aware of things that can go wrong and how to prevent them from happening. But because I have a doctorate in developmental psychology, I am also concerned that we are keeping our kids too safe. Preventing our kids from exploring uncertainty could have unintended negative consequences for their health and development, such as increased sedentary behaviour, anxiety and phobias.

PARENTS' HOPES AND FEARS

Many of the parents I've spoken to through my research recognize the importance of risky play, but can be overwhelmed by worry about the possibility of serious injury or abduction. They also worry that someone is going to report them to the authorities for letting their child take risks. These worries make it hard for them to let go and can result in over-protection.

More recently, I've noticed an opposite trend: parents who are worried their child is too timid and not taking enough risks. They want to know how they can help their child take more risks in play.

This concerns me as much as over-protection. Both approaches can increase the risk of injury and harm since they ignore children's capabilities and preferences. How will children learn about themselves and how the world works if an adult is constantly telling them what to do and how to do it?

WHAT ABOUT INJURIES?

There's never been a safer time to be a child in

Canada. The likelihood of dying from an injury is 0.0059 per cent. Car crashes and suicides are the leading causes of death, not play. In fact, children are more likely to need medical attention for an injury resulting from organized sports than play.

Likewise, the likelihood of abduction by a stranger is so small that the statistics are not even collected. In an attempt to strike a balance, injury prevention professionals are moving to an approach that seeks to keep children as safe as necessary, rather than as safe as possible.

CHILDREN ARE INHERENTLY CAPABLE

Risky play is an important part of many outdoor schools and early child care settings in Canada and other parts of the world. In outdoor forest schools and nurseries in the U.K., for example, pre-school and kindergarten kids build dens, climb trees, use tools and create fire — under careful supervision.

One principal in New Zealand decided his students didn't need any rules. Students were allowed to climb trees, build forts, ride bikes — whatever occurred to them. His school was part of a larger study that found students who were allowed risky play were happier and reported less bullying than students in schools who didn't change their approach.

Seeing children engaged in risky play helps us realize that they're much more capable than we think. When they're given the chance, even very young children show clear abilities to manage risks and figure out their own limits. We just have to open our eyes and be willing to see what is in front

of us. And most importantly, get out of the way to give them a chance to experiment for themselves. The potential for learning is enormous.

WHAT'S A PARENT TO DO?

Setting unnecessary limits on a child's play or pushing them too far: both are problematic. Our role as caregivers is to give children the freedom to explore and play as they choose while supporting them in managing the real dangers that pose a serious and realistic threat to their safety.

What this looks like varies for different children depending on their developmental stage, competencies and personal preferences. For example, play where there is a chance of getting lost is common at all ages: A preschooler hiding in bushes feels like he's a jungle explorer. His parents supervise while giving him the feeling of independence.

For older children, this kind of play can involve exploring their neighbourhood with friends. Parents can help prepare them by gradually building the skills needed to navigate traffic safely.

For parents struggling to strike a balance, my lab has developed OutsidePlay.ca, an online tool to help parents manage their fears and develop a plan for change so their children can have more opportunities for risky play. Usually this involves learning how to get out of the way of children's play. Change can be as simple as counting to 30 before stepping in to give children a chance to manage on their own. Parents are often amazed by what they see.

[The writer is Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of British Columbia]

Bank unions call for all-India strike on 22 Aug

CHENNAI, AUG 7 (PTI): Bank employee unions have called for a nation-wide strike on August 22 to protest against privatisation and merger of public sector banks, among other demands, a union leader said today.

The All India Bank Employees Association (AIBE), which represents nine bank unions and employees of public and private sector banks, has called for a nation-wide strike on August 22 to press for various demands, its general secretary CH Venkatachalam said.

Nearly 10 lakh employees would participate in the strike to protest plans to privatise public sector banks, merger and consolidation of banks and other demands including not to write-off non-performing assets (NPAs) in banks, Venkatachalam said in a statement.

Some of the other demands put forth by the unions include declaring wilful default of bank loans as criminal offence, implementation of the recommendations of Parliamentary Committee on recovery of NPAs.

Giving some financials, Venkatachalam claimed that bad loans that were written off by State Bank of India group in the last five years stood at Rs 93,041 crore.

While bad loans by the country's largest public sector lender State Bank of India as of 2016-17 was Rs 20,339 crore, for SBI Group as a whole it was Rs 27,574 crore.

Stating that people should not be penalised for corporate default, he said after the proposed stir on August 22, a massive rally would be conducted on September 15. Sometime in October or November, continuous strike for two days would be conducted, he said.

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ITBP CHUNGTHANG PREPARES FOR CEREMONIAL I-DAY PARADE

GANGTOK, 07 AUG: With the Independence Day celebration coming up, football tournaments traditionally held to mark the occasion have started across the state. Preparations have also started for the grand parade with the 11th Battalion of ITBP Force, Chungthang, starting its practice for the ceremonial parade for the upcoming Independence Day celebration under the supervision of Commandant Rajesh Kumar Tomar, a press release informs.



Women's I-Day football tourney begins in West Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT
YUKSAM, 07 AUG: Welfare Minister, Tulshi Devi Rai attended the 6th day of the ongoing Independence Day celebration in West Sikkim today. She was present as chief guest along with Social Welfare Advisor, C B Gurung at Tashiding School play ground in West Sikkim.

Joining in the celebration, Dil Maya Memorial constituency level women's football tournament began today. The constituency level open senior boys' football tournament is also currently underway.

Minister Tulshi Devi Rai, in her address, appealed to students to become responsible citizens in the future and not

just degrees holders.

Later in her speech, the Minister assured all possible help to the students and teachers of the area from the government.

Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) emerged victorious in the women's football match played today. EMRS defeated Gere-thang complex in a pen-

alty shootout 4-3.

While in the two open senior boys football matches played today, Tashiding School defeated EMRS boys 3-0, while Karchen Club defeated Basudev Club 3-0.

Various cultural presentations by local cultural troupes and school students were also part of the programme today.

SSA teachers strike called off

AGARTALA, AUG 7 (PTI): The indefinite hunger strike of the teachers of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) demanding regularisation of their jobs was called off today following request from the Governor Tathagata Roy.

We have called off our agitation as the Governor assured that tri-partite talks between him, the state government and us would be held on our demand, Tripura Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Teachers Welfare Association President Sajal Deb told reporters.

The State Education Minister Tapan Chakraborty had earlier appealed to the agitating teachers to withdraw their strike saying that the government was concerned about their problems. There are 5,200 SSA teachers in the state.

Manipur guv moots Flying Doctor scheme

IMPHAL, AUG 7 (PTI): Manipur Governor Najma Heptulla today said that she had informed the prime minister of the 'flying doctor' plan mooted by her, which she said would be help to the people of the hill areas of the state and its neighbours.

Heptulla, who is away in Delhi, told PTI over phone that she had tied the rakhi to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the day and informed him of the plan.

The scheme is one of its kind and will be very useful for other hill areas in the NE region as the neighbouring states in the area share similar topographical features, the governor said adding she had requested the prime minister to

inaugurate it after the completion of the official and mandatory requirements.

Heptulla had told a function here last week that the North Eastern Council has allocated Rs 25 crore for the flying doctor scheme and that various districts, both in the hills and valley would be covered through choppers equipped with medical necessities.

Manipur was recently hit by the worst flood in 20 years and had been plagued by vector-borne diseases like Japanese encephalitis and dengue both in the hill and valley areas where surface transport services are difficult due to landslides during the monsoons.

Water released by Nepal causes floods in UP

NEW DELHI, AUG 7 (PTI): Heavy rains lashed several parts of Himachal Pradesh today triggering landslides which closed over 280 roads whereas in Uttar Pradesh, water believed to be released by Nepal caused floods in which deaths of two children were reported.

About 650 people from 32 village panchayats in UP's Bahraich district were evacuated due to floods.

The two deaths were reported from Kaisarganj and Mahsi, District Magistrate Ajay Deep Singh said.

He said Ghaghara river was flowing above danger mark at two places and flood water has entered a large number of schools in Mahsi and Kaisarganj tehsils.

Around 650 people from 32 village panchayats in three tehsils in Bahraich district have been evacuated after river Ghaghara inundated a large part of Bahraich district, officials said.

Torrential rains in Nepal and Terai regions and water released by the neighbouring country are said to be the cause of swelling of river Ghaghara in the district.

In Himachal Pradesh, Dera Gopipur town was the wettest in the state receiving 174 mm of precipitation.

Kangra, Hamirpur, Shimla, Una and Mandi districts suffered maximum damage. Four houses collapsed in a landslide in Sarkaghat area of Mandi district but there was no loss of life, an official spokesperson said.

As many 97 roads were closed on Mandi circle, 69 in Kangra, 60 in Hamirpur and 50 in Shimla. Intermittent rains and landslides were hampering work to clear the roads, the chief engineer of the Public Works Department said.

He said 277 JCB, 25 bulldozers and 78 tipper have been pressed into service to clear the roads and the department has suffered losses to the tune of Rs 291 crore due to damage to roads and government property.

The weatherman has said the wet spell is likely to continue till August 11.

Heavy showers drenched the national capital, offering much-needed respite from muggy weather conditions.

As the skies turned grey, vehicles were seen plying with their headlights on around 2.30 pm.

The downpour led to water-logging and traffic snarls in several areas of the city.

Rajasthan has also received excess rainfall this monsoon season, recording 26 per cent higher than normal rains.



RAKSHA BANDHAN: ALL ABOUT SIBLING LOVE

GANGTOK, 07 AUG: While often the relationship between siblings involves squabbling and gentle teasing, Raksha Bandhan is all about love and actually letting your sibling know what they mean to you. With a variety of rakhis flooding the market, women in the capital flocked to Lall Bazaar to purchase one with much gaiety. [REBYNA RANA]

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U-17 World Cup trophy tour to begin in Delhi from Aug 17

New Delhi, Aug 7 (PTI):

The six-city trophy tour for the FIFA U-17 World Cup will begin in the national capital from August 17, the local organising committee announced today.

The tour will cover almost 9,000 km over a period of 40 days between August 17 and September 26.

Fans will be able to see the trophy in the six host cities starting with New Delhi, where India will be playing their group matches.

The silverware will be on display here from August 17 to 22.

Guwahati (August 24-29) will be next stop followed by Kolkata, which will host the final, between August 31 to September 5.

The tour will continue in between September 6 and 10, while it is scheduled to be on view in Goa from September 14 to 19.

The final destination will be Kochi, where the trophy will be on display from September 21 till 26.

India will be hosting its first FIFA tournament from October 6 to 28.

Describing the event,

chairman of the LOC Praful Patel said: "The trophy experience will mark the last phase of our event promotion and it is very important, because it will give the fans around the country the opportunity to get up close to the same official winner's trophy that the captain of the winning team of the FIFA U-17 World Cup will be lifting on 28 October in Kolkata.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance and we hope that people can come in large numbers to the display locations in the host cities."

Over the next few months, millions of fans in India will get to witness the trophy from close.

"This initiative is about bringing the excitement of the FIFA U-17 World Cup trophy experience closer to India's fans in the run up to this milestone competition.

