



SummitTIMES

Darjeeling boils over, GJM calls 12-hour bandh

Stone-pelting, lathicharge, tear gassing, arson, confusion, miscommunication, and now a 12-hour bandh

**SUMMIT REPORT
DARJEELING, 08 JUN:**

The West Bengal government had to call in the Army in Darjeeling on Thursday evening after Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) supporters clashed with security forces. Violence erupted at around 3 p.m.

Since morning, the situation was fluid in Darjeeling with the GJM taking out rallies and holding a sit-in demonstration a short distance away from the Raj Bhawan where the State Cabinet meeting was taking place.

The rallies arrived from Singmari, Darjeeling Railway Station and Batasia Loop at the Gorkha Ranga Mancha Bhawan and staged a sit-in demonstration.

The police had set up barricades below the St Andrew's Church. While the State Cabinet meeting started at the Raj Bhawan at around 2 p.m. The 2-hour long sit-in demonstration started along with slogan shouting at around 12:30 p.m and continued till around 2:45 p.m.

Vehicles stopped plying and shops downed shutters in Darjeeling.

Meanwhile, the State Cabinet meeting followed by a press conference had finished at around the same time.

Following the Cabinet meeting, while the 28 Ministers were still in the Raj Bhawan and the CM had returned to the Richmond Hill Government Guest House, at around 3 p.m. the GJM supporters torched an effigy of the CM.

Suddenly there were stones being pelted and amidst shouts a stampede ensued. Some people even tried to bring down the police barricade.

The police resorted to lathi charge and firing tear gas shells. Police vehicles parked on the Chowrastra road were

torched while stones and bottles rained on the police personnel from the Hill above.

More than 45 security force personnel were injured in the clash.

A police booth was set on fire. 10 police vehicles were torched along with a State Government bus.

Police personnel, CRPF jawans, including lady police personnel and officers were injured.

Finally, at around 5 p.m. the situation was diffused and the GJM supporters and leaders left the area.

GJM has claimed that 5 of their supporters were injured.

"We have called for a 12-hour bandh from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday. All education institutes will remain closed, vehicles will not ply and business establishments will remain closed. Emergency services have been exempted. Everything was going peacefully. TMC supporters threw stones at the sit-in demonstration leading to this," alleged Gorkha Janmukti Yuva Morcha leader, Amrit Yonzon.

Mamata Banerjee sat in an administrative meeting with the Chief Secretary and the Home Secretary at Richmond Hill. In the evening the Ministers left Darjeeling while the CM will stay back.

It may be recalled that GJM had called a two-day bandh of educational institutions from 01 June and protest marches throughout the Hills from 04-08 June. The party is protesting against the alleged imposition of Bengali language in the Hills.

In Kalimpong, GJM supporters torched an effigy of the Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee at Damber Chowk-which the situation quickly deteriorated into confusion and much rumour-mongering but no untoward incidents were reported in Kalimpong.

Kalimpong town shut down after 5pm. Earlier, the GJM rally had a strong presence of students, not all of whom were sure about what was planned for the day.



The dangers of political brinkmanship and the costs

**SUDIPTA CHANDA
SILIGURI, 08 JUNE**

Sitting on an uneasy cusp the past few days, Darjeeling finally erupted in flames on Thursday. There is a gut feeling that its effects would be felt for long.

Political brinkmanship between the Trinamool-led state government and the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) has been running thick over several issues in the hills the past few months. The culmination, when it came on Thursday, was in the shape of violence.

Understandably, life will be held to ransom in the hills once again as the GJM-sponsored movement, if not hostilities, catches up in other parts of what is generally known as the Darjeeling hills. And, tourism, which is the money spinner for the hills, will fall the first casualty to the upset conditions.

GJM activists went on the rampage in the vicinity of the Raj Bhawan on Thursday where chief minister Mamata Banerjee was holding a cabinet meeting. The police were brick batted, tear gas lobbed and vehicles were torched. The GJM has announced a dawn to dusk clampdown of the hills on Friday.

While the chief minister has stayed put in Darjeeling overseeing arrangements to ensure safe return of stranded tourists and hopeful return of normal conditions, it is learnt, the Army has been requisitioned to bring the situation under control. That says, the police force present in the hills is not adequate to contain the violence, which can escalate if not handled carefully.

Similar showdowns between Left Front cadres and BJP activists versus the police on May 22 and May 25 respectively in the streets of Kolkata ended in blood-letting of the demonstrators. In Darjeeling the situation was just the reverse with the police coming at the receiving end.

The topography of the hills is such that blunting a violent movement is not as easy as it is in the plains. Here those on elevated ground physically enjoy dominance in a hostile situation and so immense patience will have to be exercised to ensure violence does not spread in other parts of the hills.

The hill community is a martial race and history is testimony they are not averse to skirmishes against the establishment if sentiments are hurt. So, caution is the operative word in the given conditions.

That said, the million rupee question now is, what triggered Thursday's conflagration? The hills have been on the boil the past few days on the Bengali language in schools issue. But, Mamata Banerjee made it clear from Mirik two days ago that Bengali would be optional in hill schools, not compulsory. Yet the violence.

Politically the GJM has been losing ground to the Trinamool in the hills as demonstrates results of the recently held civic polls. With the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) hopefully round the corner, the GJM had to claw back into public imagination. And what better than a movement in the name of Gorkhaland?

Thursday might have seen the beginning of such a movement yet again.

BJP demands peace committee to contain violence in Darj

KOLKATA, JUNE 8 (PTI): The BJP today criticised the West Bengal government for failing to contain violence in the Darjeeling hills and demanded that a peace committee be formed to restore peace.

"The TMC administration has completely failed to contain violence in the hills. There was no shut down or violence in the hills for last three years. But, the TMC, which is trying to establish its own political hegemony in the hills, did everything to provoke violence and disturbance in the hills," BJP MP from Darjeeling S S Ahluwalia told PTI.

Ahluwalia questioned the reason behind deployment of the Army when the entire state cabinet is present in the hills. "When the entire state cabinet including the Chief Minister is present in the hills, why turn to pg02

Panchayats of 3 Dzongu GPUs condemn pro-project pamphlet distribution

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 08 JUN:**

The Panchayats of Hee-Gyathang, Lum-Gor-Sangtok and Saffo-Passingdang Gram Panchayat Units of Dzongu have strongly condemned the pamphlet distributed by people favouring the Teesta Stage IV Project during their rally on 06 June at Mangan in North Sikkim.

The Panchayats have stated that these three GPUs have not yet passed the Gram Sabha on Forest Rights Act for Teesta Stage IV hydel project. The Gram Sabha for FRA

was conducted in all the above GPUs and each GPU had said no to Teesta Stage IV, a release adds.

The pamphlet states that all the GPUs have passed the resolution. This, according to the Panchayats, is wrong information being delivered to people. They have stated that they will take legal action against those who were involved in distribution of the said pamphlet.

Panchayat Secretary-Saffo-Passingdang GPU stated that the Gram Sabha held at their GPU has clearly stated that they have not passed the FRA and when it comes to the formation

of Forest Rights Committee (FRC), the Panchayat Secretary clarified that the FRC has been formed only to look into who has claim to forest land.

Meanwhile, the Gram Sabha for Lum-Gor-Sangtok GPU which was held on 30 May has out rightly rejected the Teesta Stage IV project and so the FRC was not formed. People of the GPU stated that the FRA Gram Sabha for the said GPU which was held on 13 May is null and void since the majority of Panchayat members were absent during the Sabha.

It may be mentioned here that out of 10 GPUs, 04

GPUs fall on the right bank of the river and the remaining fall on the left bank.

Section 6 of the Forest Rights Act provides a transparent three step procedure for deciding on who gets rights. First, the gram sabha (full village assembly, not the gram panchayat) makes a recommendation - i.e who has been cultivating land for how long, which minor forest produce is collected, etc.

The gram sabha plays this role because it is a public body where all people participate, and hence is fully democratic and transparent. The gram sabha's recommendation goes through

two stages of screening committees at the taluka and district levels. The district level committee makes the final decision (see section 6(6)).

The Committees have six members - three government officers and three elected persons. At both the taluka and the district levels, any person who believes a claim is false can appeal to the Committees, and if they prove their case the right is denied (sections 6(2) and 6(4)). Finally, land recognised under this Act cannot be sold or transferred.

Exam fee will be refunded, HRDD assures Gov College students

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 JUN:**

In a meeting between the Director, Higher Education, Human Resource Development Department and student representatives of Sikkim Government Colleges held today,

various issues brought up by the students were discussed and amicably settled.

The Director, DK Pradhan assured the students that the examination fee which was deposited in Sikkim Central University will be refunded with-

in a month after details of the amount to be refunded is received from the college authorities.

Around 90 student representatives attended the meeting with the Director and Under Secretary, HRDD today.

Other issues discussed were the demands for hassle free online admission procedure, clarity in other kinds of college fee to be submitted, better quality lab chemicals, better food in college hostel, etc.

Sikkim Government College Tadong Student Representatives president, Bishal Subba, put forward difficulties faced by college students which were addressed.

The Students Union has also demanded certain percent reservation in Sikkim Central University for Sikkimese students.

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BJP holds Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas programme at Gyalshing

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 JUN:**

Bharatiya Janta Party, Sikkim organized a programme, Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas in association with NHPC, Rangeet Nagar at community hall in Gyalshing Bazaar in West Sikkim on 07 June. This programme is being organized at every sub-division in all four districts to inform the people about the achievements and pro-people schemes of the three-year old Modi government, informs a BJP state-unit press release issued by its president, DB Chauhan.

