

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Bhandari Saab returns home, funeral on 19th



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 JUL:

Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling along with Cabinet Ministers and MLAs of Sikkim received the mortal remains of former Chief Minister, Nar Bahadur Bhandari, here at Rangpo today.

The former Chief Minister of Sikkim breathed his last on 16 July at Primus Super Speciality Hospital in New Delhi after a prolonged illness. His mortal remains were brought to Sikkim House where it was kept till the morning of 17 July.

After a ceremonial Guard of Honour by IRB Jawans at Sikkim House, New Delhi, the body was flown to Bagdogra Airport where it was received and escorted by a team of senior State Government officials led by Secretary Home [Protocol], SK Pradhan.

The State Government has announced a seven-day period of State mourning from 17-23 Jul during which time the National Flag will be flown at half-mast as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

The day of the departed leader's funeral, which falls on 19 July, has been declared a State holiday by the Government. All government offices, educational institutions and public undertakings will remain closed on that day.

Further, the mortal remains of the late leader has been kept at his home, Primula Cottage here at Church Road, for those wishing to pay their last respects. The funeral procession is scheduled to begin from Primula Cottage at 11 a.m. on 19 Jul. The final rites will be performed at Ranipool with full State honours.

Nar Bahadur Bhandari was born on 05 Oct, 1940 in Malbasye village near Soreng, West Sikkim. He served as a school teacher for some years before joining politics and later went on to become the Chief Minister of the State for three terms.

He is survived by his wife, Dil Kumari Bhandari, who is also a former Member of Parliament [Lok Sabha] from Sikkim, three daughters and a son.



Sikkim Legislators vote for next President of India

ARPAN PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 17 JUL:

The Presidential election was held all over the country today. The voting for the same took place here at the State Legislative Assembly from 10.00 a.m. in the morning.

Present for the election process were Joint Secretary-Ministry of Shipping, Government of India, Pravir Krishna as the Observer appointed by the Election Commission, Government of India, along with LM Pradhan as the Presiding Officer/ ARO-cum-Secretary, SLA.

The Presiding Officer informed that out of the 32 Legislators of the State Legislative Assembly, 30 Legislators exercised their franchise with 2 MLAs being unable to cast their vote due to unavoidable circumstances. This accounted to 93.75% of the votes.

Chief Electoral Officer,

Tenzing Gelek, and Joint CEO, Urvashi Poudyal, jointly briefed the House about the casting of votes. Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling along with Cabinet Ministers and MLAs cast their votes.

It may be mentioned here that the BJP or the NDA candidate is Ram Nath Kovind and the Congress alliance has former Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Meira Kumar as its candidate for the Presidential election.

Earlier, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, Speaker, KN Rai, Deputy Speaker, ST Lepcha, along with all other Members of the House observed two minutes silence as a mark of respect on the demise of the former Chief Minister.

Chief Minister has saddened him and the entire state of Sikkim. "Sikkim has lost a worthy son of the soil whose contributions to the State and its people are unparalleled. The State and the people of Sikkim have lost a great leader," he stated.

He has offered his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed that the departed soul rests in eternal peace.

Mr Chamling has called on all his party colleague to come together and extend all possible assistance towards ensuring that the late leader receives a send off his contributions entitled to him.

Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, senior party officials and others attended the meeting. A two minute silence was also observed for the departed soul.



Bhandari's contributions to State unparalleled: Chamling

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 JUL:

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today remembered the former Chief Minister as a highly successful political figure who has left a distinct mark in the hearts of the Sikkimese people.

Former CM, Nar Bahadur Bhandari, it may be recalled, passed away in New Delhi yesterday after a brief illness and after undergoing a spinal cord surgery last Friday.

Speaking at the State Legislative Assembly before the voting for the Presidential election began, the Chief Minister said that Late Mr Bhandari was a successful politician, a successful Chief Minister, a successful Member of Parliament, and a successful leader of the Opposition.

He will always be remembered with affection by the people of Sikkim, he said, while adding that the passing away of the Late Mr Bhandari was an irreparable loss to the State.

Also today, at a condolence

meeting held at the conference hall of the head office of Sikkim Democratic Front today under the chairmanship of the party president, Chief Minister Mr Chamling, said that the demise of the former

Chief Minister has saddened him and the entire state of Sikkim.

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DC South comes down heavily on contractors indulging in illegal dumping

SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 17 JUL: The District Collector-South convened a meeting regarding illegal dumping of debris by contractors working under the supervision of BSNL.

Present in the meeting were SE [Roads & Bridges], DFO [T], DE [PMGSY],

PMGSY [RMDD] as well as damage to roads due to laying of cables by contractors working under the supervision of BSNL.

As per a press release

DE [Energy & Power], AE [PHED], AE [National Highway, South], AE [PMGSY], BDO [Namchi], Training Officer [Disaster Management] and all the field contractors, sub contractors.

As per a press release

from the South District Administration, this meeting was a follow-up to the recent visit of DC South on 15 Jul to the Chamaon area.

At the outset, the DC South expressed displea-

sure over the way road construction is being undertaken and wayward dumping of debris. He informed that his office has been receiving a number of complaints regarding

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construction is being undertaken and wayward dumping of debris. He informed that his office has been receiving a number of complaints regarding

turn to pg02

tion party attempted to build a road there. Doka La is the Indian name for the region which Bhutan recognises as Dokalam, while China claims it as part of its Donglang region.

Last week, a meeting was called by the government to brief opposition parties on the issue.

The government had told opposition leaders that China is constructing roads near the international border, hampering the country's strategic interests. It said National Security Advisor Ajit Doval would put forward New Delhi's position before his Chinese counterparts later this month. The meeting was attended by Jaishankar and Doval.

The panel, of which Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi is a member, is chaired by party MP Shashi Tharoor.

There has been tension in the area for the past three weeks after a Chinese Army construc-

This is the quality of our elected representatives

SUDIPTA CHANDA

SLIGURI, 17 JUL:

Here is a lesson on how to mar the mood in a solemn occasion and also how to ruin further an already touchy situation.

In a most reckless misconduct, Trinamool MLA from Beleghata, Paresh Pal gave Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) MLAs a tongue lashing on Monday while voting for President election was underway at the West Bengal Legislative Assembly in Kolkata.

The Trinamool MLA's unprovoked charge was how the GJM MLAs could be in Kolkata to participate in the Presidential voting after setting

the hills on fire.

In the mini argument that followed, the BJP state president and Kharagpur MLA Dilip Ghosh came to the rescue of the GJM MLAs, which enraged Pal further. Pouring bile, and alleging that Ghosh was behind the trouble in the Darjeeling hills, he went to the extent of threatening Ghosh with grim consequences had it not been for the "merciful" Mamata Banerjee.

This goes to show how tactless and juvenile our politicians can be. By doing what he did, Pal not only reduced the gravity of the President of India election to the stage of a local by-lane election, besides expos-

ing his maturity level, he might have also estranged further a society that is agitating on the identity issue.

In fact, while reacting to Pal's mindless act, the Darjeeling MLA, Amar Singh Rai pointed out that besides showing the mentality, such shouting at each other and hurling accusations can alienate the Gorkhas further.

Pal's behavior also raises the question of Trinamool's approach in any election held in the state. The Opposition generally alleges that the Trinamool browbeats opponents out of contest in every election in the state. Unable to resist the practice, was Pal extending the practice to the

voting for President election as well? Since there is no logical explanation of his act otherwise, the question will keep haunting.

What impact Pal's misbehaviour will have in the hills time will tell, but some damage control might be required from the policy makers.

If Pal's behaviour came as a shock, and rightly so, questions are also being raised of the GJM for sending its MLAs for the President election voting. Participation in the vote is the constitutional right of the GJM and its elected MLAs. But, what about the constitutional right of the people back home?

They have been subjected to se-

rious inconvenience and security concerns since June 8 and there is no indication when the misery would end. If the GJM is mindful of its constitutional duties and rights, can it hold the hills to ransom for over a month now by denying the people their basic rights and needs?

Meanwhile, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has increased her attack against the Centre on the Darjeeling issue and this time openly naming China behind the troubles in the hills. She also went to the extent of questioning the presence and purpose of 400 plus Chinese schools near Pashupati Fatak, close to Darjeeling.



SPCC condoles demise of its former president Late Bhandari

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 JUL:

Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee has expressed its deep condolence on the sad demise of former Chief Minister, Nar Bahadur Bhandari. SPCC convened a condolence meeting on the passing away of Mr. Bhandari who was a former CM, former State Congress president and leader for the movement of Nepali language recognition, informs an SPCC press release issued by its general secretary, Purna Koirala.

The release states that the meeting also observed two minutes silence for the departed soul. It is informed that the party has decided to fly the party flag at half mast for next three days to mourn the passing away of the former Congress president.

Sikkim Lepcha Association condoles demise of Late Bhandari

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 JUL:

Sikkim Lepcha Association [Renjyong Mutanchi Rong Tarjum] on behalf of the Lepcha community has expressed deep sadness and grief on the demise of former Chief Minister of Sikkim, Late Nar Bahadur Bhandari.

The Association, in a press release issued today, has prayed for his soul and extended condolences to the bereaved family.

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DC South comes down heavily on contractors indulging in illegal dumping

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damage to property due to unauthorized dumping of debris by contractors.

The DC South informed the house that during the visit of his team to Changma, it was felt that excessive dumping in forest and private lands had been done which has resulted in washing away of public footpaths and damage of water pipelines, electric poles and private property of Samjang Bhutia at Changma area.