"The trophy embodies both the dreams of the best U-17 players in the world and those of millions of Indian fans who will be hosting the football world in October," commented FIFA Chief Commercial Officer Philippe Le Floc'h.



Crowd jeers Gatlin again, this time at medal ceremony

LONDON, AUG 7 (PTI):

Newly-crowned world 100m champion Justin Gatlin had to endure more insult as he was booed yet again by the crowd at the Olympic stadium during the medal ceremony while Usain Bolt received massive cheers despite his third place finish.

The 35-year-old Gatlin, who has served two suspensions for doping offences, ruined retiring Usain Bolt's fairytale farewell on Saturday by beating the Jamaican sprint superstar in a highly anticipated 100m final.

Bolt, who is expected to be a part of Jamaican title defence in men's 4x100m relay on August 12, came third, behind Gatlin and another American Christian Coleman.

Stunned to see their favourite Bolt losing the race, the crowd booed Gatlin while chanting 'Usain Bolt! Usain Bolt!'

Gatlin was simply cold-shouldered by the London crowd and the American had responded with a 'keep quiet' gesture by putting his index finger on his lips.

During the victory ceremony yesterday, held just before the afternoon session, Gatlin was booed again by the crowd.

When bronze winner Bolt's name was announced, the crowd responded with loud cheers.

But as soon as the announcer in French took Gatlin's name, the crowd booed him. It was not a prolonged boo though as some sections of the crowd began to clap in acknowledgement of Gatlin's victory.

Gatlin took the abuse

on his chin as he stood stoically on the podium without showing any emotions. He later called up Bolt and silver medal winner American compatriot Coleman to pose together for the shutterbugs.

Interestingly, athletics' world governing body (IAAF) chief Sebastian Coe had earlier said that the American should have been banned for life for a 2006 dope offence. The IAAF President Coe also gave away the medals to Gatlin, Coleman and Bolt as it's customary for the global body chief to do the honours of the blue-riband event of the championships.

Coe shook hands with Gatlin before honouring the newly-crowned champion with the gold medal, just as he did with Coleman and Bolt.

NEW DELHI, AUG 7 (PTI): Toxic fumes inside gutters and sewers have snuffed out seven lives in the national capital within a month, but agencies are busy passing the buck, or washing hands off by pinning the blame on private contractors.

Bezawada Wilson, the national convener of the Safai Karamchari Andolan, said the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) cannot simply get away by saying the workers who died of asphyxiation yesterday were not employed with the agency, as they were cleaning a sewer line owned and maintained by it.

"We are reporting every death to the authorities. Each and every elected representative have been given memorandums detailing the extent of the issue, but nothing is happening.

Their hands are soaked in the blood of safai karamcharis," Wilson told PTI.

Three Sikkim kick boxers certified as international referees

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 07 AUG:

Three kick boxers from Sikkim have been certified as international Referees/Judges. Sushmita Rai, Phurba Sherpa and Kazi Sangay Thupden from Sikkim have received their International Diploma Certificate as referee/judge from the World Association of Kickboxing Organisation [WAKO].

The trio successfully passed their referee/judge examination conducted during WAKO International Kickboxing Referee Seminar held at Lonavala, Pune in Maharashtra from 03-06 Aug by WAKO India Kickboxing Federation.

The examination was conducted by the Chairman of Referee Committee Tatami, WAKO International Federation, Brian Beck from United Kingdom, and Chairman of Referee Committee Ring Sports, WAKO International Committee, Yuri



Lakhytov from Estonia.

Sushmita Rai is world and Asian medalist while and Phurba Sherpa is an Asian medalist with Kazi Sangay Thupden being a national medalist in kick-

boxing.

Speaking to SummitTimes, Sushmita Rai expressed her immense happiness on this achievement. She added that it was a big achievement for

Sikkim Association of Kickboxing Organisation and kick boxers of the State.

"I am feeling really happy, satisfied and motivated," she expressed. She expressed grat-

itude to her coach, Bidhan Ballav Subba, for his continuous guidance and support.

Likewise, Phurba Sherpa also expressed her happiness and sat-

isfaction on being certified as an international referee/judge. She also thanked her coach, Bidhan Ballav Subba, for extending support in every possible way.

Anand draws with Aronian in Sinquefield Chess

ST LOUIS (USA), AUG 7 (PTI):

Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand remained in contention for a top spot after playing out his fourth successive draw in the Sinquefield Chess tournament, here.

Armenian Levon Aronian has had mixed results with Anand but the Indian has troubled his opponent a great deal in the past few years.

For Anand, the fourth draw serves him good as the Indian ace has not really been in great form in super events off late.

With two points from four games, one win is what keeps Anand away from being in the front line and that seemed all the more possible as Magnus Carlsen suffered a massive loss.

The world champion from Norway was seemingly invincible just about a year or so before. However off late, he is witnessing a dip in form and today lost against Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France from a winning position.

In the only other decisive game of the day, Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia scored his first victory in the tournament at the expense of local hopeful Hikaru Nakamura.

The other games of the fourth round saw drawn battles as Peter Svidler of Russia signed peace with Wesley So of America and Fabiano Caruana played out a truce against Sergey Karjakin of Russia.

Vachier-Lagrave emerged as the sole leader in the event on



three points out of a possible four and he is now followed by Caruana who has 2.5 points in his kitty. Anand now shares the third spot on two points along side Carlsen, Karjakin, Aronian and Wesley So.

With five rounds still to come in the USD 300000 prize money event, Nakamura, Svidler and Nepomniachtchi share the eighth spot on 1.5 points apiece.

Aronian thought he got nothing out of the English opening and his reading was perfect. Anand traded his Bishop for a Knight yet again.

This has been the hallmark of the Indian ace in the past many years and yet again it served him in good stead as Aronian was not able to gather much in the middle game.