The programme had BJP Sikkim in-charge and national secretary, Rajnish Kumar, as chief guest accompanied by state-unit president, Mr Chauhan, and other leaders of the party. The release informs that the state president urged the people to gather all information on every programme of the Centre to take full advantage of it. He also urged them to find out about various schemes of the centre from different units.

The release informs that the chief guest spoke about various schemes and achievements of the Central government and encouraged all to take full advantage of every scheme and programme. He also stated that the Centre has given special attention to the North-East region. The programme was also addressed by West district president, Laten Tshering Sherpa.

Chamling has accepted his government's failure alleges SKM

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 JUN:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has alleged that the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, during his address at the Janta Mela in Makha, East Sikkim, on 06 June accepted that development projects and plans have not reached rural Sikkim, a claim the SKM president, PS Tamang [Golay] has repeatedly made.

The party has alleged that the CM himself said that the government is insincere, corrupt, partial and anti-poor during his address.

An SKM press release issued by its general secretary, Birendra Tamling, states that the CM's statement proves that Ministers, MLAs and Panchayats under him were insincere and corrupt. The party has questioned the government's lack of action on such a serious issue.

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Loyola College students launch 'College meets Village' prog

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 JUN:**

National Service Scheme Cell of Loyola College of Education, Namchi, is conducting a five-day programme under the theme 'College meets Village' with Jaubari in South Sikkim as their place of service for one tenure, a press release informs.

A short inaugural session was held in Tharchin Monastery on 07 June which was initiated by programme co-ordinator, Julie Chhetri.

Panchayat-Upper

Jaubari, Pema Sherpa, ex-Chairperson Labour Welfare Department, Passang Rinzing Sherpa, president-Village Tourism Society, Girmey Wongyal Sherpa, Superior of the Jesuit Community, Namchi, Reverend Father Julius Kujur SJ, and former Principal St Xavier's College, Rajganj, Rev Fr Cherian Padyara SJ, were the important dignitaries present in the programme.

After the inaugural function, 40 students of NSS Unit of LCE along with 12 volunteers from

Upper Jaubari participated in the event.

Programme co-ordinator, Ms Chhetri, along with NSS volunteers of LCE and Jaubari led the mass cleaning and plantation in and around Tharchin Monastery and also painted and beautified the Village View Point as part of the NSS programme.

It is informed in the release that cleaning, painting of Village Community Hall and awareness programmes will be conducted during the remaining days of the camp.

West farmers get compensation for damages caused by wild animals

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 JUN:**

Forest Department has distributed the compensation to farmers for crop damages and loss of domestic animal due to wild animals in 2016-17.

A total of 112 affected families under Soreng and Dentam Ranges in West Sikkim were handed over compensation by the department at Dodak Gram Prashasanik Kendra in West Sikkim today, a press release informs.

It has to be mentioned here that wild an-

imals like wild boar, deer, porcupine and monkey damaged crops while bear and leopard attacked domestic animals last year in West Sikkim.

The compensation amount was distributed to affected families from Uttarey, Begha-Mangbung, Bermiok-Martam and Hee-Patal under Dentam Range and Shreebadam, Singling, Buriakhop, Tareybhiri, Hattaban, Okhrey and Ribdi under Soreng range in the presence of local panchayats and Forest Department officials.



Mass plantation drive at Shreebadam

**Summit Report
Gangtok, 08 Jun:**

A mass plantation drive at Goti Source in Shreebadam, West Sikkim, was carried out under the supervision of Forest Department and Siniolchu Club, Upper Shreebadam, today. Various varieties of saplings were planted during the drive. Siniolchu Club president, Norbu Gyaltsen Bhutia, eco development committee member, Dorjee Bhutia and representatives from Forest Department and local gentries participated in the drive, a press release informs.

Aadhaar mandatory for PAN cards: SC verdict tomorrow

NEW DELHI, JUN 8 (PTI): The Supreme Court will pronounce its judgement tomorrow on a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of a provision in the Income Tax Act making Aadhaar mandatory for filing income tax returns and allotment of PAN.

A bench comprising Justices A K Sikri and Ashok Bhushan had on May 4 reserved the verdict on the pleas, challenging section 139AA of the Income Tax (I-T) Act, which was introduced through the latest budget and the Finance Act, 2017.

Section 139AA of the Income Tax Act provides for mandatory quoting of Aadhaar or enrolment ID of Aadhaar application form for filing of income tax returns and making application for allotment of PAN (Permanent Account Number) with effect from July 1 this year.

While opposing the government's move, the petitioners, including CPI leader Binoy Viswam, have contended before the bench that the Centre cannot "belittle"



the apex court's 2015 order holding the unique identification number as voluntary.

They argued that government should not have enacted section 139AA in the Act to make Aadhaar mandatory for PAN as the apex court's five-judge bench order was clear that Aadhaar was voluntary and not mandatory.

However, the Centre had contended that Aadhaar was made

mandatory for allotment of PAN to weed out fake cards which were used for terror financing and circulation of black money.

Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi had told the bench that the programme of PAN had become suspect as it could be faked, while Aadhaar is a "secure and robust" system by which the identity of an individual could not be faked.

Rohatgi had said that with the implementation of Aadhaar, the government had saved over Rs 50,000 crore on various schemes to benefit the poor as well as pension schemes. The Centre had also told the court that fake PAN cards were being used to "divert funds" to shell companies.

During the hearing, the Supreme Court had observed that it was yet to be "tested" whether Aadhaar violated protection of life and personal liberty granted under Article 21 of the Constitution, which was pending hearing for an authoritative pronouncement by a five-judge Constitution Bench.

Gujarat HC judges visit 2002 Naroda Patiya massacre site

AHMEDABAD, JUN 8 (PTI):

A division bench of the Gujarat High Court which is hearing appeals in the 2002 Naroda Patiya case today visited the crime spot to get a better idea of the incident in which 97 people, mostly Muslims, were killed.

Justices Harsha Devani and A S Supehiya visited Ahmedabad's Naroda Patiya area, where one of the worst incidents of violence during the post-Godhra riots of 2002 took place. The judges spent around two hours at the spot.

In an order yesterday, the bench had said, "Right from the beginning... the learned counsels for the respective parties have been requesting this court to visit the scene of incident so as to get a better idea of the manner in which the incident has occurred and to understand the topography of the area which is spread over a considerable area."

"Having regard to the evidence which has come on record, the court finds

that the request made by the advocates is reasonable," it said.

Former Gujarat minister Maya Kodnani and other convicts in the case have filed appeals before the high court.

A special trial court had on August 30, 2012 awarded life imprisonment to Kodnani and 29 others, and "imprisonment till death" to Babu Bajrangji. Kodnani is also facing a trial in the Naroda Gam riot case.

One booked under POCSO

GANGTOK, 08 JUN: A 27-year-old man from Lungchok Kamarey in South Sikkim has been accused of sexually assaulting a minor girl on 07 June.

The man was later found to be the brother-in-law of the victim and had committed the crime back in February which had resulted in pregnancy.

The pregnancy was confirmed by the Medical Officer of Namchi Hospital who treated the victim.

The accused was then booked and arrested under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

Sikkim Viklang Sahayata Samiti observes World Environment Day

**ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 08 JUN:**

Sikkim Viklang Sahayata Samiti observed World Environment Day on the theme 'Connecting People to Nature' from 05-08 June at Rehabilitation Center premises in Reshap Ward, Tokal Bermiok, South Sikkim.

The four-day programme featured plantation drives wherein more than 200 saplings, plant bushes, various trees of seasonal fruits, timberwood and grass bushes were planted.

It may be mentioned that the programme was organised by Sikkim Viklang Sahayata Samiti in collaboration with Forest Department, South District and supported by Patanjali Yog, Singtam.

BJP demands peace committee to contain violence in Darj

Contd from pg01

did the administration failed to control the situation? What was the reason behind deployment of Army? We will talk to the Union Home Ministry regarding the situation. We demand that a peace committee be formed immediately in the hills with GJM and state administration to restore peace and normalcy," he said.

Two columns of Army were deployed in the restive Darjeeling town today after Gorkha Janmukti Morcha supporters clashed with the police, damaged police vehicles and set some of them ablaze while Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was holding a cabinet meeting there.



SIKKIM HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

AWWAS BHAWAN, CHURCH ROAD, GANGTOK

Sikkim Housing Development Board intends to appoint a Consultant for providing consultancy services for construction of Residential Housing Complex at Lumsey, 5th Mile Tadong, East Sikkim. The appointment document may be downloaded from the website www.sikkimudhd.org.

Sd/-

Additional Chief Engineer,
Sikkim Housing & Development Board

Gangtok on Friday, 09 June

Temp: 27°C / 18°C
Forecast: A cloudy day with a shower or thunderstorm
Sunrise: 04:40 AM
Sunset: 06:29 PM

CM's Saga Dawa greetings

GANGTOK, 08 JUN [IPR]:

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Tika Maya Chamling have extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the holy and auspicious occasion of Saga Dawa.

In his message, the Chief Minister has stated that Saga Dawa or the Triple Blessed Festival is considered the holiest of the Buddhist Festivals in the State, with prayers held throughout the month in various monasteries, the main celebration being held on the full moon day of the 4th month of the Tibetan lunar calendar.

The festival commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and parinirvana [death] of the Buddha, and it is believed that all positive and negative actions are multiplied a hundred million times, he stated in his message.

He has further stated that the holy day of Saga Dawa is observed through practice, generosity, and the performance of meritorious deeds.

In his message, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling has urged the people of Sikkim to follow the noble teachings of the Buddha and live a life of righteousness.

"On this holy day, let's resolve to engage ourselves in actions that eliminate suffering, overcome violence and oppression, and bring lasting joy to all sentient beings," the Chief Minister has said.