The entire walk way/footpath is in deplorable condition as a result of which the public is at risk, he added. The DE [PMGSY] has been asked to direct the contractors to take up necessary measures to protect public property, construct walls, divert water, etc.

Further, the DC South has directed all the contractors to take preventive measures against further damage, as several public properties have been damaged due to reckless back cutting works. He also informed that necessary action shall be taken against those contractors failing to complete protective works within the next 15 days.

He has directed BDO [Namchi], DE [Power], SE

Sikkip gets utility vehicle for garbage management

SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 17 JUL:

South District Administration in collaboration with NHPC Rangit today handed over one utility vehicle for garbage management and revenue generation to Sikkip Block Administrative Centre under the NHPC's Corporate Social Responsibility programme.

The vehicle is provided for DAAV Sanganath GPU, Wok Omchu and others under BAC Sikkip, a press release issued by District Collector-South informs.

The Block Development Officer-Sikkip has been handed over keys and requested to conduct a meeting with Panchayats for better use of the vehicle.

The DC South, Chief Engineer-NHPC, Addi-



tional District Collector, Joint Director-Human Resource De-

velopment Department and BDO Sikkip were present during the event.

Further, four LPG cylinders were also provided by Manager of Nayu-

ma Indane for schools under DAAV Sanganath GPU, the release adds.



Rotary Club of Gangtok South installs new team

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 JUL:

Members and guests of Rotary Club of Gangtok South witnessed the installation of the new president and his team in a ceremony held on 15 Jul at Hotel Denzong Regency in Gangtok.

the various projects and programmes undertaken by the Club during the tenure of the presidency of Mr Sherpa in 2016-17.

Geeta Chettri, who acted as the master of ceremony, explained that the word Rotary was derived from the system of rotating presidents and their teams every year by the Rotary Clubs all over the world so that every member gets an opportunity to shoulder new responsibilities and thereby develop leadership.

The new president, Bhaichung Lepcha, introduced his new team consisting of vice president, Bina Sharma, secretary, Prakash Sundas, treasurer, Anil Gupta, and members of the Board of Directors and requested for full cooperation from all members and community at large to make Rotary Club of Gangtok South more effective.

Two booked under SADA

Gangtok, 17 Jul: During routine checking of incoming vehicles at Rangpo check post on 16 Jul, one 33-year-old male hailing from Lal Bazaar in Gangtok was found in possession of 576 loose capsules of Spasmoproxyvon hidden inside his pants. Further, 06 files of SP containing 128 capsules, 05 files of N-10 containing 98 tablets and 3 bottles of Maxcoff-T cough syrup were recovered from his backpack.

On the same day at Rangpo check post, one 28-year-old habitual drug peddler hailing from Rangpo was intercepted by Police while he was crossing the check post on foot. Subsequently, 135 loose capsules of SP were recovered from the pocket of the accused.

Both the accused have been booked under SADA.

Kitam Sr Sec School toppers felicitated



SUMMIT REPORT

KITAM, 17 JUL:

Kitam Manpur Employees Welfare Society [KMEWS] today felicitated two board exam toppers of Kitam Senior Secondary School, Mahendra Kumar [class X] and Manisha Gurung [class XII], with citation and scarf at Kitam School premises in South Sikkim, a

press release informs.

The citation and scarf was offered by Principal of Kitam SSS, SW Chingapa, and KMEWS president, Suresh K Subba.

General secretary-KMEWS, DN Sharma, highlighted the objectives of honoring toppers and informed about the society's future plans.

Principal, Mr Chingapa, in his short ad-

dress, appreciated the initiatives taken by the society which inspires children to excel in their studies and thanked them for organizing the programme.

KMEWS has been working tirelessly in the field of education and providing financial support to the needy and bright students in the locality since its establishment, the release mentions.

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Gangtok on Tuesday, 18 July
Temp: 29°C / 20°C
Forecast: A blend of sun and clouds with shower or thunderstorm in spots.
Sunrise: 04:51 AM
Sunset: 06:32 PM

Prez poll: Close to 99 per cent voting, the highest ever

NEW DELHI, JUL 17 (PTI): Close to 99 per cent voting was recorded today for electing India's next president, the returning officer for the poll announced saying it was perhaps the highest-ever percentage.

The counting of votes will take place on July 20.

The numbers are stacked in favour of the ruling coalition's nominee Ram Nath Kovind, a former Bihar governor, over the opposition's candidate and former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar.

"The voting was close to 99 per cent. I think this would perhaps be the highest ever percentage," Lok Sabha Secretary General and returning officer for the election Anoop Mishra told a press conference here.

Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Gujarat, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Uttarakhand and Puducherry recorded 100 per cent voting.

In Parliament House, the voting percentage was 99 per cent, said Mishra. He said while the sanctioned strength of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha is 776, 771 MPs were eligible to cast their votes.

There are two vacancies each in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, while one BJP MP Chedi Paswan does not have voting rights following a judicial pronouncement, he added.

In Delhi, 717 MPs were to cast their ballot but only 714 exercised their franchise. The TMC's Tapas Pal, the BJD's Ram Chandra Hansdak and Ambumani Ramadoss of the PMK did not cast their votes.

Fifty-five MPs had sought permissions to cast their vote in state capitals. These included Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar, his

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SAATHI conducts its 11th offsite training camp

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 JUL:

Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India [SAATHI] conducted their 11th offsite training camp for 117 students from Government Senior Secondary School Rhenock, Government Senior Secondary School Sang, Government Senior Secondary School Bermiok Tokal and Government Senior Secondary School Kewzing from 14-16 Jul.

A press release received from the office of SAATHI informs that SAATHI conducts these residential camps at the Indian Himalayan Centre



for Adventure and Eco-Tourism [IHCAE] in Chemchey, South Sikkim, as an ongoing endeavor to curb drug abuse amongst school aged children. The students were accompa-

Pilgrims to give Bol Bam a miss this year due to Darjeeling unrest

NITESH R PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 17 JUL:

The annual 'Bol Bam' pilgrimage, a month-long festival dedicated to Lord Shiva and observed in the Hindu month of Shravan, has been hit hard by the ongoing crisis in the Darjeeling hills.

"This time we are getting very few enquiries for this annual affair," said one driver, Ashish Rai.

With uncertainties regarding safe passage of vehicles along NH 10, devotees are happy observing the traditional practice of offering water to the deity in nearby temples.

"I take the Bol Bam journey every year. However, this year I missed it because I always take my family along with me and the chaos I hear about almost every day along the highway makes this a risky proposition. Travelling with your family in a taxi could be dangerous, leave alone taking our private vehicle," says Kiran Gurung, citing the example of the recent vandalism of Sikkim registered vehicles in Siliguri and other parts of Darjeeling/Kalimpong hills along the highway.

Similarly, many devotees complained of astronomical amounts demanded by drivers for reserving a taxi for the annual pilgrimage.

"What we used to pay for the reservation has now doubled," says a member of a spiritual organisation 'Shiv Yog', Ravi.

Some have cancelled their trip to Baidya-

nath Temple in Deoghar, Jharkhand and have opted for Jalpeshwar Temple in Jalpaiguri due to a relatively low budget.

While for some, even the Jalpeshwar Temple in Jalpaiguri is a distant dream with the travel fares burning a hole in their pockets.

"We cannot go anywhere this year due to the risk and money factors involved," said a street food vendor, Pintu.

However, this has resulted in higher footfalls in Shiva temples in the State.

With the observance of the first Monday - a holy day marked for Lord Shiva - by the Hindu Nepalese today, the temples witnessed a large congregation of devotees.

"Each year, there are more and more people interested in observing the holy month of Shravan and this year the numbers are the highest," said a local priest in Shiva Temple, Jalipool, located in the outskirts of the capital.

There are also reports of large gathering of devotees from other parts of the State in major Shiva temples and sites including Kirateshwara Temple in Legship and Chaar Dham in Namchi.

Shiva temples in the capital also witnessed a sea of devotees queuing in lines to offer water to the Lingam - a representation of Shiva.

In the holy month of Shravan, Monday is dedicated to Lord Shiva and Tuesday is dedicated to his consort Goddess Parvati.

REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 17 JUL:

It's that time of the year. Ice cream season! The weather's warmer. We're thinking summertime and cool treats. Ice cream is always at the top of the list. It used to be simple. You had a range of flavors to choose from, be it chocolate, vanilla, strawberry or a mix of all these. However, things have changed in the capital today.

Besides affecting the supply of essential commodities in the State, the indefinite strike in Darjeeling Hills and the ongoing unrest along the NH10 has created a shortage of ice cream stocks in the market as well!

Some ice cream shop owners of Gangtok informed SummitTimes, that the supply of pack-

aged ice cream in different flavors has stopped coming in due to which they are not being able to serve customers the flavors of their choice.

"We have to say sorry

to them for not being able to cater to their choices. Hence, we have been selling only the machine cone ice cream at a cost of Rs 20 for each cone. We don't want to disappoint them

and would love to watch them return with a smile on their faces," expressed one of the shop owners.

The shop owner also complained about their business going downhill

Anand Gurung. An experience sharing session followed the same which was addressed by Uday C Rai from Serenity Home.

Over the two and a half days in the camp, various motivational and technical sessions on drugs along with learning based fun and physical activities were conducted with the students.