The position was equal or perhaps a minuscule better for Anand

when the players decided to split points.

Carlsen did everything right for the major part of the game and it was only a major inaccuracy in the later stages that cost the world champion another game. Vachier-Lagrave pounced on the opportunity in no time and romped home in style.

This was also his first win against Carlsen after the latter became world champion.

Results after Round 4: Levon Aronian (ARM, 2) drew with V Anand (IND, 2); Magnus Carlsen (NOR, 2) lost to Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (FRA, 3); Fabiano Caruana (USA 2.5) drew with Sergey Karjakin (RUS, 2); Peter Svidler (RUS, 1.5) drew with Wesley So (USA, 2); Ian Nepomniachtchi (RUS, 1.5) beat Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 1.5).

India U-17 side hold Chile 1-1

NEW DELHI, AUG 7 (PTI): The India U-17 football team produced a spirited display to hold Torneo de 4 Naciones Tournament tour in Mexico City.

Chile, who finished runners-up to Brazil in their South American U-17 Championships to qualify for the World Cup, scored in the 40th minute after India's defence failed to clear the ball.

India's Nongdamba Naorem found the equaliser in the final 10 minutes of the game. Two minutes later, the Blue Tigers were reduced to 10 men after Aniket was given a marching order last night.

Preparing for the upcoming U-17 World Cup, India is on an exposure trip.

India had a disappointing start to the tournament as host Mexico thrashed them 5-1 in their opening game before Colombia, who are in Group A alongside India in the World Cup, went on to win 3-0.

Bengaluru FC sign Spanish striker Braulio N brega

BENGALURU, AUG 7 (PTI):

Bengaluru FC announced the signing of experienced Spanish forward Braulio N brega Rodr guez on a one-year deal, the club announced today.

The 31-year-old La Liga veteran becomes the fourth Spaniard at the club joining fellow countrymen Juanan Gonzalez, Dimas Delgado and Antonio Dovale.

The former Spain Under-20 international joins the Blues after netting an impressive 10 goals in 15 league games along with two in the cup for Doxa Katokopias FC in the 2016-17 Cypriot First Division league while helping his side

survive relegation.

Born in Puerto del Rosario on the Canary Islands in the Atlantic, Braulio, who came through the ranks at Atletico Madrid, turned professional in 2004 joining the reserve side of the Rojiblancos.

He scored 17 goals in 26 games for the 'B' side while also playing frequently with the main team in the La Liga.

During the second half of 2005-06 season, he joined fellow La Liga side Mallorca on loan before having another loan spell with UD Salamanca where he scored 14 times in the Segunda Division.

Despite ban, manual scavenging 'privately' thrives in Delhi



Moreover, Section 7 of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, clearly states that no person, local authority or any agency shall engage or employ, either directly or indirectly, any person for

hazardous cleaning of a sewer or a septic tank.

Wilson said too often these agencies are absolved of criminality as the workers are not employed directly by them, but by private contractors.

"You have money for bullet

trains, but no resources are being spared to put an end to these deaths. Mere talk on Swachh Bharat will not suffice. Why do we even have Article 21 providing Right to Life in our Constitution?" he said.

Four men had died while cleaning a tank containing poisonous sewage in south Delhi's Ghitorni in July 15 while three died while cleaning a sewer line in Lajpat Nagar yesterday. In both the cases, the deceased were working for private contractors.

A report prepared by the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLSA), which had identified 233 manual scavengers in Delhi, shows the extent to which workers, without proper safety gears, are cleaning sewers and tanks under private contractors.

The DSLSA had pointed out in its report, which was submitted in the Delhi High Court, that out of these workers, 104 were attached to gov-

ernment agencies while 129 were working as outsourced or private contract workers.

The court had termed as "disgraceful" the existence of manual scavengers in the city.

The Supreme Court, in 2014, had issued a series of directions to all states for strict implementation of the law by acting against violators, and ensure education, employment and rehabilitation of affected people.

"Our sewer lines have to be modernised. Most of them date back to the British period. The whole cleaning process must be mechanised. Workers must be provided with safety gears.

"When will we introduce technology that can potentially change lives? And one needs to take the bull by the horns and deal with the widely prevalent casteist mindset, which is at the root of manual scavenging," Wilson said.



Sikhs one of the top targets of hate crimes in US: Community leaders

WASHINGTON, AUG 7 (PTI): Sikhs are one of the top targets of hate crimes and sectarian violence in the US, the community leaders have said as they remembered victims of the 2012 mass shooting by a white supremacist that claimed the lives of six Sikhs at a Gurdwara in the Wisconsin city.

Several eminent Sikh-Americans from across the US, lawmakers, government officials and local leaders participated in prayers held on the weekend to mark the five-year anniversary of the mass shooting.

"We have made commendable efforts to secure our Gurdwara Sahib's all across the country and taken many preventive measures. But Sikhs are still one of the top targets of hate crimes, sectarian violence, and bullying in American schools.

In recent years, attacks have rather increased in manyfold, said Gurinder Singh Khalsa, who heads the Sikhs Political Action Committee.

"Hate has no colour. Hate has no face. Yet we all saw hate five years ago," Blahair Dulai, president of the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin, said, addressing the gathering.

"When you come together and those hearts and minds connect, the presence of the divine is there and you don't even have to say a word," he added.

Among the speakers yesterday at the Gurdwara was retired Oak Creek Police officer Brian Murphy, who was shot fifteen times before the shooter was brought down.

"When something is stolen from you, when the lives were stolen from everyone here, you can't get that back," Murphy said.