On this auspicious occasion, devotees from all over the state gather in large numbers to offer prayers and light butter lamps at various monasteries. Students and devotees participate in holy processions carrying Kangyur texts on their shoulders. Kangyurs are 103 volumes of the Buddha's teachings in three parts. They are carried through processions so that passers-by and devotees can touch them with their heads to seek blessings.

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Do we really need more exams?

ViewPoint

PRAGATI THAPA
GANGTOK, 08 JUN:

Every student, from the farthest corner of his/her heart (and mind) believes that 'the more the merrier' is a phrase that will never apply to examinations. Sadly, the phrase is coming to life with the recent announcement of primary and middle school board examinations in schools affiliated to the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations.

These examinations are not new to the country, you can ask your parents about them. They were removed by the Congress government back in 2010 when they revamped the education policy. Ever since it has been revoked, educators have not been at peace as there have been repeated appeals by the Central Advisory Board of Education to bring these examinations back. If not the government, Gerry Arathoon (CEO, CISCE) has definitely answered their prayers stating that ICSE will conduct examinations for students of the 5th and 8th standard starting 2018. "It will be just a periodical evaluation exercise to get an idea on the progress of the students' learning after a particular level," the CEO said.

As an afterthought he also added that there will be no "pass-fail tags". If there are no pass or fail tags Sir, then



where is the evaluation? Maybe what he meant to say is that they will not carry the burden of being a board exam. But let's face it, that is inevitable. Technically even the class 10 exams are supposed to be mere evaluation because at the end of the day they do not decide much but we still have students running from their homes and committing suicide after bad results. What I mean to say is that any competitive exam and especially a board exam gives an opportunity to the society to turn into the beast that it is. This beast is merciless. It feeds on the prestige that good marks bring and preys on the embar-

assment that bad marks carry. Mostly, these exams become more about the image of the family than the performance of a student and that's just how it is. Everyone conveniently forgets the amount of unnecessary pressure that a child has to face every time they have a board exam. We have proof that a 15 or an 18 year old cannot handle this pressure. Why are we then willing to subject mere 9 year olds to this? Whoever said that writing a board exam makes it easier to write the next has clearly never written a board exam because in the second exam, in addition to the initial pressure, students also have to better

Mock exercise in disaster management at Singtam

YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 08 JUN:

A mock exercise on Earthquake & Fire accident was conducted by District Disaster Management Authority under Rangpo Sub-Division in coordination with Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority and Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department today in Singtam, East Sikkim.

The programme started with a rally held by students of Government Senior Secondary School, Singtam, with banners and placards displaying messages and safety precautions during times of natural calamities.

The mock exercise was initiated at various locations including Nagar Panchayat Building, District Hospital Singtam, Singtam SSS and a dilapidated building in the middle of the town.

Concerned officials from the organising departments were deployed for observation and remarks at every location. The control room for the same was established at SNT premises acting as a centre for communication and information.

The drill was followed by a briefing session conducted at the auditorium of Singtam Nagar Panchayat wherein the deployed officials read the minutes of their observation including suggestion and views.

Additional District Collector-East mentioned during the session that all the placards were written in English and suggested it could have been better if some of them were displayed in Nepali language.

Assistant Director-Land Revenue Department stated that Singtam is a vulnerable zone and further instructed the management of Singtam SSS to assure safer ways for evacuation of students



from the school during emergencies.

It may be mentioned that similar drills have

been previously organised at Gyalshing and Jorethang by DDMA with the objective of reducing

casualties at times of natural calamities and emergencies.

their performances. Hence, introducing these exams as practice for the 10th and 12th exams is baseless.

Another issue that came to my mind when I heard about this was that now, all schools under the ICSE will have to follow the same syllabus. This can be good because then all students across the country will be learning the same thing but it also introduces a sort of rigidity at the primary school level. It denies the freedom of a school to decide its own curriculum. When teachers prepare their own curriculum it becomes easier for them to evaluate their students.

Dictating what every student should know at every age is restricting because it discourages the school or the students from breaking boundaries and learning more. In fact, growing children should have to face no such barrier as a syllabus. You could say that nobody is stopping a student from studying beyond the prescribed syllabus but human beings operate on incentives. If you tell a student that the syllabus is the only thing that they are required to know, how many do you think would go beyond that?

We all know that the whole year leading up to the 10th and 12th standard examinations is spent studying for these examinations. Now imagine having to do that for four years!

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email
news@summittimes.com

IMI Dr R.S. Tolia Award 2017: Call for Nominations Open

The Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI), a pan Himalayan civil society initiative working for sustainable development of the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) and ensuring prosperity of the people in the region, has announced the Dr R.S. Tolia Award for 2017 in memory of its founding President Dr R.S. Tolia who passed away on 6th December 2016.

Dr R.S. Tolia, IAS (Retd.) was the former Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand. He also served as the first Information Commissioner of Uttarakhand. In addition to being the top administrator in the state, he was a staunch advocate for holistic mountain development that must be rooted in the mountains. Throughout his lifetime, Dr Tolia was committed to the cause of development of the Indian mountain systems and communities. His vision and commitment for the formation of a pan-Indian mountain movement not only unified diverse mountain states of India but also inspired others. In the spirit of unifying committed individuals and institutions for integrated action for the mountains of India, Dr Tolia conceptualised the idea of IMI, got like-minded people on board and led it from the front as its founding President. His deep understanding of the links among people, cultures, livelihoods and mountain environment influenced a generation of researchers, organizations and policymakers. He was a true mountain person and believed that there must be safe, sustainable and equitable mountain development.

IMI has instituted the Award for encouraging passionate individuals to carry forward the cause of integrated mountain development. The purpose of the award is to recognize and reward the exemplary work of individuals whose work has created an impact / has the potential to impact sustainable prosperity and well-being of the people of the Mountain states in India. In exceptional cases organizations will also be considered for the Award. The value of the Award is Rs. 1 lakh cash, citation and a medallion.

A jury with eminent persons working for social development in the country has been appointed to carry the selection process for the award.

The call for nomination is now open and applications will be accepted till 30 June 2017. The details and the nomination form can be viewed on the organisation's website: <http://inmi.in/get-involved/dr-r-s-tolia-award-2017/>
Interested individuals/organisations can download the nomination form and send in their application along with a recent CV by 30th June 2017 to pd.inmi@inmi.in.

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Jai Kisan? Who Are We Kidding

Farmer unrests follow from a long process of sidelining

When seventy per cent of the population, that majority living in rural Sikkim which registers agriculture as its profession, is extended less than 3% of the loans advanced by banks in Sikkim, one knows that an inexcusable denial is afoot. As per stipulations governing banking practices in the country, loans to the agriculture sector should constitute at least 18% of the total advances released by banks. In Sikkim, this figure stands at a dismal 2.90% as of 31 March 2016 as per data featured in the 39th State Level Banker's Committee. It would have been all well if the under-performance by banks was because farmers in Sikkim were so well off that they did not need loans to improve the productivity of their farms. But that is obviously not the case. Public sector banks achieved only 37.90% of the target they set up for themselves for agriculture sector loans. But wait, the figure gets even more dismal when one realizes that although 37.9% of the targeted loans were disbursed, these covered only 13.1% of total beneficiaries they had aimed to cover. One cannot understand this hesitation when one also notices that recovery for agricultural loans was at a handsome 63.5% for Sikkim against the dismal 14.9% for loans to industry. If agriculture receives the right boost in the form of adequate loan support, rural Sikkim will prosper. That much any one can figure out. But what confounds is why that is not happening.

Of course, the situation of fewer new generation hands taking up the proverbial plough is not unique to Sikkim. Census 2011 informs us that 42% of the nation's farmers would, if given the choice, quit agriculture. It is into this frame that Sikkim's situation needs to be viewed. There might not be desperate poverty among the farmers in Sikkim, but the sector has obviously plateaued out and is now on the decline which is why fewer families have the new generation tilling the fields. This is not to suggest that the children of farmers should remain farmers, but is an argument to highlight that dignity needs to be brought back to the sector and more youngsters allowed the chance to leverage their wider exposure, keener scientific temperament and higher ambitions to revolutionise agriculture in Sikkim.

The State Government, to its credit, has undertaken the right policy decision by pursuing the Organic Sikkim mission and identifying horticulture and floriculture as thrust areas for the rural economy. Organic Sikkim, even as it strives to resuscitate agriculture to its original, un-poisoned by pesticides roots in Sikkim, also capitalizes on a growing respect for organic products in the world market. But it will take more than awareness workshops by "service providers" to deliver the real results. Such a turnaround can begin if capital formation in agriculture and allied sectors is accelerated. Sikkim has the benefit of being in a situation where agriculture loans are required not for sustenance but to propel the sector to a new level of prosperity. The investment is required because as per the Agriculture Census of 2010-11, 77% of the farmers in Sikkim fall in the small and marginal category, working on average farm sizes of 0.64 hectares. The general consensus on the minimum size of farmland to allow a farmer the space to "do well" is at least one hectare. Hence, for farmers to prosper, or even remain relevant, they will need to invest in their small landholdings and improve productivity through better irrigation, improved seeds, wider diversification and adding sources of livelihood like poultry and animal husbandry. This should ideally come through agriculture loans.

To draw a positive from even the current status of poor banking support for agriculture, this situation allows Sikkim the benefit of learning from the horrors of farmer indebtedness which has torn through wide swathes of farmlands across the country. If the policy-makers decide that banking support for agriculture should be expanded, they should first ensure that fiscal prudence and financial planning is instilled in rural Sikkim. Urban Sikkim already has a very poor track-record of loan repayments, but that spectrum has the cushion of salaries and commerce to tide them over, rural Sikkim is not as privileged, but its resilience is a strong asset to keep the loans safe and serviced if the people are first informed about banking and loan repayment processes.