The session on the medical aspects of drug abuse was taken by Psychiatrist from Namchi District Hospital, Dr Reshma Subba, while the inspirational and life skills sessions were facilitated by the youngest man from Sikkim to conquer Mount Everest,

due to the shortage of ice cream especially at this time of the year.

"We have no idea when fresh stocks will arrive. We have been desperately waiting for a positive consequence," said another shop owner who operates from MG Marg.

An ice cream lover, Bidisha Rai, expressed her disappointment on not being able to enjoy her favourite ice cream flavors this year.

"I am an ice cream lover. Summer is not only the time when I devour ice creams. Every season is an ice cream season for me. Machine ice cream cones do not satisfy my sweet tooth for ice cream. I hope the market will bounce back with a huge stock of various flavors of ice creams at the earliest," said Ms Rai.

Now it's ice-cream that is in short supply in local markets



Magnessa Group holds promotional event at Singtam

YOGEN THATAL

SINGTAM, 17 JUL:

The Magnessa Group, a company that deals with products related to health care and wellness, conducted a day-long promotion cum introduction programme today here at Marwari Dharmasala in New Market, Singtam.

"Magnessa, a Chennai based Wellness Company established in the year 2014 deals with wellness and supplementary products. The company offers more than 25 products available in the form of tablets, powder and liquid," mentioned one of the members, Jonathan Moktan.



WORKSHOP ON PRE-CONCEPTION & PRE-NATAL DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES ACT 1994

GANGTOK, 17 JUL [IPR]: Sikkim Judicial Academy organized a workshop on 'Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques [Prohibition of Sex Selection] Act, 1994' for the Chief Judicial Magistrates and Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrates on 16 Jul at the Sikkim Judicial Academy, High Court premises, Gangtok. Former Judge-High Court, Justice AP Subba, was the resource person.

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INVITING RATION DONATIONS FOR EDITH WILKINS STREET CHILDREN FOUNDATION, DARJEELING

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

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

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

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

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

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

So, Sikkim Can Plant

Now to make the young connect and care

So, now even Himachal Pradesh is making a big splash with focused statewide tree plantation drives and Haryana too has adopted the practice. Like some other ideas born in Sikkim that have caught on, this too was first attempted here with the Smriti-Van and 10 Minutes to Earth initiatives. Sikkim could have set up a better template for others to emulate if it had invested professional follow-up and a third-party audit of the programmes to refine them further and improve its success rate. Such an evaluation was undertaken once in the earlier years, but these initiatives have been underway for around a decade now and more detailed data should have been collated by now. Be that as it may, given the continuing ferocity with which press releases continue to pour in about plantation drives, and the details of the number of saplings planted and the dignitaries who participated, it is established yet again that Sikkim can be inspired to care for the environment. What is also obvious is that saplings were indeed planted. Even children from junior schools still return home excited, bearing news that they had planted little ones of big trees who will now grow up with them.

In a world where countries are building arguments about why they should be allowed to pollute more, this earnestness comes as welcome relief. There is nothing new about plantation drives; that is a tokenism that the world community evolved long back as a fig leaf for World Environment Day to cover the abuse that it subjects the environment all year round. What is new however is that the 10-Minute dedication has been reasonably successful. What Sikkim needed to have done was build up on this introduction and help a generation rediscover the close understanding that the people here had evolved of the land they lived in.

Environment Studies is now a compulsory part of the syllabus, but it is woefully alien and too generalized. The text books are little more than repackaged Geography lessons. Environmental Studies is more than that, it includes cultural relationships with the land and should be more about learning to live with the environment than a sanitized introduction to environment per se. Sikkim is perfectly positioned to make EVS [as Environmental Studies is known in schools], relevant and fruitful. Students, say in Delhi, might need textbooks because they have only concrete and tarmac around them, but depending on textbooks alone in Sikkim only distance students here from nature that surrounds them. What is more, the State already has a rich tradition of sustainable dependence on the environment, aspects of which form an integral part of traditional lifestyles here. That knowledge base is only one generation distance in the past. It can still be reclaimed. As part of Environmental Studies, students in Sikkim should be learning about the concept of sacred groves maintained by village communities, learn of the stories of mythical powers of its water bodies and understand how people effectively protected them from pollution [and eventual loss] - by reinforcing their surroundings by presenting them as abodes of easily angered nymphs or protecting deities. The young need to also learn of the traditional hunting practices in which animals were killed only for food, and never as game or in retribution.

If the environment has to be protected and conserved, people need to go back to tradition, not turn to more rules and penalties. Tradition needs to be invoked, not as blind faith, but a the only pragmatic and practicable option. The falsehood perpetuated by busses that forests and wildlife need to be 'protected' from the lay people needs to be demolished. Wildlife was not wiped out by hunter-gatherers, they were pushed into extinction by city dwellers on indiscriminate weekend hunts. The forests were not lost to the need of villagers, but were consumed by the greed of the cities - that insensitive obsession for silver-fir paneled rooms in concrete jungles. The young need to understand this, and then learn of how their own respective communities connected with nature and lived with it, how they adjusted their lifestyles around it and how they worked their belief structures into it to weave conservation and sustainable practices as part of that one aspect that no one can argue with - Faith.

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

Death toll mounts in Rio de Janeiro as police lose control of the city – and of themselves

SILVIA RAMOS
theconversation.com

On June 30, a baby was shot in his mother's belly in Rio de Janeiro. After the rifle fire hit 29-year-old Claudinéia in the hip in the Favela do Lixão neighbourhood, her son Arthur was delivered via emergency cesarean section. He will be a paraplegic for life.

This was just one of 181 shootings that took place in Rio that June week. A day earlier, Marlene Maria da Conceição, age 72, was shot in the Mangueira favela while picking up her grandson from school. Her daughter, Ana Cristina, 49, was struck when she tried to help her mother. Both women died.

Just hours before her death, Ana Cristina had called the violence in her neighbourhood "unbelievable" on social media, posting that the "shooting has been going on for nearly three hours."

Two days earlier, Fabio, a doorman returning home from work, was killed by shrapnel from a grenade at the entrance to the Pavão-Pavãozinho favela, a stone's throw from Ipanema and Copacabana, two of Rio's wealthiest neighbourhoods.

Even in Brazil, where homicides are really common, Rio de Janeiro's crime rate is stunning. It is now impossible not to notice that the city's Police Pacification Units (UPP), once a much-vaunted anti-violence force, have all but collapsed.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Launched nine years ago, the UPP program stationed some 9,500 officers in some 37 favelas, serving nearly 780,000 people.

This new model, which included components of successful community policing initiatives in Los Angeles and Medellin sought to end violent confrontations between rival gangs, and between police and gangs, by getting weapons out of the favelas and maintaining a permanent police presence.

At first, the media and the public loved the program. Rio saw a significant reduction in robberies in UPP-covered areas and a marked decrease in police killings, which fell from 1,330 in 2007 to 415 in 2013.

Some favela activists and human rights advocates viewed the UPPs as military occupation of low-income neighbourhoods, and predicted that the plan would fail. But the UPPs worked, or seemed to be working, keeping many areas of the city nearly free of shootouts, stray bullets and police killings from 2009 to 2013.

THE BAD OLD DAYS

This was a significant improvement over prior policing strategies in Rio. For two decades, the Rio police had one mission – to weed out the armed

groups that had set up shop in all of the city's 700 favelas – and one method to do it with – firepower.

By the late 1980s, gangs had essentially established territorial control over 1.5 Rio million residents, some 22% of the city's population. Criminal groups such as the Red Command and The Third Command monopolised not only the drug trade in these areas but also other lucrative activities, such as cooking-fuel sales and alternative public transport.

The groups, which are operating again today, patrolled the streets and alleyways of Rio's favelas, keeping both police and rival gangs out.

In 1995, the Rio de Janeiro state government hired an army general to try to control crime in the metropolitan region, and the city launched a series of public security policies meant to aggressively confront gangs in some of the city's poorest neigh-

borhoods, not with investigation or intelligence but with guns.

In short, it has been the war on drugs gone local.

Rather than fix the problem, research shows that these programs were largely responsible for more firmly rooting gangs in these places.

THE DEMISE OF THE UPPS

The UPPs were supposed to change all this, and for a while there they did. So what happened?

Based on studies done by the Centre for Studies on Public Security and Citizenship at Brazil's Cândido Mendes University, it appears that, over time, police officers in favelas have gradually reduced the practice of community policing and become more repressive.

The program's decline happened gradually but, in retrospect, the 2013 disappearance of bricklayer Amarildo de Souza while in UPP custody in Rocinha, the largest favela in Rio's wealthy south side, was an inflection point.

Tension between the police and residents rose across the city, but the police did not respond by updating program's strategies, investing in training or renewing the force's commitment to keep community policing at the heart of the UPPs.

By 2015, armed gangs had returned to once-pacified favelas such as Morro do Borel in swanky Tijuca, Morro dos Prazeres in bohemian Santa Teresa, and Favela Tabajaras in upscale Copacabana. The

UPPs were faltering. Any remaining vestiges of the mirage of safety crumbled once the Olympics ended, with skirmishes erupting between rival factions or Rio's gangs – a "signal" for the groups to again take up heavy weaponry.

LICENSE TO KILL
The military police find themselves cornered in the favelas.

The force's historic disregard for intelligence has come back to haunt it. Lacking sound information and data, young captains are forced to rely on their intuition to deal with the encroaching gangs, choosing between either daily shootouts or a hostile coexistence between gangs and police, depending on the favela.