Withdraw from Doklam to avoid confrontation: PLA to India

HUAIROU (CHINA), AUG 7 (PTI): Senior Col Li Li of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) may be thousands of kilometres away from Doklam but has a stern message for the Indian Army -- withdraw from the Chinese territory to avoid confrontation.

A visit by Indian journalists, sponsored by the Chinese government, today turned into a propaganda exercise by the Chinese Army for delivering its message on the prolonged standoff between troops of the two countries in Doklam near Sikkim.

Sr Col Li claimed, "What the Indian troops have done is an invasion of Chinese territory. You can report about what the Chinese soldiers are thinking about. I am a soldier, I will try my best to protect territorial integrity. We have the resolve and determination," he told Indian journalists taken to visit this garrison on the outskirts of Beijing.

The visit included a rare demonstration of combat skills of the PLA troops before the Indian media.



The demonstration included sharp shooting skills with small arms, capture of "hostile forces" in close combat, counter-terrorism and laser simulation force-on-force training of reinforced infantry squads.

Li, however, clarified that the demonstration had no particular reference to

Doklam where China says 48 Indian troops still stayed put along with a bulldozer.

"In addition, there are still a large number of Indian armed forces congregating on the boundary and on the Indian side of the boundary," the Chinese Foreign Ministry had said earlier.

Responding to questions

on the present impasse in Doklam, he said, "What the PLA will do depends on the actions of the Indian side. We will take appropriate action when it is necessary."

"We will follow the orders of the CPC (ruling Communist Party of China) and the Central Military Commission (the overall high command of

the 2.3 million strong army headed by Chinese President Xi Jinping)."

The garrison is one of the oldest and most important training centres of the PLA officers and troops. It is also responsible for the security of the Chinese capital.

About 11,000 troops are stationed at the garrison. The state media also continued the tirade against India.

An article in the official China Daily today said "geostategic miscalculations" were behind India's border "trespassing".

"For China, the trespassing by Indian troops was unexpected and it is unacceptable as it happened in a section of the boundary that has hitherto been considered beyond dispute by both sides in the otherwise long drawn out and arduous boundary negotiations," it said.

India's "trespassing" amounts to no less than a violation of China's territorial sovereignty, and China has the lawful right to take "whatever measures" it deems necessary to defend its territory, it said.

"While misunderstandings between neighbours are understandable, India should engage in candid dialogue, not lawless provocations."

Time, it added, is fast running short for India to pull out from Chinese territory and on that basis explore a face-saving solution in consultation with China. "India should do well to remember that its neighbour has the capability to defeat all invading enemies," it said.

India and China have been locked in a standoff in Doklam since June 16 after Chinese troops began constructing a road near the Bhutan trijunction.

Bhutan has protested to China, saying the area belonged to it and accused Beijing of violating agreements that aim to maintain the status quo until the boundary dispute is resolved.

India says the Chinese action to construct the road was unilateral and changes the status quo. It fears the road would allow China to cut off India's access to its northeastern states.

S Korea prosecutors seek 12 years' jail for Samsung heir

SEOUL, AUG 7 (AFP): South Korean prosecutors today demanded the heir to the Samsung empire be jailed for 12 years over his role in the corruption scandal that brought down the country's last president.

At the final hearing in the trial of Lee Jae-Yong, the vice chairman of Samsung Electronics, prosecutors called him the "ultimate beneficiary" of crimes committed in the scandal, which culminated in the impeachment and dismissal of president Park Geun-Hye.

If the judges convict him and agree with the sentence recommendation it will be among the harshest penalties ever passed on a top executive of a chaebol, the business groups that dominate Asia's fourth-largest economy.

Lee and four other executives of Samsung -- the world's biggest smartphone maker and the country's biggest firm -- are accused of bribing Park's powerful confidante with millions of dollars to win presidential favours and ease a controversial 2015 merger deal.

"The defendants were closely tied to power and sought personal gains," the prosecutors said.

They sought a 12-year sentence for Lee, who is also charged with embezzlement and hiding assets overseas among other offences, 10-year terms for three of his co-accused, and



seven years for the last of the defendants in the trial.

Taking the stand for the first time in his defence last week, Lee claimed that he had no role in decision-making at the wider Samsung group and "mostly listened to other executives".

His lawyers say the allegations were unjustified and the defendants never sought anything in return for the money that was donated.

The verdicts are expected later this month.

Lee, 49, has effectively been at the helm of Samsung, which has revenues equivalent to about a fifth of the country's GDP, since his father was left bedridden by

a heart attack in 2014.

One of the favours Lee allegedly sought from Park was state approval for a controversial merger of two Samsung units in 2015, seen as a key step to ensuring a smooth power transfer to him.

The deal was opposed by many shareholders who said it had wilfully undervalued shares of one of the two firms. But it eventually went through after the national pension fund -- a major Samsung shareholder -- approved it.

"The special prosecutors failed to give any evidence for the existence of such a succession operation," Lee's lawyers

argued at Monday's hearing.

If Lee is found guilty it will be a blow for Park, who is on trial separately on 18 charges including bribery, coercion and abuse of power following her dismissal from office in March.

Park was formally impeached after public uproar over her questionable ties with confidante Choi Soon-Sil sparked mass nationwide protests for months.

Choi is also on trial for using her presidential ties to force top South Korean firms including Samsung to "donate" nearly 70 million to non-profit foundations which she controlled.

Those who want to quit SP, should leave without giving any excuse : Akhilesh

LUCKNOW, AUG 7 (PTI): In the backdrop of three MLCs recently quitting the party and joining the BJP, Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav today said those who wanted to go, should go without offering any excuse, so that he could ascertain who were with him in "bad times".