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

ISIS attacks in Tehran could plunge the Middle East into greater turmoil

MOHAMMADBAGHER FOROUGH
theconversation.com

Iran experienced its first major ISIS attack on June 7, as armed men and suicide bombers targeted two symbols of the Islamic Republic in Tehran: Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's mausoleum and the Iranian parliament. At least 12 people are reported to have been killed and 42 wounded.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guards (IRGC), the most powerful force in the country, accused Saudi Arabia for the attacks, saying, "This terrorist attack happened only a week after the meeting between the U.S. president (Donald Trump) and the (Saudi) backward leaders who support terrorists. The fact that Islamic State has claimed responsibility proves that they were involved in the brutal attack," as quoted by Reuters.

IRGC deputy commander Brigadier General Hossein Salami promised "revenge for today's attacks in Tehran, on terrorists, their affiliates and their supporters".

The attack actually took place two weeks after US President Donald Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia. Trump was given a lavish welcome by King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, despite his claim during the 2016 US presidential campaign that the Saudis had ties to 9/11, "kill women" and "push gays off buildings".

The two nations bonded over an anti-Iran alliance during the visit, irking Tehran. Trump and the House of Saud also signed an arms agreement worth over US\$100 billion, and discussed Saudi investments in the US, though the deals have not been finalised.

TARGETING IRAN

In a speech to the Arab leaders in Saudi Arabia on May 21, Trump pinpointed Iran as the main party responsible for terrorism in the region. This was a departure from the positions of the previous US administration, including those of former US secretary of state Hilary Clinton, which was revealed in leaked emails.

In an interview with The Atlantic magazine in April 2016, former US president Barack Obama even said that Saudi Arabia should "share" the Middle East with Iran.

Trump's Middle East trip coincided with the May 19 Iranian presidential election and complicated the reelection bid of President Hassan Rouhani, a pragmatist reformer, against conservative cleric Ebrahim Raisi.

Young people in Iran danced in the streets when Rouhani won, even as in Riyadh Trump was sword-dancing with Saudi strongmen and promoting an anti-Iranian message.

The Iranian response to Trump's trip was predictably strong. The Supreme Leader condemned

both Trump and the Saudis, calling their arms deal a "multi-billion dollar bribe to America" that cannot help the Saudis reach their regional objectives.

He also highlighted the hypocrisy of the Trump administration in ignoring Iran's democratic election to side with the leaders of a "tribal and backward country".

President Rouhani's response to Trump's Saudi gambit was similar, though softer – and more sarcastic – in tone. He mocked the trip as "just a show with no practical and political value" and argued that real strength comes not from arms but ballot boxes, which, he says, "the poor Saudis have never seen".

REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Public displays of US-Iran hostility aside, the main facts, actors and challenges in the region remain the same. The US and Iran are backing the same

OTHER ACTORS

The connections between the US, Iran and Arab countries also explain why the Russians exhibited such a calm attitude towards Trump's trip. Russia has invested in the region, and is on Iran's side in terms both of Syria and fighting terrorism.

China has energy security, (geo-)economics and counterterrorism interests in the Middle East, and is also tilting toward Iran in those areas.

Turkey, a NATO ally, has serious disagreements with US policy in Syria, especially over the Kurdish question and is working on Syria with Iran and Russia. Pakistan is a tough nut to crack for all actors involved, including the US, Iran, and Saudi Arabia. These regional and global actors' interests cannot be dismissed by a meeting between Trump and the Saudis.

IRAN'S PROSPECTS

Shia connections have made Iran very influential in Iraq, Lebanon and Syria, where the country supports the Syrian government by deploying forces on the ground.

Iran also has plans for its other neighbours. It is developing infrastructure with Central Asian countries, such as railways and roads connecting with Azerbaijan. Further, Iran plays an indispensable role in the region for the Chinese New Silk Road initiative.

As for the West, Rouhani's re-election has sent a strong signal. Most EU countries' leaders have congratulated him. And, as multilateral sanctions on Iran were lifted after the 2015 nuclear deal, Rouhani's recent victory was also



A boy is evacuated during an attack on the Iranian parliament in central Tehran.

governments in Afghanistan and Iraq, which are, respectively, accusing the Pakistani and Saudi regimes (two American allies) of supporting terrorism and unrest in their countries.

The countries are also both fighting against ISIS in Iraq in a tacit agreement about their shared interest in destroying the group. The latter has now responded with a direct attack on Tehran. But that violence is likely to harden Iranian resolve for fighting ISIS.

Neither the US nor Saudi Arabia are likely to get a major strategic advantage from Trump's recent trip, and the agreements signed with the Saudis cannot benefit the US without the country paying a high price for siding with headline Saudi strongmen and their intolerant version of Islam.

The US could also potentially become immersed in the region once more, going against Obama's pivot to Asia, for the same reasons it has previously become stuck in Iraq and Afghanistan. Trump needs Arab countries' support to counter Iran, fight terrorism, and address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But the same contradictions and challenges that have beset US policies in relation to these issues still exist today.

welcomed by global financial markets.

The question now is not so much about Trump's statements and displays of affection to the House of Saud or the continuation of past arms deals. Rather, analysts must understand how Iran will play its regional and global cards.

How will Iran make use of the tensions within the Arab anti-Iran alliance such as the recent Qatar-Saudi rift?

Will Iran downplay the ISIS attack, as the reaction of its Parliamentary Chairman Ali Larijani seemed to indicate? Or will the event increase regional tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran as IRGC has promised?

The Saudi minister of defence recently issued a not-very-thinly-veiled threat against Iran, saying, "We will work so that the battle is for them in Iran". If anything, the recent ISIS attack may elevate the Iranian-Saudi rivalry to a new level.

[the writer is Assistant professor of International Relations at Leiden University & Associate researcher at Clingendael Institute, The Netherlands, Leiden University]

Why journalists should engage with their readers: a view from Slovakia

SIMON SMITH
theconversation.com

What happens when journalists join in the discussion in the often-frightening comments section below their articles? That's one of the questions I sought to answer in my book, *Discussing the News: the uneasy alliance of participatory journalists and the critical public*, published earlier this year.

In traditional newspaper culture, journalists do not often engage with their readers. So, as a researcher I jumped at the chance of witnessing an attempt to foster a more conversational relationship between journalists and the public at the newly-founded Slovak daily, Denník N.

The newspaper is based in the Slovakian capital Bratislava. It was set up by the senior editors of Slovakia's second-most read daily, SME, who walked out in protest in September 2014 when a financial group suspected of political influence and corruption acquired a 50% stake in the newspaper.

Half the newsroom followed them into a new venture, which was initially only online. In January 2015, they launched a print edition five days a week.

PARTICIPATION AND EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE

As an antidote to the rise of media oligarchs in Central Europe, Denník N relies on a subscription-based business model. It views this approach as a condition for editorial independence

and sees it as a promising strategy in Slovakia, where internet penetration rate is of 85% and the press is free.

In this country of over 5 million people, readers are above-average news consumers. According to a 2015 poll conducted for my research about 72% of respondents were active participants in news dissemination, both via social networks and on newspaper websites. What's more, according to the 2016 Digital News Report, Slovakia is the leading EU nation for commenting on news websites.

By building a strong relationship with its audience, Denník N sought to offset the chronic dependence of media organisations on institutional or private shareholders with potentially conflicting interests. Participation was a natural extension of this philosophy as it encourages readers to subscribe and make the media more independent.

The newspaper encouraged its journalists not just to read the comments on their articles but to respond to them. And, to varying degrees, they did.

JOURNALISTS REPLY ON JOURNALISM

In analysing these exchanges and talking to journalists, I discovered that there were certain comment types that journalists significantly over- or under-selected for reply.

They had a strong preference for comments about journalism. Readers commenting on editorial choices – mistakes, headlines, accusations of bias –

rather than on the theme of an article were more likely to get a response.

The journalists' responses drew on a stable repertoire of argumentative forms. Basically, when they engaged – beyond simple acknowledgements and thanks – they resorted either to process or to authority arguments. These, as Andrew Abbott describes in his book *The System of Professions*, are strategies of professional legitimisation.

In the screenshot above, a reporter thanks a reader for spotting a typo before explaining that the report was published "two minutes after the President's official statement arrived". This reference to the time pressure that online newspapers work under when dealing with breaking news highlights that they sometimes sacrifice orthographic precision for speed.

This is what's called a process argument, in that the author provides an insight into the conditions of production of an article. The logic is that if people have a better understanding of a process they might be more understanding of the results.

The second type of justification is the authority argument. In commenting on their own pieces, journalists would, wherever possible efface their own voice and defer to other, more credible authorities. They might quote in greater depth one of the sources of their article, link to an official report, scientific article or statis-

tical database, or cite a public opinion poll in order to back up the facts or interpretations outlined in the piece.

In both process and authority arguments, Slovak journalists used the discussion as an accountability instrument, acting almost in the manner of readers' editors or ombudsmen.

POLEMIC CONVERSATIONS

Occasionally, they took a different track. Some writers crossed the line of neutrality and distance that journalists usually keep, and digressed from facts to interpretations. They took up or threw down polemical gauntlets and got into arguments.

The three who did so most frequently had different backgrounds and beats: one was a commentator writing mostly on economic issues; another was a young reporter on the foreign news desk covering controversial topics such as gay rights and the refugee crisis; and the third was a correspondent writing long-form reportage and interviews.

When faced with criticism, some bluntly told commenters that they were wrong, or ridiculed their assertion by calling it "laughable". Doing this risks inflaming the discussion, but they sensed this kind of reply was in keeping with the spirit of online discussions: animated verbal conflict is acceptable there.