Feeling stuck, angry and lost, police shoot frequently. At least 480 Rio de Janeiro citizens were killed by police in the first five months of this year alone.

The animation below by Amnesty International's Fogo Cruzado (Crossfire) app documents all the gunfire in Rio from January to June 2017 – an average of 14 incidents daily.

The license to kill any favela resident perceived to be a criminal has given way to summary executions, which last year represented some 20% of all deaths in the state of Rio de Janeiro.

Cops also kidnap suspects, take bribes to overlook crimes and negotiate to save the lives of criminals, exacerbating violence.

In fairness, things aren't great for the police right now. Brazil is immersed in a profound economic crisis, so the police haven't been paid in months. The force can't even afford to fill its police cruisers with gas.

Operating in dangerous neighbourhoods with little support or guidance from their commanders, UPP officers have reverted to the bad old days of excessive force and full-blown corruption.

The gangs, meanwhile, are following suit: they're heavily armed, ambitious and bellicose. From January to June 2017, 81 Rio officers were killed (15 while on duty). Rio de Janeiro's police kill and die more than any other Brazilian police force.

Amid these hellish conditions, young people in the favelas are starting to speak out. Increasingly, they're greeted by media coverage and a large social media audience.

People know what needs to happen first: the police must stop shooting. Then, to dismantle not just the gangs but also the gang mentality burgeoning among Rio's police, the city must invest in intelligence.

The answer is not new, but it is globally tried and true: to reduce violence, reform the police.

[the writer is Coordinator, Centre for Studies on Public Security and Citizenship, Universidade Cândido Mendes]

Rallying cry: Youth must stand up to defend democracy

HENRY GIROUX
theconversation.com

According to famed anthropologist Arjun Appadurai, the central question of our times is whether we're witnessing the worldwide rejection of liberal democracy and its replacement by some sort of populist authoritarianism.

There's no doubt that democracy is under siege in several countries, including the United States, Turkey, the Philippines, India and Russia. Yet what's often overlooked in analyses of the state of global democracy is the importance of education. Education is necessary to respond to the formative and often poisonous cultures that have given rise to the right-wing populism that's feeding authoritarian ideologies across the globe.

Under neo-liberal capitalism, education and the way that we teach our youth has become central to politics. Our current system has encouraged a culture of self-absorption, consumerism, privatization and commodification. Civic culture has been badly undermined while any viable notion of shared citizenship has been replaced by commodified and commercial relations. What this suggests is that important forms of political and social domination are not only economic and structural, but also intellectual and related to the way we learn and teach.

One of the great challenges facing those who believe in a real democracy, especially academics and young people, is the need to reinvent the language of politics in order to make clear that there is no substantive and inclusive

democracy without informed citizens.

DEMOCRACY DEMANDS QUESTIONS

It is imperative for academics to reclaim higher education as a tool of democracy and to connect their work to broader social issues. We must also assume the role of public intellectuals who understand there's no genuine democracy without a culture of questioning, self-reflection and genuine critical power.

As well, it's crucial to create conditions that expand those cultures and public spheres in which individuals can bring their private troubles into a larger system.

It's time for academics to develop a culture of questioning that enables young people and others to talk back to injustice. We need to make power accountable and to embrace economic and social justice as part of the mission of higher education. In other words, academics need to teach young people how to hold politicians and authority accountable.

All generations face trials unique to their own times. The current generation of young people is no different, though what this generation is experiencing may be unprecedented. High on the list of trials is the precariousness of the time — a time in which the security and foundations enjoyed by earlier generations have been largely abandoned. Traditional social structures, long-term jobs, stable communities and permanent bonds have withered in the face of globalization, disposability and the scourge of unbridled consumerism.

SOCIAL CONTRACT SHRINKING

This is a time when massive inequali-

ty plagues the planet. Resources and power are largely controlled by a small financial elite. The social contract is shrinking; war has become normalized, environmental protections are being dismantled, fear has become the new national anthem, and more and more people, especially young people, are being written out of democracy's script.

Yet around world, the spirit of resistance on the part of young people is coming alive once again as they reject the growing racism, Islamophobia, militarism and authoritarianism that is emerging all over the globe.

They shouldn't be discouraged by the way the world looks at the present moment. Hope should never be surrendered to the forces of cynicism and resignation.

Instead, youth must be visionary, brave, willing to make trouble and to think dangerously. Ideas have consequences, and when they're employed to nurture and sustain a flourishing democracy in which people struggle for justice together, history will be made.

Youth must reject measuring their lives simply in traditional terms of wealth, prestige, status and the false comforts of gated communities and gated imaginations. They must also refuse to live in a society in which consumerism, self-interest and violence function as the only viable forms of political currency.

These goals are politically, ethically and morally deficient and capitulate to the bankrupt notion that we are consumers first and citizens second.

VISION IS MORE THAN SIGHT

Instead, young people must be steady-

fast, generous, honest, civic-minded and think about their lives as a project rooted in the desire to create a better world.

They must expand their dreams and think about what it means to build a future marked by a robust and inclusive democracy. In doing so, they need to embrace acts of solidarity, work to expand the common good and collectivize compassion. Such practices will bestow upon them the ability to govern wisely rather than simply be governed maliciously.

I have great hope that this current generation will confront the poisonous authoritarianism that is emerging in many countries today. One strategy for doing this is to reaffirm what binds us together. How might we develop new forms of solidarity? What would it mean to elevate the dignity and decency of everyday people, everywhere?

Young people need to learn how to bear witness to the injustices that surround them. They need to accept the call to become visionaries willing to create a society in which people, as the great journalist Bill Moyers argues, can "become fully free to claim their moral and political agency."

Near the end of her life, Helen Keller was asked by a student if there was anything worse than losing her sight. She replied losing her vision would have been worse. Today's young people must maintain, nurture and enhance their vision of a better world.

[the writer is Chaired professor for Scholarship in the Public Interest in the Department of English and Cultural Studies, McMaster University]

Traffic police outpost set ablaze in Darjeeling

DARJEELING (WB), JUL 17 (PTI): GJM activists today set fire to a traffic police outpost and a flat belonging to the electric supply board here on the 33rd day of the indefinite shutdown today.

Supporters of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha and other hill parties also staged a sit-in outside the district magistrate office here demanding a separate state and restoration of Internet services in the hills.

Officials said a traffic police outpost in Mirik and a flat of the electric supply board in Bijanbari were set on fire by GJM activists.

However, there were no reports of any casualty, they said.

Army troops continued to maintain vigil on Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Sonada. Paramilitary and police personnel also patrolled the streets in the hills.

With food supply severely hit due to the ongoing strike, GJM activists and NGOs of the hills were seen distributing food items among people. "We will continue our protest till we get Gorkhaland."

We are not afraid of the West Bengal government and its police. Every youth in the hills is ready to give their blood for the sake of Gorkhaland," Prakash Gurung, GJM Yuva Morcha president, said.

Obnoxious TMC MLA shouts at GJM MLAs, asks them to return to the hills

KOLKATA, JULY 17 (PTI): TMC MLA Paresh Pal today courted controversy when he shouted at three GJM MLAs and asked them to "go back to Darjeeling" when they were in the West Bengal state assembly to cast their votes for the presidential elections.

The incident took place in the noon today at the assembly lobby when MLAs were standing in a queue to cast their vote for the presidential election.

Three Gorkha Jan-



mukti Morcha (GJM) MLAs- Saritha Rai, Rohit Sharma and Amar Singh Rai were at the assembly to cast their votes.

7 die of undiagnosed disease in Kandhamal, 80 affected

PHULBANI (ODISHA), JUL 17 (PTI): Seven people died of some undiagnosed disease, which has affected over 80 others during the last one month at a remote Ranipanga village in Odisha's Kandhamal district, officials today said.

Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Dr Sappneswar Gadanayak said reports about the disease which has caused deaths and affected many, have been received from the inaccessible tribal dominated village located under Kotagarh block.

While the area has been hit by malaria for a long time, other ailments were also reported due to consumption of contaminated water from water bodies, he said.

adding, the situation is under control and health teams have been sent to deal with the problem.

The patients have complained of high fever, severe abdominal and weakness, officials said.

A medical team has been sent to the area from the district headquarters hospital here, while a six-member team was sent from Kotagarh primary health centre (PHC) to deal with the situation, they said.

The teams have collected blood samples from 90 patients, 35 of which tested positive for malaria, said an official.

Seven patients were referred to Balliguda sub-divisional hospital and others are being treated in the village.

The party is spearheading the agitation for a separate Gorkhaland carved out of Darjeeling Hills and the indefinite

shutdown called by it entered the 33rd day today.

"Why have you all come here? Go back to Darjeeling.

You people want a separate state and are maligning our government. Go to your hills and cast your vote there," Pal said.

When state BJP president and MLA Dilip Ghosh went forward to speak to Rai, Pal accused Ghosh of trying to manipulate the voters and violating the code of conduct.

Asked to react to Pal's

comments, Rai said "I don't want to make any comment. Its for the people of the state to decide."

Ghosh in his turn said, "It (Pal's comments) only shows the frustration of the TMC government and their elected MLAs. It is not a way to behave with an elected MLA and that too inside the state assembly."

Pal, however, maintained that he had said "nothing wrong". "I will repeat it thousand times if needed."



Liezetsu embarrassed

KOHIMA, JULY 17 (PTI):

Nagaland Chief Minister Shurhozelie Liezetsu pulled him from behind.