Referring to the "excuses" put forward by the three MLCs -- Bukkal Nawab, Sarojini Agarwal and Yashwant Singh -- while leaving the party, Yadav said, "Some people are saying they were feeling suffocated as the atmosphere of the party had gone bad. This should not be an excuse for leaving the party, they should find a better excuse."

Asserting that the party was doing well and

a large number of women, farmers and youths had joined it recently, he said, "Those who want to leave the party should not give any excuse...they can just leave. In that case, at least I will get to know who are with us during bad times."

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister was addressing the party workers at the SP headquarters here on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

Yadav said he had paid a visit to Nawab on Eid and had 'sewai' (a sweet dish) with him.

"At that time, he (Nawab) had not mentioned that he was planning to leave the party. It has come to our notice that there was some land issue, due to which he was being pressured," he added.

Anthyesthyi Kriya



The Anthyesthyi Kriya of **Sabitri Pradhan** who left for heavenly abode on 29 July, falls on **10 August [Thursday]**. All relatives and well wishers are requested to join us to offer prayers for the departed soul at our residence at **Ranipool Marchak, Near Tendong Petrol Pump.**

Govind Pradhan & Devi Pradhan (Son and Daughter-in-law), Tek Narayan Pradhan & Daya Pradhan (Son and Daughter-in-law), Hari Pradhan & Rita Pradhan (Son and Daughter-in-law) and all Pradhan Family

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR AFFECTIONATE

Draw No:1 DrawDate on:06/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 92G 50969
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 50969 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
03452 41273 50158 62602 80133
83176 87421 91095 96305 97127
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
33601 36292 39711 47746 48882
48930 57693 66014 69147 75181
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0054 0296 0405 0704 1122 1543 5159 6116 7113 7972
5th Prize Rs.500/-
1383 2016 2917 3602 4714 5679 7521 7560 8700 9803
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0034 0147 0176 0236 0318 0527 0791 0903 1011 1083
1101 1108 1295 1364 1392 1478 1501 1508 1633 1777
1888 1967 2015 2040 2158 2263 2539 2582 2590 2732
2773 2928 3120 3160 3256 3267 3268 3545 3636 3661
3757 3760 4155 4219 4229 4297 4312 4336 4398 4473
4530 5080 5144 5146 5196 5199 5445 5517 5523 5596
5713 5753 5766 5811 5828 5886 6136 6204 6358 6586
6699 6826 6849 6932 7041 7115 7184 7292 7307 7436
7630 7643 7644 8103 8116 8207 8270 8595 8889 8994
9045 9123 9170 9199 9481 9632 9687 9700 9725 9918
Issued by:
The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Gangtok
please visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR FLAMINGO EVENING

Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:2 DrawDate on:07/08/17
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 84G 61446
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 61446 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
04187 07264 23672 32942 50339
54609 67291 74015 93103 98037
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
02634 05616 06793 30707 37574
43341 60389 67645 70173 98549
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
1545 1723 3981 4551 4870 5013 7631 9034 9054 9704
5th Prize Rs.500/-
1021 1073 2207 2497 3492 3700 5665 5767 7871 9930
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0054 0228 0252 0475 0481 0494 0615 0710 0771 0782
0899 0940 0943 0971 1422 1431 1757 1799 1944 1984
2028 2031 2118 2277 2383 2425 2511 2525 2610 2631
2655 2816 2817 2827 2879 3005 3186 3206 3218 3367
3579 3591 3640 3694 3760 3843 3850 3871 3892 4019
4056 4072 4113 4136 4262 4277 4452 4567 4811 4894
5075 5091 5132 5150 5168 5183 5294 5406 5605 5627
5892 6314 6333 6480 6558 6724 6864 7097 7109 7363
7397 7590 7749 7761 7946 7958 8040 8075 8307 8758
8964 8965 8973 8990 9209 9397 9404 9535 9681 9952
Issued by:
The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland
For Result, Please Visit : www.nagalandlotteries.com
KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR LOVING

Draw No:2 DrawDate on:07/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 94L 72653
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 72653 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
03267 14281 25263 30854 45986
72198 89345 97194 98746 98820
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
09582 14172 15187 15313 42002
51241 53358 69254 87181 94273
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0452 1855 2352 3666 6939 7201 7204 9010 9188 9925
5th Prize Rs.500/-
0129 0842 1653 6153 7416 8737 9034 9235 9962 9980
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0137 0188 0259 0307 0345 0691 0710 0795 0892 1063
1151 1210 1264 1627 1761 1813 1819 1933 2126 2285
2302 2329 2366 2382 2487 2544 2692 2805 2943 2946
3021 3184 3304 3312 3425 3491 3527 3684 3983 4006
4090 4284 4295 4308 4334 4345 4636 4716 4797 4859
4952 5094 5196 5204 5223 5469 5488 5573 5690 5709
5860 5865 6100 6138 6214 6215 6323 6457 6493 6507
6849 6851 6987 7107 7247 7372 7375 7458 7728 7871
7892 7919 8364 8417 8483 8523 8525 8977 8992 9005
9100 9123 9234 9469 9656 9724 9766 9838 9847 9970
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please visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR CHANCE MORNING

Draw No:2 DrawDate on:07/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 90J 42556
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 42556 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
05178 12265 13474 27481 53412
57219 61227 62450 83072 92491
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
17939 24608 30718 32492 64589
65693 72767 82958 88249 94285
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
2052 4629 4814 5640 5734 6537 6830 7264 7657 9558
5th Prize Rs.500/-
1401 1781 2294 4637 4864 5006 8156 8322 9287 9955
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0020 0063 0122 0279 0291 0547 0549 0720 0895 1087
1251 1299 1346 1561 1585 1595 1645 1674 1771 1841
2007 2017 2033 2097 2167 2202 2211 2769 2810 2879
3049 3300 3456 3515 3571 3630 3759 4106 4220 4286
4420 4433 4580 4588 4738 4785 4839 5177 5247 5534
5620 5657 5679 5777 5849 5874 5998 6095 6165 6234
6288 6295 6353 6578 6720 6737 6994 7334 7336 7392
7400 7427 7459 7473 7516 7599 8189 8374 8480 8518
8622 8720 8752 8826 8843 8905 8994 9040 9301 9303
9324 9601 9638 9726 9737 9757 9793 9809 9822 9938
Issued by:
The Director, Mizoram State Lotteries,
For results please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com



PRETTY IN BLACK! Actress Lea Michele attends the 2017 Summer TCA Tour Disney ABC Television Group at The Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California.