The same goes in many well-established media genres: heated debates, as television and radio reporters have

turn to pg05

Mamata announces new secretariat for Darj hills

DARJEELING, JUNE 8 (PTI): The West Bengal government would build a new secretariat in Darjeeling for development of the hills, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today said.

“The decision to construct a secretariat has been taken at the cabinet meeting here and it will be named as Tenzing Nor-gay Bhavan. Work will start in six months,” she announced.

Talking to reporters after the cabinet meeting which was held in the hill station after over four decades, she said, “The people in the hills were neglected for a long time.

We will try our best to usher in development for them.”

“The people in the hill areas have been demanding development. Nothing had happened during the Left rule of 34 years, but things have changed after our government



took over.

We have done so many development works here. I am proud to say that I am the first chief minister to visit the hills for more than 100 times,” she said.

Making a dig at the Gorkha

Janmukti Morcha (GJM) which opposed her party the TMC, she said, “Let there be competition for development.”

Asked about the GJM’s agitation programme, she said, “They have the democratic right. Let them do it. They have

no issue”.

On the GJM’s opposition to the alleged “imposition of Bengali language” in the schools in the hills, she once again made it clear that Bengali was not made a compulsory subject.

“Rather, we gave recognition to the Nepali language,” she said.

She said that the cabinet decided to make Chandannagar in Hooghly district a new Police Commissionerate. It will be the sixth police commissionerate after Howrah, Bidhannagar, Barrackpore, Asansol-Durgapur and Siliguri.

A skill development centre would come up in Mirik, which would train 3,000 youths, she said.

TMC had won the recent civic election in Mirik.

She announced that every year, two Cabinet meetings would be held in the hills and two in Jangalmahal (erstwhile Maoist-affected areas).

Turning to paucity of IAS officers in the state, she said, “We do not get many IAS officers. And it takes around 25 to 30 years for one WBCS (Exe) officer to get nomination to become All India Services (IAS) officer.

The state cabinet decided to form a committee to look into the promotion issue. This will help the officers to get promotions to IAS rank within eight to ten years,” she said.

Man thrashed for carrying beef

DHANBAD (JHARKHAND), JUNE 8 (PTI): A man was thrashed by villagers for allegedly carrying beef for an Iftar party in Jharkhand’s Dhanbad district, police today said.

Ainul Ansari, a resident of Murahdih village, was on his way home on a scooter when he was caught by a group of persons near Loharbarba village on the Dhanbad-Tundi road and beaten up for allegedly carrying beef.

Dinesh Singh, the police officer investigating the incident, said it occurred around 8 am on Tuesday.

The police reached the spot after getting information and rescued Ansari.

The policemen searched the scooter at the insistence of the villagers and recovered the beef.

Both the vehicle and the meat were taken to Barbadda police station, Singh said.

Ansari was admitted to Patliputra Medical College Hospital (PMCH) where the doctor attending to him at the emer-

gency ward said he had received minor injuries.

He was released on Wednesday.

With the villagers alleging that Ansari had been trading in beef despite the ban, the police called in a veterinary doctor from the animal husbandry department to identify the seized meat.

The doctor took away a sample for testing in a Ranchi laboratory.

Ansari’s family members denied he was trading in beef and said he was bringing mutton for an Iftar party at his home.

“Meat is available at a cheap rate in Dhanbad and that is why villagers bring it for Iftar party from there,” they said.

Villagers mistook mutton for beef and assaulted Ansari, the family said.

The man’s wife, Sahida Begum, told the media that the attackers had snatched his mobile and Rs 1,500 during the assault.

No FIR was filed by anyone after the incident, the police said.

Mizoram cut off for the third day, blockade to continue

AIZAWL, JUN 8 (PTI): Mizoram remained cutoff from the rest of the country for the third day today due to the indefinite blockade of its lifeline NH 54 at Kolasib on the state’s border with Assam by NGOs and student bodies.

The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Kolasib district, which is spearheading the blockade in protest against the transfer of a surgeon from the district hospital, decided during the day to continue with the blockade.

Meanwhile, shortage of essential commodities hit Aizawl and the rest of the state as trucks carrying essential goods were stranded due to the blockade.

Petrol and diesel have been rationed by the filling stations after the state government issued an order yesterday.

CBI summons senior TMC leader Iqbal Ahmed in Narada case

KOLKATA, JUNE 8 (PTI): Senior TMC leader and MLA Iqbal Ahmed was today summoned by CBI for questioning in the Narada case, CBI officials said.

Ahmed, who is also the younger brother of TMC MP Sultan Ahmed, has been summoned for questioning on June 10.

This is the first time that CBI has summoned

a TMC leader in the Narada case.

“Yes we have summoned Iqbal Ahmed for questioning, as his name has come up in numerous clippings of the Narada sting operation,” a senior CBI official told PTI.

Iqbal Ahmed could not be contacted for a reaction.

Calcutta High Court

in March ordered a preliminary inquiry by CBI into the Narada sting operation in which several TMC leaders, including state ministers, were purportedly caught on camera taking bribes.

The sting tapes were released to various media organisations ahead of the 2016 West Bengal Assembly polls.

AI launches daily flight on Kolkata-Bhubaneswar

NEW DELHI, JUN 8 (PTI): Air India today announced the launch of a daily flight on the Kolkata-Bhubaneswar- Hyderabad route from June 10.

The newly-launched flight will be operated by the Airbus A320neo aircraft with a capacity of 162 seats, including 12 seats in business class, Air India said in a statement.

The Airbus A320neo is fuel efficient and is highly environment friendly with reduced noise levels and emits 50 per cent less CO2.

The aircraft is one of the four procured by the airline this year out of the total 22 A320neos it plans to induct in its fleet by 2019.

Air India serves 41 international and 72 national destinations. It has a total of 103 aircraft in its fleet, which comprises of 61 narrow-bodied Airbus planes and 42 wide-bodied Boeing planes.

Sunstroke toll mounts to 17 in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR, JUN 8 (PTI): Sunstroke toll mounted to 17 in Odisha today even as the temperature dropped further following more rains which brought significant respite from the scorching heat.

The toll due to sunstroke increased by one following report of a heat-related death from Dhenkanal district, the office of the Special Re-

lief Commissioner said in a statement.

Of the 17 heat related deaths reported in the state so far this summer - four each were in Sambalpur and Angul, three each in Bargarh and Sundargarh districts and one each in Balangir, Bhadrak and Dhenkanal, it said.

The mercury remained below the 40 degree celsius mark across

the state during the day. The mark had been breached multiple times at many places during peak summer and at four places on Tuesday and nine on Monday.

Bhubaneswar remained the hottest place in the state at 39.1 degrees as all the major towns in western Odisha, which had virtually turned into a cauldron, recorded temperatures

below 40 degree celsius.

Both Balangir and Titlagarh in western Odisha, which had been consistently above the 40 degree mark, recorded 38.5 degree celsius and 38 deg C respectively, the met office said.

The temperature in Cuttack was 37.4 degrees, according to the Met department here.

While rainfall in several areas of the state

Why journalists should engage with their readers: a view from Slovakia

Contd from pg04

long known, make for very good viewing and listening.

Denník N’s “polemicalising” journalists took on a distinct “discursive identity” in their comments, a style they would never indulge as newspaper reporters (unless they were writing opinion pieces). In other words, they recognised the characteristics of a genre and adapted their own discourse accordingly.

Just as I’m using a genre-specific form of writing in this article (which differs from the style of my book, though it’s still based on or derived from it), I witnessed astute journalists at Denník N treating discussions as a distinct genre, one that is only now emerging. It challenges them to learn to talk credibly in poorly scripted situations, ones

that journalism school doesn’t really touch.

As journalists must now juggle several digital channels of communication – both to retain relevance with an online audience (for marketing purposes) and to explore new forms of dialogue between information-producers and information-consumers (from a democratic perspective) – this is an increasingly important skill.

NOT COMMENTERS: CONTRIBUTORS

According to French philosopher Joëlle Zask, participation is contributory if each participant in a situation retains the possibility of making and claiming a difference through their intervention. The contributor is thus valued for his

or her singularity.

So here’s a modest proposal: let’s call a person who discusses the news a “contributor”, instead of using less dignified terms such as commenter or user.

The term is a useful boundary object; it allows journalists and their increasingly critical publics to meet on neutral ground without equalising their status.

By encouraging journalists to consider their “below-the-line” critics as contributors, we can challenge them to think of their own published texts as provisional accounts, always open to outside additions, clarifications, objections and corrections.

But by asking journalists to think of themselves as contributors

when they engage with a critical online audience in comments or on social media, we give them a sort of professional shield. They can more easily value the time they spend in the dialogue, while still treating it as different from and subsidiary to their main role as writer, safe in the knowledge that they are not tacitly endorsing the claim that we are all journalists now.

And if we agree that these contributors – both readers and journalists – can constructively exchange, clicking on the comment button becomes a much less frightening experience.

[the writer is Researcher in Sociology, Charles University]

KUTSE SHEGU



The Kutse Shegu of the late Pema Lhamu Bhutia, who left for her heavenly abode on the 23rd of April 2017 falls on the 10th of June 2017 [Saturday]. All friends, family and well-wishers are invited to join us on the said date at our residence below the Forest Check Post, Lower Chandmari, Changthang Basti, Gangtok, to offer prayers for our beloved mother. We also take this opportunity to thank all for standing by us in our hour of bereavement and regret our inability to do so personally.

Jigme Dorjee Bhutia, son (9609756956) and Deechen Penzom Bhutia, daughter (7093157826)

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Gutsy Sri Lanka shock India by seven wickets

KUSHAN SARKAR
LONDON, JUN 8 (PTI):
Pedestrian bowling performance from defending champions India saw them slump to an unexpected seven-wicket defeat against Sri Lanka in a high-scoring ICC Champions Trophy Group B contest here today.