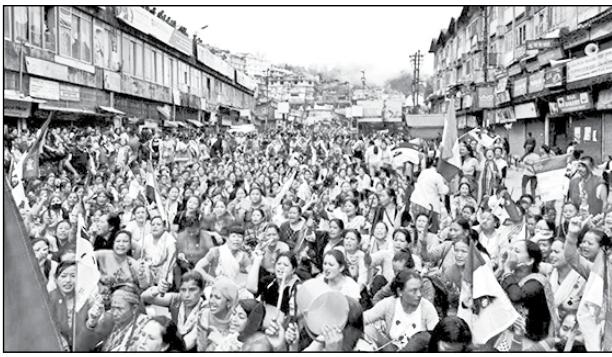
The chief minister said that he had officially intimated to the Assembly Secretariat yesterday about his visit.

The CM also regretted that the Assembly Secretariat had appointed a dissident MLA as election agent without consulting the government.

Assembly is supposed to be above Party politics, he said.

Meanwhile, all 59 elected representatives - 47 belonging to NPF, four to BJP and eight Independents - exercised their franchise in the presidential election.

Irrespective of the leadership crisis in the Nagaland People's Front (NPF), legislators supporting Liezetsu reached the venue in a group and cast their votes. So did the 43 dissident MLAs supporting former chief minister TR Zeliang.



GJM supporters hold dharna demanding restoration of Internet

DARJEELING (WB), JULY 17 (PTI): Supporters of GJM and other hill parties

said.

The suspension of Internet services, which was imposed on June 18, has been extended till July 25, by the district administration.

Although no incident of violence was reported since last night, police and security forces con-

tinued their patrolling in the hills.

With food supply severely hit due to the ongoing strike, GJM activists and NGOs of the hills were seen distributing food items among the people.

The Army was deployed in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Sonada.



PM hopes Monsoon session runs with GST spirit

NEW DELHI, JUL 17

(PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today

same spirit of hope.

After the summer, the rains fill the soil with pleasant smell.

The same way, due to the good rains of the GST, the whole session will be full of enthusiasm.

"I believe, all political parties, all MPs, will take significant decisions in national interest, will engage with high standard of debate and provide value addition during the Monsoon session.

Terming the start of the session today as very significant, Modi noted that this session gets an opportunity to elect a new president and a vice-president for the country, which will also complete seven decades of its Independence on August 15.

The prime minister said the passage of GST showed the good that can be achieved when all parties come together and work for the nation.

"The GST spirit is about growing stronger together. I hope the same GST spirit prevails in the session," he said.



Don Bosco School Malbasey wins ARCEIS Interschool Football tourney

SUMMIT REPORT
MALBASEY, 17 JUL:

The ARCEIS (All Roman Catholic Educational Institutes of Sikkim) Inter-School Football Tournament 2017 for senior division was held at Don Bosco School, Malbasey this year. Don Bosco School beat St. Xavier's School,

Pakyong, 1-0 to win the tournament last Saturday.

The tournament had begun on 14 July and was played among six participating teams - Don Bosco School, St. Xavier's School, St. Mary's School-Gyalshing, Namchi Public School, Holy Cross School and St. Jo-

esph's School-Martam.

Earlier, DBS and SXS had defeated SMG and NPS in the semi-finals respectively.

The tournament concluded with words of appreciation and prize distribution by the chief-guest, Fr. Francis Banerjee, Principal, St. Xavier's School,

Pakyong.

Bishal Limboo of Don Bosco School, Malbasey was adjudged as the Best Player of the Tournament.

Fr. Martin Lakra, Principal, Don Bosco, Malbasey, congratulated and thanked the whole fraternity of the host school.

"Today the Monsoon session begins. Like the monsoon brings hope, this session also brings

MCI row: SC asks Centre to constitute committee immediately

NEW DELHI, JUL 17 (PTI): The Supreme Court today directed the Centre to set up a panel to substitute the court-appointed oversight committee, headed by former CJI R M Lodha, to look after the affairs of the Medical Council of India (MCI), with the government saying it would come up with names by tomorrow.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar observed that the Centre should constitute a panel which would replace the oversight committee set up last year by the apex court to oversee the MCI's functioning till the government put in place an alternate mechanism.

"We all want this. The whole country want this. You (Centre) should have your committee. There is no shortage of eminent persons," the bench, which also comprised Justices J Chelameswar, R K Agrawal, D Y Chandrachud and S Abdul Nazeer, said.

"If the government does it, fine. And if the government will not do it, then we will have to do it. There should be an alternate mechanism as per the earlier order of this court," the bench said.

Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar told

the apex court that the government would come up with the names for the alternate committee by tomorrow morning.

"We will come up with an alternate mechanism which will deal with the grievances of medical colleges in the country," he told the bench after which the court fixed the matter for tomorrow.

The court was dealing with the question whether the apex court-appointed three-member oversight committee will continue to look after the affairs of MCI.

The committee, set up by the court on May 2 last year, was to function for a period of one year or till a suitable mechanism was brought in by the Centre to substitute it.

During the hearing, senior lawyer Kapil Sibal, appearing for some medical colleges, told the bench that till date, no alternative mechanism has been put in place by the Centre despite the fact that the oversight panel was to function for only one year or till a suitable mechanism was evolved.

He argued that the MCI was bound by the directions of the oversight committee but the council was not adhering to them.

If oversight committee has passed certain directions, the MCI is bound to obey it. They cannot say we will not obey the committee's directions. It will amount to contempt of this court because the committee was constituted by the Supreme Court," he said.

Sibal also said that the MCI has adopted an "non-compliant attitude" and defied them on several aspects.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, said the tenure of the oversight committee should be extended by one more year or till the time the Centre comes out with a mechanism to deal with the issues relating to functioning of MCI.

"One year has gone by. What is the problem if the court will say that oversight committee's term is extended by another one year? Why are we fighting over this? There are a number of petitions related to MCI issue which are pending in this court," he said.

The Solicitor General said the govern-

ment had constituted a high-level committee under the chairmanship of the vice-chairman of the Niti Aayog and a National Medical Commission Bill has been drafted, which will replace the Indian Medical Council Act.

He said that a Group of Ministers had suggested some changes in the draft and the bill is now ready to be placed before Parliament.

The bench, however, asked, "From May 16, 2016 to May 15, 2017, you (government) were supposed to find an alternative mechanism. But you didn't do that. Now, you give us the scheme. Is it (bill) likely to be passed in this session?"

Responding to this, the Solicitor General said he cannot say whether the bill will be passed in the ongoing session.

Meanwhile, Additional Solicitor General Maninder Singh told the apex court that a five member committee, comprising special Director General of Health Services and others, has been set up which will be an "alternative mechanism" to deal with the issues.

During the hearing, the bench observed that the Centre was well within its

right to accept or decline the recommendations of the oversight committee but the government must come out with its own panel.

"I feel that this court never wanted to constitute a committee. You choose a committee having eminent persons. You are the government and you have all the resources. You do it," the CJI said, adding that if the government had come out with its committee, the oversight panel would have gone by now.

The apex court had on July 13 agreed to set up a five-judge constitution bench to deal with the matter after Rohatgi had said it was an urgent matter as counselling for admissions in MBBS and BDS was underway.

The Centre had earlier told the apex court that it had taken steps to put the alternative mechanism in place and there was no need now for the oversight committee to continue.

MCI had contended that the directions of the constitution bench which had set up the oversight committee were based on certain material which could not be controverted at the time of the order.

Indian Legends to boot up against the pick from Oorja U-19's

SAURABH CHAMLING
SILIGURI, 17 JUL:

Indian Football legends Bhaichung Bhutia, IM Vijayan, Renedy Singh and Bruno Countinho will join other legends to play an exhibition match on Tuesday at Ambedkar Stadium in Delhi.

They are part of the recently launched India Legends team. The match is scheduled to kick off at 4.30 pm and the Legends will face the team selected from the Oorja Under-19 tournament.

"Most of our players have reached Delhi and all of them are ready to take the field tomorrow. Hope it will be an interesting match," said Indian Legends team manager Arjun Rai.

India Legends team is formed with an aim to bring the retired footballers together and also work for their benefit. The team will play across India and overseas.

Muslims in Howrah hamlet busy making hair for Maa Durga

KOLKATA, JULY 17 (PTI): Like every year, the residents of a Muslim-dominated village in Howrah district are working round-the-clock to make hair for Goddess Durga in time for the approaching festival.

The 50-60 Muslim families at Parbatipur, a small village 40 km off Howrah city under Domjur police station, are engaged in the business for a long time.

The village came under the spotlight recently after three persons made a documentary 'Hairloom' on the families and posted it on YouTube.

The residents prepare the hair from jute bales and paint the strands in black colour to make it look like human hair.

The hair will be supplied to clay modeller hubs in the city and in different parts of the state including Kumartuli, Anisur Rahman, one of the village elders, said.

At a conservative estimate the hair from Parbatipur will be used for decorating 30,000 idols, the people involved in the trade said.

Shakil, a young man engaged in the profession, said, "We are devout Muslims. We observe Roza during the month of Ramzan. But our religion cannot come in the way of preparing the hair of Maa Durga and Kali."

SAI coaches undergo assessment, to be sacked upon failure

AMANPREET SINGH

NEW DELHI, JUL 17 (PTI): Close to 1000 SAI coaches over the age of 40 are being subjected to strenuous medical and physical tests for assessment of their endurance, flexibility and strength and those who fail will be asked to quit by the Sports Ministry.