Pratt & Faris Break Up...

In an unfortunate turn of events, Chris Pratt and Anna Faris announced on Sunday night that they are "legally separating" after eight years of marriage. The couple shares a 4-year-old son, Jack Pratt.

The 38-year-old Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 star took to his official Facebook page to announce the separation news, writing, "Anna and I are sad to announce we are legally separating. We tried hard for a long time, and we're really disappointed. Our son has two parents who love him very much and for his sake we want to keep this situation as private as

possible moving forward."

The statement continued, "We still have love for each other, will always cherish our time together and continue to have the deepest respect for one another." The statement was signed with both of the actors' names at the end of it.

Moments after the Facebook post, the 40-year-old Mom actress tweeted an almost similar statement from her Twitter, except hers does not have the last phrase: "And continue to have the deepest respect for one another."

The beloved duo met in 2007 while filming the movie Take Me Home Tonight. The two got engaged in 2008 and eventually tied the knot on July 9,



CELEBSCOOP

marriage.

She gushed to the outlet, "He is sexy, but more importantly he's a great person." She added, "When I was falling in love with him, I loved how kind he was to people. I loved how smart he is, but he's not pretentious at all. He doesn't wear that as a badge—he kind of lets people slowly discover it."

She said, "He's humble, and he's a great leader, and he's an incredible father and a great husband. And I feel like, after years of dating people that

2009.

Last year, Faris spoke to the Huffington Post about why Pratt's her soulmate and how he's the one person who has really changed her outlook on love and

weren't the best for me, I found somebody who's love I could really accept."

Faris had previously been married to Ben Indra from 2004-2008.

In 2015, Pratt spoke to Elle magazine about meeting his future wife while filming. "It was like magnets. Our personalities meshed, she was a goofball, she liked to have fun, it was impossible to offend her ... We were friends first but she left her husband at the end of the movie, and we started dating when we were back in Los Angeles," he said. "We were friends, and I was there for her. And we had just played love interests, so we had this tight bond spending so much time and spending nights in Phoenix, but we never crossed the line. But we were, I think, developing feelings for each other at the time, you know? The day that she told me she was leaving her husband, I knew I was going to marry her."

JAB HARRY MET SEJAL'S B.O. COLLECTION REMAINS FLAT!

You don't expect this from a Shah Rukh Khan film. We are used to seeing big numbers when it comes to his movies and Jab Harry Met Sejal is definitely not one in that category. Despite sizeable screen count of 3100 and good first day occupancy, the film has failed to make even Rs 50 crore over the weekend.

As revealed by Trade analyst Taran Adarsh, "#JabHarryMetSejal Fri 15.25 cr, Sat 15 cr, Sun 15.50 cr. Total: ₹ 45.75 cr. India biz... #JHMS" As you can see, Saturday saw a drop from Friday which was enough to say how the film is faring at the box office.

He further even added, "#JabHarryMetSejal has emerged a DISAPPOINTMENT... Barring few metros, the biz ranged from ordinary to dull... Jump in biz was missing. #JHMS" Clearly, trade gurus aren't happy with the performance of the film at the box office. You don't expect such numbers from a Shah Rukh film. In fact, it is reminding us of Fan which saw a similar trend.

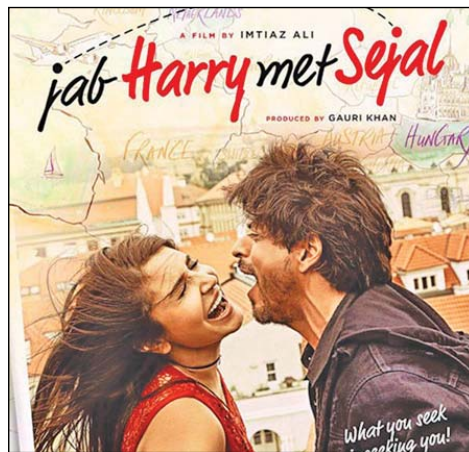
Jab Harry Met Sejal received mixed response from

the first day itself. They loved SRK and Anushka Sharma's chemistry but everything else failed to whet their appetite.

NDTV was not too impressed with the cheesiness of the film. They wrote, "First half: breezy but unabashedly banal. Second half: riddled with toe-curling romantic mush. Sum total: a journey without maps that weaves concentric circles around sweet nothings and empty prattle-prattle."

Times of India seems to have gotten tired of signature elements that Imtiaz's films have. "The plot is wafer-thin and it's been done to death by none other than Imtiaz Ali in each of his earlier films—be it Jab We Met, Cocktail and Tamasha," they wrote in a 3 star review. Though they did the love the chemistry shared by Anushka and SRK like us. They wrote, "What makes this film watchable though is the presence of Shah Rukh and Anushka both of who are in top-form in their Punjabi and Gujarati impersonations. In fact, SRK is like old wine, the more he matures, the better he romances," they wrote.