Riding on Shikhar Dhawan's 125 and half-centuries from Rohit Sharma and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, India piled up a 321 for 6 only to be stunned by unfancied Lankan batting line-up that produced a splendid batting show to knock off the runs in 48.4 overs.

Danushka Gunathilaka (76 off 72 balls) and Kusal Mendis (89 off 93) added 159 runs to lay the platform before skipper Angelo Mathews (52 not out 44 balls) coolly finished off the job in company of Kusal Janith Perera (47 retired hurt) and Asela Gunaratne (34 not out 21 balls).

Arguably, the biggest upset of the tournament also threw the group wide open with all four teams India, Pakistan, South Africa and Sri Lanka in with a chance to qualify.

India now must beat South Africa on Sunday in order to qualify for the semifinals.

For India, the 103 runs conceded by Hardik Pandya (51 off 7 overs) and Ravindra Jadeja (52 off 6 overs) in 13 overs tilted the game decisively in favour of Lankans on what was a batting belter where a target of 322 looked par for the course.

Call it complacency or unable



to gauge the strength of unknown entity, the Indian bowling lacked the required discipline as Gunathilaka and Mendis rolled back the years giving a glimpse of the Lankan sides of mid and late 90s.

They were hardly bothered by any bowler during their 159 run stand.

Left-hander Gunathilaka especially was severe first up, hitting seven fours and two sixes. The first one was using Umesh Yadav's extra pace to pull it behind square while the next was another pull in-front of square when Hardik erred in length.

What hurt India during the phase was poor show from Jadeja, whose first six overs cost 52 runs

including seven fours and a six.

Mendis was severe on him as he bowled short and also didn't have any help from pitch made life tougher.

With regular bowlers failing to do the job, captain Kohli brought himself and Kedar Jadhav. But Gunathilaka was run-out more so because of Mahendra Singh Dhoni's quicksilver reflexes.

India created further inroads when the other set batsman Mendis was run-out, courtesy brilliant pick up and throw off his own bowling by Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

But skipper Mathews and Perera added 75 runs in 10.2 overs to ensure that islanders don't lose momentum.

However Perera had to retire suffering cramps with Gunaratne joining his skipper with 51 runs required in a little over seven overs. The youngster then chanced his arms against Bumrah and Yadav to finish the game much to delight of Sri Lankan fans.

Earlier Dhawan continued his love affair with the Champions Trophy with yet another elegant hundred, guiding India to an imposing 321 for 6 after being put into bat.

Dhawan smashed his way to a 10th career ODI hundred, and added 138 for the opening stand with Rohit Sharma, who cruised his way to a languid 78 off 79 balls.

The final flourish was provid-

ed by none other than Mahendra Singh Dhoni with a quickfire 63 off 52 balls.

This was Dhawan's third hundred in Champions Trophy, having scored a couple during last edition. His entertaining innings comprised 15 fours and a six.

He got an able ally in Dhoni, who got an ideal platform coming in to bat in the 34th over. The fourth wicket stand produced 82 runs in 10.4 overs.

The former captain used all his experience, hitting seven fours and two sixes on way to reaching his 62nd ODI half-century. Jadhav's (25 of 13 balls) cameo was icing on the cake.

Mathews wanted his bowlers to make first use of the wicket but the pace trio of Lasith Malinga (2/70 in 10 overs), Suranga Lakmal (1/72 in 10 overs) and Nuwan Pradeep (1/73 in 10 overs) most of the times bowled short of length only to be pulled time and again by the Indian batsmen.

Worse, they were again behind the stipulated over-rate.

The best part about Dhawan's innings was the sheer effortless-ness with which he shifted gears. He started on an attacking note only to drop anchor when Rohit upped the ante before another round of attractive strokeplay after the loss of Virat Kohli (0) and Yuvraj Singh (7) in quick succession.

For Rohit, the 91 on comeback against Pakistan had given him enough confidence to caress the very first delivery of the match bowled by Malinga to wide off point.

Dhawan in the very next over played an imperious cut shot off Lakmal. He followed it up with a cover drive off Malinga's bowling but it was a cautious start during those first five overs that yielded 17 runs.

While the runs didn't come at a quick clip but there was no incisive quality in Lankan attack that could have troubled the openers.

Malinga, who is nearing the end of his ODI career, lacked bite in his bowling. The openers didn't take chances against the slinger but also weren't in any kind of trouble.

Their understanding was there to be seen. When Rohit was playing himself in, Dhawan attacked the bowlers but once the Mumbai kar got a hang of the track, the south-paw quietly slipped playing the role of a second fiddle.

By the 10th over, the Lankan bowling started losing its grip and by the 20th over, it lay in complete tatters with Mathews lacking a plan B to stop the duo from scoring freely.

The 100 came up in the 20th over their second century stand in successive overs.

Rohit pulled Thisara Perera over deep square leg boundary to complete his half-century and then celebrated it with another pulled six that was his fiver.

Rohit's fetish for pull shot was evident when he got his third six this time off Malinga before perishing trying to hit a fourth one.

Chhetri wants more teams in leagues

MUMBAI, JUN 8 (PTI):
Star Indian striker and skipper Sunil Chhetri wants more teams and more players to play in Indian leagues whether they are integrated or held separate.

"I don't know as it's not been announced. If you ask me what's ideal I've said it 100 times, more teams, one league," Chhetri told reporters here today.

"If there are 16, 17 or 20 teams playing in one league that will be the best. I think everyone wants that. How to get there? There are think tanks working on that," said the player from Delhi.

"I don't mind two leagues - ISL and I-League being held separate and at the same time as more players will get to play and will not be idle," he said.

"If something like that does go ahead, the good thing would mean 10 teams in I-League, 10 teams in ISL, you have 20



teams playing. That's a good thing.

"We are talking about so many players getting employed somewhere," he added.

Chhetri said rankings don't count much but the higher ranking the Indian team has achieved is beneficial as players now don't focus so much on the opponent's ranking but more on strategy.

He said he and the rest of the team members were keen to get the teams winning momentum going as they prepare for AFC Asian Cup Group A qualifier next week at Bengaluru against Kyrgyz Republic.

"This hurdle on the 13th is a big one as they are the favourites in the group. Three points in that game will give us a big boost in terms of qualifying," he said.

"I am confident. We have done well. Wins give you lot of confidence," he added.

He also praised teammate and fellow striker Jeje Lalpekhlua, who today won the AIFF's Player of the Year Award, as the country's best player currently.

"This guy (sitting alongside) is the best player we have right now in the country. My prayer is that he stays fit and keeps scoring goals the way he has been doing," said Chhetri.

NZ, Bangladesh face off in must-win game

CARDIFF, JUN 8 (PTI): New Zealand and Bangladesh enter their final group match of the ICC Champions Trophy here tomorrow with the knowledge that even a win may not be enough to see either of them into the semifinals.

New Zealand are, quite surprisingly, at the bottom of Group A with Bangladesh in the third position.

Both teams have a point apiece in the biennial ODI tournament after they were each comprehensively defeated by England, while their respective matches with Australia ended in rain-induced no results.

Hosts England have signalled their title intentions by cruising into the last-four stage following two convincing outings.

If Australia beat England in their last group match at Edgbaston, both the two teams will be in the semifinals as they enjoy better net run-rate.

The desperation for a win aside, both New Zealand and Bangladesh would hope for an England victory against Australia, assuming rain does not disturb their calculations again.

While the Kiwis were a tad unfortunate against Australia given that they were in a stronger position when the match was called off, Bangladesh were lucky to run away with a point against the Aussies.

New Zealand should have the edge over Bangladesh when it comes to local knowledge given their 87-run defeat by England in Cardiff on Tuesday.

New Zealand have the pedigree, but it would be foolish to rule out Bangladesh, given their improved showing in this format in recent years.

Inspirational skipper Kane Williamson will again be the man to watch out for in the New Zealand ranks.

Williamson made a brilliant hundred against Australia before following up with a classy 97 against England -- a match where he was fined but not banned for a dreadfully slow over-rate.

Bangladesh's Tamim Iqbal also started the tournament with a century, against England, before making 95 against Australia.

Both the teams would hope that the other players rise to the occasion like them make a last-ditch attempt to progress to the knockout stage.

Their most recent meeting saw Bangladesh beat New Zealand by five wickets in a warm-up match in Dublin.

New Zealand, however, were without several key players in Martin Guptill, Williamson, Tim Southee, Trent Boult and Adam Milne.

Tomorrow will be a different ball game altogether. Teams (from):

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (captain), Corey Anderson, Trent Boult, Neil Broom, Colin de Grandhomme, Martin Guptill, Tom Latham, Mitchell McClenaghan, Adam Milne, James Neesham, Jeetan Patel, Luke Ronchi, Mitchell Santner, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor.

Bangladesh: Mashrafe Mortaza (captain), Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiquur Rahim, Tamim Iqbal Mohammad Mahmudullah, Sabbir Rahman, Rubel Hossain, Soumya Sarkar, Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Imrul Kayes, Mehedi Hasan, Mosaddek Hossain, Sunzamul Islam and Shafiqul Islam.

Match starts at 3pm IST.

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Media could act as countervailing power in democracy: Aweek Sarkar

KJM VARMA

BEIJING, JUN 8 (PTI):

China's iconic leader Mao Zedong's famous quote of "let a hundred flowers bloom" could also be applied to the media in a democracy where it could act as a countervailing power, Vice Chairman and Editor Emeritus of the ABP Group Aweek Sarkar said today.

"Nobody explained about fake news better than former Chairman Mao Zedong of China, who said 'let a hundred flowers bloom'. The idea of media in a democracy is that hundred ideas bloom," Sarkar said speaking at the BRICS Media Forum being hosted by China's state-run Xinhua news agency.

About fake news, he said, "It is possible to make a professional

mistake but fake news is something somebody consciously does for ulterior purposes."

"What does Mao's message mean. In India, as elsewhere, the media belongs to the civil society. By civil society we mean something which has nothing to do with the government," said Sarkar, who is also the Director of PTI.

"It is not news which is omnipotent. It is the state which is omnipotent. The media in a society like India is a counterfoil to the state. As the state becomes more powerful and assumes more and more authority, the media is the countervailing power and the judiciary is another countervailing power.

"These are the countervailing powers to the

society. So each institution assumes power to countervail each other," he said.

"When one wing gets stronger, the other wing also gets stronger. When we speak about cooperation, we have a problem," Sarkar said.

He also said that the problem of providing a counterbalance to international media is difficult because people trust New York Times (NYT) more.

People trust an NYT report rather than a report in the Indian media, Sarkar said.

"I am sure this is true for everybody else. NYT has earned the reputation by trying to wield countervailing power," he said.

Today it is the effective voice against Donald Trump. NYT also was effective in opposing the

America's involvement in the Vietnam war. So, it positioned itself away from the state and positioned itself as a correction to the state, Sarkar said.

This being the case, while media is state-owned in some countries and part of the civil society in countries like India, "there could be a theoretical difference in cost purpose at least the way we look at things, he said.

Editor of The Hindu Mukund Padmanabhan, who took part in the BRICS Media Forum, highlighted the theme of a BRICS-driven alternative media, saying that the international system which is undergoing a profound transformation, presented BRICS countries a serious opportunity for making a contribution to writing

the rules for a more representative and a more inclusive global order.

He said the BRICS media should evolve a new revenue model in tune with the explosion of the digital media without compromising the basic values of quality journalism.

Media has a "duty and social responsibility" to ensure that "traditional values such as accuracy, fairness, truth, are not forsaken in the interests of speed, sensationalism, and more eyeballs", he said.

BRICS media must innovate, across multimedia platforms, in order "to remain unique and relevant so that people are willing to pay for what is produced rather than let some platform such as Google, Facebook or Twitter exploit its commercial value", Pad-

manabhan said.

"The BRICS, and the emerging economies could well be at the forefront of a new wave of industrialisation driven by the concept of sustainable globalisation, which is being currently abandoned by many, especially in the West," he said.

Despite diversity, the media in BRICS countries can cooperate, specially the media of India and China. There is information and perception deficit between the two countries, Padmanabhan said.

Media in the two countries has a role to promote people to people understanding by dramatically increasing the flow of news and information between the two countries from non-western media sources, he said.

Mahesh Daga, Director and CEO of news agency IANS, said despite the massive size of the media in India and China, there is a need for more correspondents in both the countries.

Leading writers of both the countries need to be invited to write for each other's media organisations for people to have a balanced and authentic news compatible with mutual sensibilities, he said.

Comey: Trump's request to stop Russia probe 'very disturbing'

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, JUN 8 (PTI):

Accusing President Donald Trump of defaming him with "lies", fired FBI director James Comey today said it was "very disturbing" that he asked him to stop probing the Russia links of one of his top aide, prompting the White House to assert that "the president is not a liar".

During almost three hours of his explosive testimony to a Senate panel, Comey said he saw Trump's request to stop investigating the alleged ties of his former national security adviser Michael Flynn as an "order". Comey said the president asked him for "loyalty" during a White House dinner and to lay off Flynn -- who is under criminal investigation -- imploring Comey to "let this go."

Asked whether he considered Trump's request to drop the investigation of Flynn, Comey said, "I don't think it's for me to say whether the conversation I had with the president was an effort to obstruct. I took it as a very disturbing thing, very concerning."

The 56-year-old former FBI chief told the committee that he perceived Trump's comments over Flynn as an "order".

He also said Trump

misguided the American public when he last month said the FBI was in "disarray".

"Those were lies, plain and simple, and I'm so sorry that the FBI workforce had to hear them, and I'm so sorry the American people were told that," he said in his testimony to the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Trump avoided directly responding to the explosive accusations, telling supporters at a religious event in the capital: "We are going to fight and win."

But the White House hit back angrily at Comey. "I can definitely say the president is not a liar and frankly am insulted by that question," said White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders.

Asked about a dinner he had with Trump on January 27 - just days after his inauguration, Comey said the US president was trying to establish a "patronage relationship."

Describing that dinner, he said, "My common sense told me that what was going on is, either he thought or someone told him, 'you have already asked Comey to stay, and you did not get anything for it.' And the dinner was an attempt to build loyalty."

"What the president whispered in my ear was, I really look forward to working with you...I'm

sitting there thinking, three times we've already talked about me staying. My common sense told me, he's looking to get something in exchange..." Comey said.

When Senator Diane Feinstein asked Comey why he didn't stop and say, "Mr president this is wrong" over the Flynn probe, Comey said "maybe if I were stronger I would have. I was so stunned by the conversation that I just took it in."

When he was asked how his colleagues reacted when Trump asked him to "let it go" (about the Flynn investigation), Comey said: "They were shocked," and "they were very concerned."

Responding to a question from Senator Burr, Comey said he has no doubt that the Russians attempted to interfere in the the 2016 elections.

Trump, Comey said, told him repeatedly that he had talked to lots of people about him, including his current attorney general, and had learned that he was doing a great job and that he was extremely well-liked by the FBI workforce.

"(But) on May 9, when I learned that I had been fired, for that reason, I immediately came home as a private citizen," he said.

"They confused me because the president and I had had multiple conversations about my

job, both before and after he took office. And he had repeatedly told me I was doing a great job and he hoped I would stay.

"I had repeatedly assured him that I did intend to stay and serve

out the remaining six years of my term," he told the lawmakers at the hearing being watched live across the US.

Comey was fired on May 9, when Trump expressed his deep frustration with the continu-

ing probe into whether members of his presidential election campaign had tied up with Russian hackers against the billionaire tycoon's rival, Democrat Hillary Clinton.

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DERBY STURDY	
Draw No:34 DrawDate on:08/06/17	
1st Prize Rs.25,00,000/- D 69826	
2nd Prize Rs.10,000/-	
0680 3224 7522 7868 9219	
3rd Prize Rs.5000/-	
1177 1442 3520 7196 9733	
4th Prize Rs.2,000/-	
1082 2281 2284 3844 4062	
5th Prize Rs.1,000/-	
1672 5215 6475 6775 8647	
6th Prize Rs.500/-	
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0797 0839 1077 1260 1320 1492 1674 1957 2029 2168	
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Draw No:6 DrawDate on:08/06/17	
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(Including Super Prize Amt)	
Cons. Prize Rs.9,100/- 62312 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9,000/-	
00558 04540 24537 33472 46187	
50628 55407 70313 87457 98689	
3rd Prize Rs.500/-	
3092 3652 4851 5502 5878 5952 6265 6497 7576 8007	
4th Prize Rs.300/-	
0591 1217 1420 2966 3170 3870 5550 6800 7944 9706	
5th Prize Rs.130/-	
0023 0110 0143 0148 0422 0432 0519 0545 0719 0744	
0761 0859 1016 1063 1087 1144 1322 1494 1527 1604	
1638 1699 1815 1841 1914 1918 2314 2430 2432 2584	
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DEAR FAITHFUL EVENING	
Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards	
Draw No:111 DrawDate on:08/06/17	
1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 981 30401	
(Including Super Prize Amt)	
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 30401 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-	
14221 24449 25470 36447 42527	
46631 54210 59459 74077 88513	
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-	
01520 17304 31855 36647 38983	
67061 78936 80727 84517 93512	
4th Prize Rs.1000/-	
0516 1466 1527 5089 5877 5902 6316 6706 7949 8062	
5th Prize Rs.600/-	
0772 1686 2906 4231 5492 5846 6162 8127 8439 8776	
6th Prize Rs.250/-	
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ARIANA GRANDE RELEASES SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW FROM ONE LOVE MANCHESTER

The pop star continues to raise money for victims of the bombing - this time by releasing a recording from her benefit concert.

Ariana Grande has released a live recording of her emotional performance of *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* as a single, with proceeds from sales of the track going to charity. The 23-year-old star performed the famous *Wizard of Oz* song on Sunday at One Love Manchester, a benefit concert she organised following a suicide bombing at her concert at Manchester Arena on 22 May.

Twenty-two people were killed in the atrocity, which took place as fans were leaving the show. The youngest was eight years old.

The One Love event, held on Sunday, featured perfor-



mances from artists including Katy Perry, Justin Bieber and Coldplay, with a surprise appearance from Manchester's own Liam Gallagher. It raised more than £2.7m for the British Red Cross We Love Man-

chester Fund, taking the total past £10m by Monday. The fund was established for the victims of the concert attack and their families.

Those who attended Grande's original show were offered free tickets and some injured fans left their hospital beds to attend. The star also visited victims of the attack in hospital. Some 50,000 people attended the concert. Many in the crowd were moved to tears by performances that included a duet between Grande and local schoolchildren.

It took place less than 24 hours after a knife and vehicle attack killed at least eight people at London Bridge, the second major incident to hit the UK in as many weeks. Enhanced security was added in response to the potential threat, but organisers expressed defiance in the face

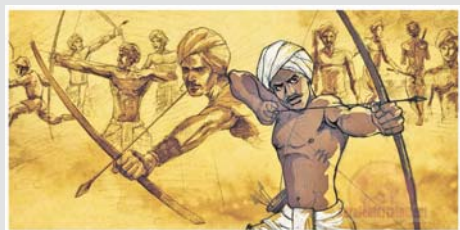
of further attacks.

"The only thing we can do now is choose how we let this affect us and how we live our lives from here on out," Grande said in a statement on Twitter.

"Music is meant to heal us, to bring us together, to make us happy. So that is what it will continue to do for us." Grande's single *One More Time* was also re-released

following the attack, with some of the proceeds going towards the Red Cross Fund. It is currently in the running for the number one spot in the UK singles chart.

Somewhere Over the Rainbow, with artwork based on the One Love Manchester logo, became available to download on Spotify on Wednesday.



09th June

WORLD HISTORY

AD 68: The Roman emperor Nero committed suicide, ending the Julio-Claudian dynasty.

1815: The Congress of Vienna concluded with this a new European political situation was established.

1815: Luxembourg declared independence from the French Empire.

1885: Treaty of Tientsin was signed to end the Sino-French War, with this; China eventually gave up Tonkin and Annam that covers most of present-day Vietnam to France.

INDIAN HISTORY

1900: Freedom fighter and a well known tribal leader from modern Jharkhand Birsa Munda died in Ranchi Jail.

1964: Lal Bahadur Shastri

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

became the second Prime Minister of India after Jawaharlal Nehru passed away.

1986: A private hospital informed about the first AIDS death report.

1997: Approximately 50 people died and around 1,000 families were affected in a landslide in Gangtok.

2011: Maqbool Fida Husain, popularly known as MF Hussain, arguably India's best known artist, died.

ED SHEERAN STUFFS HIS FACE WITH CANDY TELLS DRUNK JUSTIN BIEBER STORY DURING CARPOOL KARAOKE WITH JAMES CORDEN

Showing off his many talents! Ed Sheeran's highly anticipated Carpool Karaoke with James Corden aired on The Late Late Show on Tuesday, June 06, and it certainly didn't disappoint.

The duo kicked off the car ride by singing along to his new hit "Shape of You." When Corden, 38, mentioned that it's a sexual tune, the 26-year-old superstar quickly took things up a notch by rubbing the comedian's inner thigh and nipple. "I told you it's a sexy song!" Corden exclaimed.

While they were cruising along, Sheeran caught up with Corden about his sab-

batistical year.

When the host asked if he's still on his "no-phone, no-internet thing," the songwriter confirmed that he's only on email.

"I actually don't have a phone anymore. I had a phone for, like, two weeks and then I like, didn't charge it. It's just like what it would have been like 30 years ago for our parents," he said.

"Getting rid of that, going traveling, getting perspective, making an album that I love, everything's great."

The twosome went on to rap along to the Grammy winner's 2014 hit "Sing" before Corden questioned



Sheeran about his claim that he can fit 47 malt balls in his mouth.

The late-night host then pulled a giant jar of the candy out of the SUV's console, and the pair went head-to-head.

Corden stuffed 26 in his

mouth, but Sheeran beat with him an impressive 55 malt balls until he had to spit them out on the side of the road. Once Sheeran recovered from the challenge, he retold the infamous story about getting drunk with Jus-

tin Bieber and hitting him in the face with a golf club.

The pair then proceeded to sing Bieber's hit "Love Yourself," which was written by Sheeran.

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Amy Jackson poses for PETA to promote vegetarianism

MUMBAI, JUN 8 (PTI): Actress Amy Jackson has appeared in a new campaign for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to promote vegetarianism. (not the pic alongside, which is from an earlier campaign)

In the poster, the 25-year-old actress can be seen dressed in plastic wrap and impaled by a metal hook to perhaps suggest the violent bloodshed of the animals that occurs to obtain meat for consumption purposes.

The tagline for the ad reads, "Hooked on Meat? Go Vegetarian."

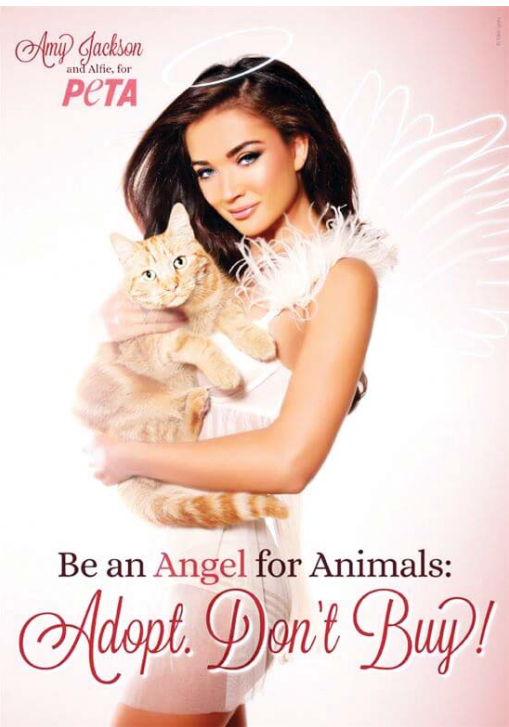
The ad, which is being released in advance of World Meat Free Day (June 12), was shot by top photographer Abhay Singh.

Talking about the idea

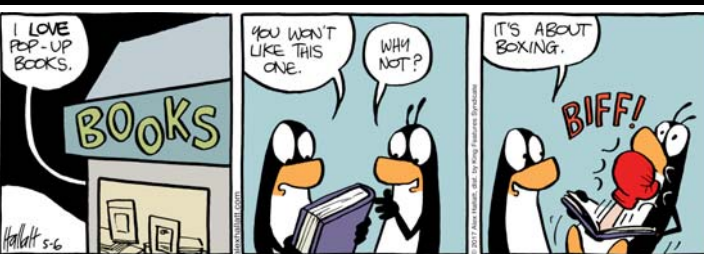
behind the campaign, Jackson says, "(M)eat products can cause cancer, heart disease, obesity. So for cutting all of that out... it's just a no-brainer that we're going to be a lot healthier," says Jackson.

The "Freaky Ali" actress has joined the list of personalities who have teamed up with PETA, such as Lara Dutta, Shahid Kapoor, Esha Gupta, Hema Malini, Anil Kumble, VVS Laxman, Amrita Rao, R Madhavan, Murali Kartik and Rahul Sharma.

On going vegetarian, the actress explains, "(M)y skin's got a lot clearer. I've noticed a change in my body. I've noticed a change in my metabolism. So I feel a lot healthier, a lot lighter, with a lot more energy also."



ARCTIC CIRCLE



BABY BLUES



ARIES: Here is just the kind of day artists dream about, Aries. After yet another lukewarm reception of your artwork, an influential agent shows up and offers to place your paintings in one of the most prestigious museums in the world! This is just an example of the kind of extraordinary event that could be in store for you today. Whatever your pursuits, you have a very good chance of success!

TAURUS: You could be in the spotlight in the next few days, Taurus. Try to resist succumbing to the applause of the audience, as you may encounter some unexpected obstacles. After being recog-

nized by the public, you may need to confront the question, "Now what?" The answer lies in taking a modest approach from the outset.

GEMINI: If you have ties to any therapeutic profession, Gemini, you may make a strange discovery related to the health field today. You won't find this discovery in any book or methodology that you normally follow. Emotions aren't so blind as rational society would have us believe! Sometimes they lead us down the road toward knowledge. That's the case today. **CANCER:** It's like you have to do everything at the same time right now, Cancer. What you really need

is an extra pair of hands and some additional hours in the day! It's your nerves that may pay the price for this fast-paced existence. You can't go on like this. Rather than give up on your goals, why not give yourself more time to reach them?

LEO: Why do so many relationships seem to come with built-in booby traps, Leo? Today you may get a particularly pressing demand from someone in your family to give of your time or money. You're unwilling to part with either at the moment. You aren't going to let your emotions choose for you for once. Hold onto your convictions and don't let others

influence your decisions!

VIRGO: This is going to be a day to protect your sense of space and privacy, Virgo. You may be forced into some kind of partnership with some unscrupulous people. They're going to make you feel like your territory is being invaded. What they don't know is that you're prepared. This isn't a time for people to be bothering you! **LIBRA:** Expect to have to make some adjustments in your love life, Libra. You may be in a different frame of mind than your partner. Why not use the day to step back from the relationship? Spend time apart for a change. After all,

there's nothing dramatic about the fact that your needs and desires aren't in sync. It's only temporary.

SCORPIO: You may find today a bit upsetting, Scorpio. Your nurturing instincts genuinely want to assist the many people who ask for your help and advice, yet you can't shake the feeling that they're taking advantage of you or trying to make you do things you don't want to do. Yes, it's hard to be a good parent to others and yourself at the same time.

SAGITTARIUS: How irritating to realize that those pesky problems from the past haven't been resolved, Sagittarius! Today you will have the strength and aware-

ness to put these problems to rest simply by talking about them. Ironically, the reproaches made by your partner are what spark the change in attitude that you need.

CAPRICORN: Continue slowly and steadily, Capricorn. You may get all worked up over nothing because you want everything done at once! It would be a good time to prioritize what you really want to do. Be cautious of anything that distracts you. You have such a great desire to live through extraordinary experiences. Give yourself the time to completely experience them!

AQUARIUS: For a few months now, you've felt that things are ac-

celerating in your professional life, Aquarius. Perhaps some projects have developed more quickly than you anticipated. They may have even gotten a bit out of control. Today you should let yourself distinguish more clearly what you've done so far. You may be in for a surprise.

PISCES: If by chance you have to speak in public soon, Pisces, trust that people will enjoy listening to you. Words come effortlessly to you, and you exude confidence. You willingly accept the compliments of others. Your energy level is high and you will be unstoppable. This is only fair after all of the work you've put in these last few months!