Their heart rate, in response to exercise, is also being examined apart from blood pressure and aerobic fitness.

Height, weight, Body Mass Index (BMI) are also being tested to evaluate their fitness.

A four skin-fold test, which includes biceps, triceps, subscapular (a triangular muscle below the neck) and suprailliac (location above right hip

bone to check fat), also forms a part of the assessment to check their body fat.

A committee, consisting of experts in scientific department, including GTMT (General Theory and Methods of sports Training), Physiology and Anthropometry is conducting the evaluation.

"To ensure that no sub-standard coach gets a favourable result, the

coaches will be assessed by a separate committee as well. This will ensure an unbiased and true report on SAI coaches," a Sports Ministry official, who did not wish to be named since he is not authorised to speak to media, told PTI.

It has been learnt that BVP Rao, a member of the SAI Governing body, will head a five-member committee which will set up a system for a final evaluation but will not be a part of the examination.

"The committee under Rao will only put in place a system.

Those who will be found unfit for the job, will be asked to leave," said the official.

Rao, a retired IAS

officer, was made Chairman of the Committee last week at the SAI's Governing Body meeting and will start work once the official notification comes.

It has also been learnt that in the final evaluation, feedback of the athletes will also be taken.

"You are not going to be assessed by just your superior or boss now. The ministry is very keen to have only deserving candidates in the jobs," said an official.

It was Sports Minister Vijay Goel's idea to assess SAI coaches when, during a visit to Raipur, he found that they were not good enough to impart training to budding athletes.



Mangan School wins 1st Interschool Taekwondo tournament

MANGAN, JULY 17 (IPR):

The finals of the 1st Inter School Taekwondo Championship 2017 was held at Mangan School auditorium hall here on 14 and 15 July.

The tournament was organized by the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs and sponsored by the Office of the District Collector North under Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Abhay.

District Collector (North), Karma R Bonpo, was present on the final day as the chief guest.

A total of 98 emerging martial artists from 10 schools of north and east districts participated. Mangan School emerged champion.

Pema Lendum Sherpa of Mangan was adjudged

the best fighter in boys' category and in girls' category, Tshering Donka Bhutia from Gangtok emerged the best fighter.

Prior to the championship, a coaching camp was held at Mangan from 26 June to 05 July.

The camp had SATA general secretary, Rajan Subba, as the resource person. The District Collector has also provided taekwondo floor mats, head gears and other accessories to the Sports Department to facilitate the coaching of school students in this sport.

Taekwondo is being actively promoted especially among the girls in the District as self defence technique and to promote discipline in them.

Prez poll: Close to 99 per cent voting...

contd from pg03

UP counterpart Yogi Adityanath and his deputy Keshav Prasad Maurya and Union minister Uma Bharti. BJP chief Amit Shah, who is an MLA from Gujarat, had also sought permission to cast his vote in Delhi.

Trinamool Congress MPs cast their votes in Kolkata.

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool president Mamata Banerjee said all TMC lawmakers voted for the joint opposition candidate, Meira Kumar, in the presidential election to register their protest against "what is going on in the country".

Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said the fight between Kovind and Kumar was "one of ideologies" and rated the latter as the best choice for the president's post.

from West Bengal.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said MLAs should vote in the presidential poll according to their conscience.

"We are supporting Meira Kumar. All should vote following their conscience," he said.

The presidential election is through secret ballot and party whip is not applicable.

As lawmakers voted to elect the next president, the ruling BJP exuded confidence that Kovind would win with a "comfortable" margin.

Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said the fight between Kovind and Kumar was "one of ideologies" and rated the latter as the best choice for the president's post.



GUWAHATI, JUL 17 (PTI): The country's oldest tigress in captivity has died of age related ailments has died at the Assam state zoo.

'Swati', who was 20 years old, died yesterday, officials at Assam state zoo-cum-botanical garden said.

"Swati was the oldest living tigress in captivity. She was not well for the past few days and was under special care.

She had also lost weight,"

an official claimed.

She was born in 1997 and would have turned 21 in January next year.

The tigress was shifted to Guwahati in 2005, after which she gave birth to six cubs.

She had given birth to five cubs in Mysore zoo prior to her coming to Assam, the officials said.

The carcass of the tigress was incarcerated inside the zoo premises, they added.

'Broadcast' narrates Manto's tales of Partition riots

SURYA S PILLAI

NEW DELHI, JUL 17 (PTI): Art is all about transcending time and short story writer Saadat Hasan Manto continues to speak through his riveting writings on the 1947 Partition bloodshed.

With Eagle Claw's dastangoi, art of oral storytelling in Urdu, 'Broadcast' put up a dramatisation of 28 short tales, penned by the wordsmith that resonate with seemingly disparate acts of com-

munal violence taking place across the country these days.

"The 28 short stories of Manto titled 'Afсанچے' are a chilling reminder of the times we live in. From terrorism to religious fundamentalism, our country is still struggling with various strands of violence," 'Broadcast' director, Udayan Chakravarty told PTI.

He said the storytelling urges to inspire caution and conversations against the rising tide of intolerance.

"Those who raise uncomfortable questions are often suppressed by successive governments. In a way, nothing has changed from 1947. We still live in times of terror. The recent Ballabgarh incident and Amarnath terror attack are cases in point."

He said the production was an effort to bring out an interesting interplay of Manto's Urdu verses with light, sound and music.

'Broadcast' recreated the by-

gone, bloodied era of the Partition through its realistic set design - a broken radio, scattered family portraits, locked suitcases, a newly-wed's saree, toys, military uniform, sharp-edged weapons, holy books.

Fauzia Dastangoi, who performed last evening, said she identified with Manto's work.

"I have always felt a strong affinity towards Manto's work, especially his short stories. They are sharp

and make one introspect on the kind of society we live in," she said.

Credited as India's first female dastangoi artiste, Fauzia added the fusion was an uphill task to achieve, but she was ably supported by Stefani Kaye and Makrand Sanon's soundscape.

"Initially, we had trouble weaving everything together, but we were able to present a composite act."

One of the audience members, retired wing commander Bham-

bri recalled how he, along with his family, was brought from Lahore to Attari during Partition.

"We were all squeezed into a train like animals. There was no food or water. The water tanks at stations were filled with poison. I felt a deep connect with the play as I was present at that time and day. Such retelling makes us question whether we have developed as a society or are we still there in the past," he said.

NGT seeks report on 'mountain' dumps at landfill sites

NEW DELHI, JUL 17 (PTI): Noting that Delhi generated over 14,000 tonnes of garbage a day, the National Green Tribunal has rapped the Delhi government for lack of infrastructure to deal with "mountain dumps" of decaying garbage at various landfill sites in the city.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar directed the AAP government to apprise the tribunal of the steps it has taken to lower the height of the garbage dumps at Bhalswa, Ghazipur and Okhla landfill sites, saying these were a source of air and water pollution.

"The NCT, Delhi would show as to what steps it has taken to reduce the height of the mountain dumps of waste in Bhalswa, Ghazipur and Okhla," the bench said.

The green panel noted that Delhi generated nearly 14,100 metric tonnes of garbage per day and the authorities lacked the requisite infrastructure and appropriate technical capacity to deal with such huge amounts of waste.

The tribunal also directed the city government to submit a report on the status of cleaning the major drains which join river Yamuna.

The tribunal had last year constituted a committee to look into the working of waste-to-energy plants in the national capital.

It had also asked Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi Pollution Control Committee to approach the Delhi government to provide more landfill sites in the city and maintain them strictly in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules of 2016.

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S Korea seeks rare talks with North to ease military tensions

SEOUL, JUL 17 (AFP): South Korea today offered to hold rare military talks with the North, aiming to ease tensions after Pyongyang tested its first intercontinental ballistic missile.

The offer of talks, the first since South Korea elected dovish President Moon Jae-In, came as the Red Cross in Seoul proposed a separate meeting to discuss reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

The South's defence ministry proposed a meeting to be held on Friday at the border



truce village of Panmunjom, while the Red Cross

offered to hold talks on August 1 at the same

venue. If the government

meeting goes ahead, it will mark the first official inter-Korea talks since December 2015. Moon's conservative predecessor, Park Geun-Hye, had refused to engage in substantive dialogue with Pyongyang unless the isolated regime made a tangible commitment to denuclearisation.

"We make the proposal for a meeting... aimed at stopping all hostile activities that escalate military tension along the land border," the defence ministry said in a statement.

The Red Cross said it hoped for "a positive re-

sponse" from its counterpart in the North, hoping to hold family reunions in early October. If realised, they would be the first in two years.

Millions of families

were separated by the conflict that sealed the division of the two countries. Many died without getting a chance to see or hear from their families on the other side of the heavily-fortified border, across which all civilian communication is banned.

With the passage of time, the number of survivors has diminished, with only around 60,000

left in the South.

Moon, who took power in May, has advocated dialogue with the nuclear-armed North as a means of bringing it to the negotiating table as tensions soar over its weapons ambitions.

But Pyongyang has staged a series of missile launches in violation of UN resolutions, most recently on July 4 when it test-fired its first ICBM, a move which triggered global alarm and a push by President Donald Trump to impose harsher UN sanctions on the country.

Afghan civilian deaths hit new high: UN

KABUL, JUL 17 (AFP): Civilian deaths in Afghanistan hit a new high in the first half of 2017 with 1,662 killed and more than 3,500 injured, the United Nations said today.

Deaths in the capital Kabul accounted for nearly 20 per cent of the toll, according to the report by the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), which has been documenting civilian casualties in the war-torn country since 2009.

The majority of the victims were killed by anti-government forces -- including the Taliban and in attacks claimed by the Islamic State, the report said.

The first six months of the year has seen a significant rise in the number of civilian lives lost in highly coordinated attacks involving more than one perpetrator, with 259 killed and 892 injured -- a 15 per cent increase on the same period last year.

Many of those deaths happened in a single attack in Kabul in late May when a truck bomb exploded during the morning rush hour, killing more than 150 people and injuring hundreds.

UNAMA put the civilian death toll at 92, saying it was the deadliest incident to hit the country since 2001.

The UN's special envoy to Afghanistan Tadamichi Yamamoto said

the human cost of the conflict remains "far too high".

"The continued use of indiscriminate, disproportionate and illegal improvised explosive devices is particularly appalling and must immediately stop," he added in a statement.

Women and children have borne the brunt of the increase in civilian casualties, with UNAMA blaming the use of IEDs and aerial operations in populated areas for the jump.

A total of 174 women were killed and 462 injured -- an overall rise in casualties of 23 per cent on last year -- while 436 children were killed in the same period, representing a nine per cent increase.

Nearly half of Afghanistan's 34 provinces have seen an increase in civilian deaths in the first six months of the year, mainly due to the rise in attacks by anti-government forces.

The ground offensives by Afghan security forces are the second leading cause of civilian casualties, though UNAMA said there had been a 10 per cent decrease compared to the same period in 2016.

According to the UN's figures, more than 26,500 civilians have died and nearly 49,000 injured as a result of armed conflict in Afghanistan since January 2009.

Trump back on offensive after brief respite in Paris

WASHINGTON, JUL 17 (AFP): US President Donald Trump, fresh from a political holiday in Paris, went back on the offensive as a new poll showed his popularity dropping amid doubts about Russian election meddling and deepening frustrations over stalled healthcare legislation.

In a tweet early yesterday, Trump used some of his toughest language against a favoured target, the press, saying: "With all of its phony unnamed sources & highly slanted & even fraudulent reporting, #Fake News is DISTORTING DEMOCRACY in our country!"

Trump also sent one of his private lawyers, Jay Sekulow, onto five Sunday talk shows to argue that there was nothing illegal about son Donald Trump Jr.'s meeting last year with a Russian attorney following a promise of damaging information on Democratic rival Hillary Clinton.

"What took place at the meeting... is not a violation of any law, statute or code," Sekulow told NBC. He repeated an earlier assertion that Trump is not the subject of any current investigation into alleged Russian efforts to tilt last year's election in the Republican's favour.

The concerted pushback came as a Washington Post-ABC News poll near the six-month point in Trump's administration showed him facing significantly declining approval ratings, down from 42 per cent in April to 36 per cent today.

Similarly, the president's disapproval rating has jumped five points to 58 per cent, according to the survey of 1,001 adults.

Trump responded to the survey in a tweet, saying: "The ABC/Washington Post Poll, even though almost 40 per cent is not bad at this time, was just about the most in-



accurate poll around election time!"

Nearly half of respondents -- 48 per cent -- said they "disapprove strongly" of the president's performance in office, a low level never reached by ex-presidents Bill Clinton or Barack Obama, both Democrats, and reached only once by George W Bush, during his second term.

And 48 per cent said they saw American global leadership weakening since Trump entered the White House, while 27 per cent said it is stronger.

That would seem to show mixed results, at best, from a series of high-profile foreign visits by Trump, including to Saudi Arabia and to a Group of 20 meeting in Germany, where he met with Russian President Vladim

mir Putin. Trump's Bastille Day visit to Paris came a day after the poll ended.

Two-thirds of respondents said they do not trust Trump, or trust him only somewhat, in negotiating with foreign leaders.

Republicans' legislative struggles may also be weighing on Trump's popularity. Twice as many of those surveyed preferred the Obamacare health program as favoured Republican plans to replace it.

The US Senate will "defer" its work on repealing Obamacare for a week as senior lawmaker John McCain recovers from blood-clot surgery, the chamber's Republican leader, Mitch McConnell, said Saturday. The repeal effort is opposed by all Democrats, and the loss of a single Republican vote could doom it.

Pak violates ceasefire; jawan, girl killed

JAMMU, JUL 17 (PTI): An Army jawan and a nine-year-old girl were killed while three persons injured in heavy firing and mortar shelling by the Pakistan Army along the LoC in Poonch and Rajouri districts of Jammu and Kashmir today. The Indian Army retaliated, triggering heavy exchanges.

"The Pakistan Army initiated unprovoked firing on Indian Army posts in Rajouri sector and Poonch district at around

0730 hours. The Indian Army retaliated strongly and effectively," a Defence spokesman said.

In the fire exchange, Naik Muddasar Ahmed was grievously injured when mortar shells landed on his bunker, the spokesman said, adding that he was evacuated to the MI room where he succumbed to injuries.

37-year-old Ahmed, who belonged to village Dachoo, is survived by wife Shaheena Muddasar and two children.

In the firing and shelling, 9-year-old Sajada Houser was killed at Baroti, police officer said.

Kutse Shegu

The Kutse Shegu of Late Dawpem Bhutia, who left for her heavenly abode on 03 June 2017 falls on 21 July 2017 [Friday]. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence in Dalachand, Near Lamphakhi, Aritar, East Sikkim. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who extended their support during the time of bereavement.

Nopu Tshering Bhutia [brother]-9932963269, P.Dadul [brother]-8932829027, Dorjee Dadul Bhutia [brother]-9932351351, Jigme Dorjee [brother]-9932580541.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR AFFECTIONATE EVENING

Draw time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:117 Draw Date on:17/07/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 87L 4223

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 27638 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

02168 13522 24531 43400 56040

60090 71128 75302 94481 96889

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

08142 20067 30486 42205 45702

49574 59544 70057 75565 96420

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0109 0563 2818 3916 5481 6174 7826 8030 9218 9860

5th Prize Rs.600/-

0930 1229 4140 4176 5740 6674 8602 8716 9246 9942

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0012 0091 0329 0415 0444 0454 0464 0716 0877 0987

1333 1343 1379 1409 1651 1954 2118 2149 2191 2200

2244 2252 2291 2605 2639 2646 2902 2953 3097 3180

3222 3329 3407 3422 3486 3537 3655 3729 3773 3850

3896 4024 4040 4184 4232 4300 4430 4470 4474 4556

4685 4741 5130 5238 5334 5428 5542 5575 5626 5688

5695 5719 5760 5889 6227 6344 6360 6493 6526 6701

6739 6797 7063 7207 7229 7430 7473 7561 7715 7729

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8931 8951 9111 9208 9377 9600 9640 9653 9842 9952

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SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR LUCK

Draw No:53 Draw Date on:17/07/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 99A 55764

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 55764 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

03076 08075 12121 12714 13098

21790 32628 44474 50581 61849

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

13949 19710 31781 34946 49271

61033 69293 71512 91200 95739

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

1122 2522 3319 3450 4901 5299 5702 6937 7116 9405

5th Prize Rs.600/-

1860 3334 3803 4939 5547 6452 7577 7818 8232 8637

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0051 0155 0168 0248 0260 0308 0440 0469 0606 0728

0847 0924 0930 0961 1051 1064 1210 1221 1290 1308

1313 1423 1939 2126 2230 2480 2715 2870 3090 3157

3207 3451 3629 3655 3720 3727 3834 3908 4517 4611

4678 4786 4798 4838 4996 5046 5617 5673 5708 5862

5890 5919 6129 6136 6343 6351 6390 6413 6454 6562

6709 6783 6857 6877 6921 7150 7195 7229 7325 7413

7462 7511 7567 7681 7687 7752 7784 7891 7955

8053 8149 8164 8221 8339 8347 8450 8625 8831 8901

9027 9099 9102 9253 9312 9515 9609 9679 9865 9979

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MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR PARROT MORNING

Draw No:49 Draw Date on:17/07/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 99A 55764

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 55764 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

06625 42298 54968 56668 58812

66097 70778 78278 7952 97521

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

08834 12509 24771 35806 38361

44453 74617 74676 76025 91778

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

1917 2612 3579 3676 4597 509

IIFA awards 2017 list of winners!



The much awaited IIFA awards 2017 night finally happened and it saw the who's who of Bollywood walk the green carpet in New York. The show was hosted by Karan Johar and Saif Ali Khan, who were later joined by Varun Dhawan for a segment.

Varun later gave a performance as well.

A few out of the ones who attended the night were Salman Khan, Alia Bhatt, Shahid Kapoor with wife Mira Rajput, and performances by

BOLLY BUZZ

Alia, Varun, Sushant Singh Rajput, Kriti Sanon, Salman, amongst others.

Talking about the occasion, Salman said, "It always feels great to be a part of the IIFA Movement and I look forward to the IIFA Festival in New York."

While Katrina said, "I'm really excited and looking forward to performing at the IIFA Awards this year. It is such a great platform that not only showcases the celebration of cinema globally, but also it's a great opportunity for us to reach out to our fans worldwide. I am excited that this year, it is happening in one of my favourite cities - New York!"

Varun also shared his thoughts saying, "I am absolutely excited to be a part of IIFA Awards in New York this year. I'm looking forward to join everyone and see fans at the amazing MetLife Stadium. This year is truly going to be a grand celebration and I can't wait to be there!"

We finally bring you the list of winners at IIFA 2017:

Best Film: Neerja

Best Actor: Shahid Kapoor (*Udta Punjab*)

Best Actress: Alia Bhatt (*Udta Punjab*)

Best Director: Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury (*PINK*)

Best Performance in a Supporting Role (Male): Anupam Kher (*M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story*)

Best Supporting Actress: Shabana Azmi (*Neerja*)

Best Actor in Comic Role: Varun Dhawan (*Dishoom*)

Best Debutant Male - Diljit Dosanjh (*Udta Punjab*)

Best Debutant Female - Disha Patani (*M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story*)

Best Performance in a Negative Role: Jim Sarbh (*Neerja*)

Woman of the Year: Taapsee Pannu

Best Music Direction: Pritam (*AE Dil Hai Mushkil*)

Best Lyrics: Amitabh Bhattacharya - Channa Mereya (*AE Dil Hai Mushkil*)

Style Icon of the Year: Alia Bhatt

Best Female Playback Singer: Kanika Kapoor (*Udta Punjab*) and Tulsi Kumar (*Airlift*)

Best Male Playback Singer: Amit Mishra (*AE Dil Hai Mushkil*)

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THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY

Assistant Professor in History,
Namchi Govt. College

overnment scientist Dr David Kelly is found in Oxfordshire

INDIAN HISTORY

1857: The Calcutta, Mumbai and Madras Universities were established

1947: Indian Independence Act, signed by King George VI, was proclaimed as Indian Freedom Act, 1947

1987: Amitabh Bachchan resigns his Lok Sabha membership

1990: Following the end of six months Governor's rule, President's rule imposed in J&K

1998: The Maharashtra Government bans the controversial Marathi play on Nathuram Godse, assassin of Mahatma Gandhi. It was produced by Uday Dhurat

2002: AJP Abdul Kalam, a scientist known as the father of India's nuclear missile program, is elected as the nation's 12th president. Kalam, an ethnic Tamil, is the third Muslim to hold the post.



AS RADIANT AS THE SUN! Ciao bella! Actress Julianne Moore is radiant as she parades her porcelain pins while she attends the Giffoni Film Festival 2017 Day 3 Blue Carpet on in Giffoni Valle Piana, Italy.

CAITLYN JENNER CONSIDERING RUNNING FOR OFFICE

The gold medal Olympian joined John Catsimatidis on AM 970 in New York Sunday and admitted she's been more seriously considering a shot at politics as she questions how she can make a bigger impact on the world. Caitlyn Jenner is looking at new opportunities to make a difference.

"I have considered it. I like the political side of it," she said. "The political side of it has always been very intriguing to me. Over the next six months or so, I gotta find out where I can do a better job."

She continued, asking, "Can I do a better job from the outside? Kind of working the perimeter of the political scene, being open to talk to anybody? Or are you better off from the inside, and we are in the process of determining that. Yea, but I would look for a senatorial run."

**what's
TRENDING**



ing things about Caitlyn Jenner is that potential she has to bridge these two worlds of entertainment and politics."

In April, Caitlyn reiterated similar sentiments, telling CNN's Don Lemon that she never thought seriously about getting into politics until recently.

"Yes, I would have to look, over the next year or two, look and see, can I do a better job on the outside or am I in a position now that I can do a better job for my community on the inside," she said. "And if that's the case, if I find us on the inside, I would seriously look at it."

AARON CARTER'S WILD MUGSHOT

Not your best look, Aaron Carter. The singer's mugshot, which has started an online frenzy, was revealed on July 16 — one day after he was arrested for DUI and marijuana possession in Georgia.

There are many moments in a person's life when a single photograph can make or break the next few years. A passport, a driver's license, a yearbook, a student ID card, and of course, the infamous mugshot. For some reason most of us just can't look our best when it's the most important.

If there's anyone who can relate, it's Aaron Carter, 29. The "I Want Candy" singer was arrested on the evening of July 15 for drug possession and driving under the influence in Georgia. His girlfriend was also taken away in handcuffs for having marijuana in the car. The following day, Aaron's less-than-desirable mugshot was released to the public, and let's just say it's garnering a massive reaction online.

What's ironic is that the former teen heartthrob gushed over his clean, healthy lifestyle just a couple of days before his arrest. Awkward much?

When reporters caught up with Aaron to ask his thoughts on the Shia LaBeouf arrest, he said, "I don't have any DUIs. I don't even drink. You won't get any DUIs from me!"

Mmm...spoke too soon?

Let your creativity shine, and try to do more listening than talking. Make your dreams a reality.

GEMINI: There is a conflicting push/pull aspect to today that may leave you feeling unsure about how to proceed. On the one hand, you may feel like you want to plan things out and get your emotions stabilized so you can function at full capacity. On the other hand, something may be pulling you into the clouds. This is your heart talking. Listen. Find a compromise between these two energies.

CANCER: Get your chores done early, Cancer, so you have time to play tonight. Plan a romantic getaway with a loved one. Let your imagination carry you to a whole new realm of pleasure. This is a great day to explore your artistic nature and begin to manifest some of the ideas that have been rattling around in your head for a while.

LEO: This is an excellent day to tell people exactly how you feel, Leo. Your emotions are more stable than usual, so open up and speak from the heart. Listen. What you learn will be valuable for the future, so pay attention. Keep an eye on what is real, but let your heart explore all the possibilities. Follow your emotions and trust your instincts.

VIRGO: Today may be tough, Virgo. Does it seem like nothing

fits into place? Are you trying to be someone you're not? If things don't seem to be working out, don't press the issue. You're better off waiting for a time when you feel more confident about who you are and where you're going. Meanwhile, have some tea and relax. Releasing stress can clear some energy for doing other things.

LIBRA: Enjoy yourself, Libra. You have a lot to be grateful for, so give thanks. Take pride in all you've accomplished so far and share your joy with others. Let go of the reins and sit back comfortably for a while. You've worked hard for a reason - to enjoy life. If you don't do it now, then when?

Take time out and be with loved ones tonight.

SCORPIO: This may be one of those days when you don't know which way to turn. For some reason, you just can't make a decision, so you keep going around and around. Stop and rest. Get out and walk for a while until your head stops spinning. Wait until your mind clears before you make your next major move.

SAGITTARIUS: Romance is coming your way as long as you stay levelheaded about the situation. Take care of the daily tasks and then let your heart soar. You have a strong connection to your emotions. Trust your instincts and

let your heart take control. Be realistic about your relationships with others, but push the boundaries once they've been established.

CAPRICORN: Your emotions may be reserved, Capricorn. Take a break from the spunk and fire and simply lay low. This is a good time to sit back and receive. Don't make any sudden moves. Just let the energy of the day take you where it will. The closer you can get to your inner nature and feminine energy, the closer you will become to a romantic partner or family member.

AQUARIUS: Family issues play an important role in your day, Aquarius. Speak from the heart and tell your kin how much they mean to you. In general, you might feel reserved with your energy. Don't feel like you have to make any great strides right now. It's more a time in which you can enjoy what you've worked for. Kick back and reap the rewards of all your hard work.

PISCES: You may be undecided about a loved one today, Pisces. Something may urge you to act yet you want to lay low. There's an important next step that you must take now. Carefully think the situation through before you make a move. In fact, this day would best be spent gathering data on the issue. It seems you should wait a bit before actually doing anything about it.

ARIES: Today is a great day to move forward, Aries. Your emotions are stable, leaving your heart free to take off to the clouds. Day-dream. Now might be a good time to make plans with a romantic partner. Solidify your relationship and confirm your commitment one another. If you're single, this is a good time to set a plan in motion to put you one step closer to your greatest fantasy.

TAURUS: There's a conservative feeling to the day that asks you to get serious and take care of business. This may not be such a bad idea. This grounded atmosphere can help you move into a deeper relationship with someone special.

GEMINI: Today is a conflict-free takeoff to the clouds. Day-dream. Now might be a good time to make plans with a romantic partner. Solidify your relationship and confirm your commitment one another. If you're single, this is a good time to set a plan in motion to put you one step closer to your greatest fantasy.

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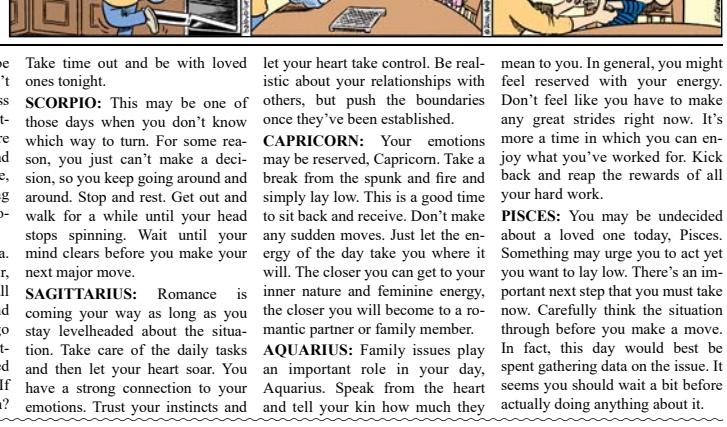
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LOCKHORNS

"LEROY HAD GIRLFRIENDS BEFORE WE GOT MARRIED... YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE ONES THAT RAN AWAY."

ARCTIC CIRCLE



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