BOX OFFICE



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY
Assistant Professor in History,
Namchi Govt. College

08TH AUGUST WORLD HISTORY

1570: Charles IX of France signed the Treaty of St. Germain, ending the third war of religion and giving religious freedom to the Huguenots.

1588: The English Navy destroyed the Spanish Armada. 600 Spaniards were killed in the day's fighting and 800 badly injured.

1786: The US Congress adopted the silver dollar and decimal system of money.

1788: King Louis XVI called the French States and Generals together.

1815: Napoleon Bonaparte set sail for St. Helena, in the South Atlantic, to spend the remainder of his days in exile.

1945: President Truman signed the United Nations Charter.

1963: Britain's "Great Train Robbery" took place as thieves made off with 120 mailbags with 2.62 million pounds in banknotes.

INDIAN HISTORY

1919: According to the Treaty of Rawalpindi the United Kingdom recognised Afghanistan's independence, agreed that British India would not extend past the Khyber Pass and stopped British subsidies to Afghanistan.

1942: Mahatma Gandhi launched the Quit India Movement for freedom from British rule in Mumbai (then Bombay). he Quit India Movement, also known as the August Movement was a Civil Disobedience Movement launched by Gandhi for Satyagraha (independence). The movement was accompanied by a mass protest on non-violent lines, in which Gandhi called for "an orderly British withdrawal from India".

1967: The Central Government, for the first time since Independence, suffered a token defeat in the Lok Sabha.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



"SORRY, LEROY... I HAD TO BUY SHOES FOR ALL THE DRESSES I DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT."

Halle Berry on Malia Obama as a PA: She was fantastic

Actor Halle Berry has revealed how Malia Obama was as production assistant on her sci-fi drama, 'Extant'. Berry said that the daughter of former president Barack Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama is a 'smart, beautiful young woman'. "She was fantastic," Berry said of Malia.

The 19-year-old will be attending Harvard University this autumn after taking a gap year. When Cohen asked if working with the Malia was 'kinda wild,' Berry admitted that it was and that she is 'such a huge fan of hers.'

"Were you like, 'Will you get me a coffee?'" Cohen asked. Berry responded play-



fully, "Could we call your dad or your mom?"

The actor added that "ev-

erybody couldn't really see (Malia) as a PA" though. "She tried and tried to be one, we

just couldn't really see her as one. But to her credit, she tried very hard to be one."

ARIES: Others are apt to play a big role in the events that unfold today, Aries. It's likely that closely communing with others will be very important. Despite this, you may still feel alone. Even within a large group, your heart may yearn to bond tightly with just one other person. Do your best to stay positive regardless of the combative forces likely to be at work on a day like this.

TAURUS: You may be in a difficult position today, Taurus, as if you're being pulled in two directions with little say as to how things are supposed to end. The acting forces could be manipulative, so you should take special care that no one

takes advantage of you. This may be easier said than done at a time like this.

GEMINI: It's very possible that the best solution today is to simply give up control, Gemini. When it comes to matters of the heart, other people may be in a whirl of turmoil. Trying to figure out their state of mind will be impossible so don't even try. You may just want to let things ride and see where you end up tomorrow before making any major moves.

CANCER: Mind your manners today, Cancer. Make sure your charm is turned up high. Merging with the group is essential as you keep the momentum of the energy going. The more the merrier. Once you get

the ball rolling in the right direction, there will be plenty of momentum to help it up the next hill. The important thing is that you take responsibility for your actions.

LEO: Situations and people with strong opinions about how things are done may impede your trajectory today, Leo. Issues of love and romance may be the most affected by this tense energy. The key is to remember that everyone isn't your enemy. Try not to get paranoid about this. Do your best to take a relaxed approach and have confidence that things will work out fine.

VIRGO: Your adventurous spirit is noble, Virgo, but you might find that this is one of those days

in which you're asked to justify your actions. Other people could be jealous of you and your lifestyle, so they're trying to find fault with the things you do. Don't get tricked into thinking that anything you're doing is necessarily wrong or bad just because someone doesn't agree with it.

LIBRA: The warrior within may be stirred today. You might also have some self-doubt about your actions, Libra. Stay confident that you're on the right path at all times. There may be a bit of tension in your world, but try not to get too worked up over it. This is just a passing phase. You shouldn't overreact and think that you're completely wrong

regarding something you're doing. **SCORPIO:** Be aware that you might feel overshadowed or that your efforts won't be recognized, Scorpio. You could feel like you do all the work for others and get nothing in return. The key is to make sure that you do the things you do because you want to. Do them for you. Don't do them for others because you expect that they will do something for you in return.

SAGITTARIUS: Issues regarding love and romance may be confusing today, Sagittarius. You should be aware that strong forces are at work to tangle the current situation. Try not to get too discouraged by whatever transpires as a result of this

energy. Keep in mind that this, too, shall pass, and things will become clear again. Right now you should just sit back and take things with a grain of salt.

CAPRICORN: Focus on the information coming your way today, Capricorn. Try not to get too emotional about the consequences of the information. More than likely, a neutral approach is best in any situation you encounter. If you already have a strong preconceived notion of how things are going to be, you will fail to notice the valuable nuances that are being presented to you now.

AQUARIUS: Things may get a bit hostile today, Aquarius. No one

wants to budge from his or her position. You could be caught between mind and heart issues. Both sides are unforgiving and unwilling to give up control. Your best bet is to try to find compromise wherever possible. You may not get the exact solution you want, but you will get one that's workable for all parties involved.

PISCES: You may think that everything is perfect, Pisces, when suddenly, there's a great surge of unyielding emotional energy. Be on the lookout because such situations are likely to crop up and add intensity to your journey. Pool your knowledge with that of other people instead of trying to come up with all the answers by yourself.

ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT

