

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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CM begins three-day tour of North Sikkim

ANNOUNCES RS 25,000 MEDICAL GRANT FOR BPL, SALARY HIKE FOR ASHAS, STUDY CENTRES

WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 02 APR:

"PEOPLE OF SIKKIM are still unaware of their rights and duties which is why they are often misled," said Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling, while addressing people at Lingchom under Kabi Lungtsok constituency of North Sikkim today. The CM is on a three-day tour to North Sikkim.

Recollecting Sikkim's history, the CM said, "People had to pay taxes to the king and also had to pay his henchmen. For me, people are my king and my owner."

He also announced immediate sanction of Rs 25,000 for BPL families during medical



emergency which will be utilized for travelling and other essential expenses. He added

that study centres of Sherpa and Tamang communities will also be started in the area.

He further announced the increase of ASHA's salary from Rs 3000 to Rs 6000.

With reference to the monks, the CM said, "The long

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GOVT INITIATES MAJOR RESHUFFLE, ISSUES 85 TRANSFER ORDERS

South, West and East get new DCs

23 ASST DIRECTORS POSTED AT BACS

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 02 APR:

In a major reshuffle initiated today, the State Government issued an office order directing 85 transfers affecting officers from the Under Secretary to the Assistant Secretary levels. South, West and East districts now have new District Collectors and in a separate office order also issued today, 23 Assistant Directors were posted to Block Administrative Centres across the State. Asst Directors for BACs is a new post.

As per the transfer list, DC [East], Prabhakar Verma, is now posted as DC-South, taking over from Raj Kumar Yadav who moves to Finance Department as Additional Secretary.

Meanwhile, Kapil Meena, leaves his charge as DC-West and moves to Gangtok as the new DC-East.

Dr AB Karki, current-

ly ADC (Dev) at Gangtok, has been posted as the new DC-West.

Other changes at the Additional Secretary level include Mingma Tempa Sherpa who moves from his office as Director (Secondary Education) at HRDD to UD&HD as Special Secretary.

Other changes at HRDD include the arrival of Hondala Gyaltsen as the Director (School Education). She was thus far posted ADC-West.

The IPR Department gets a new Director in Tashi Choppel who was serving as ADC (Dev) at Mangan. Sherap Shenga, Special Secretary-cum-Director at IPR Deptt will now hold charge as Special Secretary.

As mentioned, the list covers 85 Sikkim Civil Services and central services officers.

Also today, three officers of the Sikkim State Information Technology Service were transferred and Dilip Sharma, SE (Civil), ADB/ SIPMIU given additional charge as SE, Gangtok Smart City Ltd.

State Traders Association unhappy with Horticulture Department on veggie ban

ARPAN PRADHAN GANGTOK, 02 APR:

The lack of clarity on how the state government is going to enforce the ban on import of non-organic produce into the State has caused dissatisfaction among vegetable traders who are now alleging that proper measures have not been put in place to ensure that organic produce reaches consumers with some going further to state that organic produce alone cannot meet the State's demands.

"We welcome the decision of the state government to ban sale of non-organic products from outside Sikkim but at the same time, we are dissatisfied over the behavior of some Horticulture Department officers coming to Lal Bazaar and threatening the traders," said vice president of All Sikkim Traders Association [ASTA], Lakpa Sherpa.

He also informed that the traders at Lal Bazaar have not been served any written notice regarding the ban. He further alleged that the concerned departmental officers, on a visit, threatened the traders that their products will be seized and later destroyed if sold from 04 Apr.

turn to pg02

Temi becomes the next paragliding destination

REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 02 APR:

The official launch of paragliding at Temi in South Sikkim was held today in the presence of Minister for Roads & Bridges Department cum Area MLA, GM Gurung. An initiative taken up by Temi Tea Estate Management to promote Temi Tea Tourism, the first paragliding flight operated by certified international pilot, Nim Tshering Lepcha, took off from section 1 of Temi tea garden and landed on section 2 of the tea garden.

Addressing the event, Mr Gurung said, "Paragliding tourism is one of the major attractions of the State. Previously, there was only one paragliding maiden in Sikkim, Ranka.



With the introduction of paragliding here, Temi will attract tourists and help promote Temi tourism. A

Helipad, peace and purity centre and meditation hall will be soon constructed for the area. These

projects have already been sanctioned which shall take another 2-3 years to be completed."

On the same day, cycling session in and around Temi was also officially started.

Dalit protests: Violence erupts in many states, at least 4 dead in cross-firing

NEW DELHI/BHOPAL, APR 2 (PTI): Dalit protesters blocked trains, clashed with police and set fire to vehicles in violent protests across seven states against the alleged dilution of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, leaving at least four people dead and many injured today, officials said.

Curfew was imposed in several places and the Army was called out in Bhind district in Madhya Pradesh. The Army and paramilitary forces were also put on standby in Punjab.

Transport and communications services were severely hit in many states with over 100 trains getting affected due to protests against the alleged dilution of the SC/ST Act, even as the Centre moved the Supreme Court seeking review of its recent judgement in the matter, maintaining that the verdict will violate constitutional rights of these communities.

While some states ordered clo-



sure of educational institutions, and curtailed internet and mobile services, incidents of arson, firing and vandalism were reported from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Punjab, among other states.

"Two people were killed in Gwalior while one person each died in Bhind and Morena districts in cross-firing during protests," In-

spector General (Law and Order) Makrand Deoskar told PTI in Bhopal.

The Union Home Ministry also asked states to take preventive steps and maintain public order to ensure safety of lives and property, and rushed 800 anti-riot policemen to Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh appealed for peace, while Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the govern-

ment was not a party to the Supreme Court decision on the SC/ST Act and "respectfully" did not agree with its reasoning behind the verdict.

Prasad also said the government has filed a very comprehensive review petition in the matter.

Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, a prominent Dalit leader and head of NDA constituent LJP, appreciated the government's quick decision to file the petition and accused the Congress of having done nothing for Dalit icon B R Ambedkar.

Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad alleged that incidents of atrocities on Dalits and minorities have increased in the country since the NDA came to power in 2014, while AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal extended his support to the protesting groups.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath appealed for peace and urged the people not to vitiate law and order, as violence was report-

ed from many districts including Azamgarh where protesters torched two state-run buses, injuring several passengers.

As protests turned violent in Agra, Hapur, Meerut in western UP, Director General of Police (DGP), O P Singh, said, "We have sought more force from the Centre that will be deployed there. We are keeping an eye on the situation, which is under control."

Many trains, including premier Rajdhani and Shatabdi expresses, were stopped by protestors while some were short-terminated as precautionary measures.

A group of about 2,000 people disrupted trains at the Hapur station as well, disrupting the movement of many goods trains, railway officials added.

Protests were also witnessed at Ambala and Rohtak in Haryana as well as in Chandigarh.

The CBSE has already postponed

turn to pg02

BRO engages consultants to examine tunnel...

contd from pg01

The Border Road Task Force [BRTF], which has been looking after the maintenance of the North Sikkim Highway, informed the Division Bench of the High Court that after much deliberation, the interim report of the Geological Survey of India, North Eastern Region, was submitted in the month of November last.

The Geological Survey of India-NER, in its report, said that a specific site study of Ambithang slide is required for tackling the sinking zone, adding that the general topography of the Ambithang Nallah would require a long highway tunnel likely to pass through the mica schist with quartzite bands that underpins the area.

The BRTF told the High Court bench that the query made by the Geological Survey of India has also been attended to, adding that the BRO and Defence Ministry along with the Secretary of Surface Transport will adopt the report immediately on receipt of the same from the agency and take necessary steps to initiate the work.

The bench was hearing a Public Interest Litigation filed by the Public and Panchayat of Kabi Lungchuk constituency, North Sikkim, today and directed the Union Government to submit the status report on further action taken by them.

The matter will be next heard on 01 May 2018

The BRTF has already upgraded the road up to Seven Sisters Falls (from Tashi View Point) towards North Sikkim after the High Court intervention following the PIL.

Dalit protests: Violence erupts in...

Contd from pg01

Class 12 and Class 10 examinations scheduled to be held today in Punjab at the request of the state government in view of the 'Bharat Bandh'.

In the national capital region, protesters squatted on tracks at several places, stopping trains, including the Dehradun Express and the Ranchi Rajdhani, while a Northern Railway official said services were also disrupted by a mob in Ghaziabad.

The protesters gathered at Mandi House in Delhi and blocked roads. Shouting slogans of 'Jai Bhim', the protesters also blocked one of the carriageways of Barakhamba Road affecting traffic movement on the stretch, police said.

The Supreme Court had on March 20 diluted certain provisions of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, in a bid to protect 'honest' public servants discharging bona fide duties from being blackmailed with false cases under the Act.

The verdict is being widely criticised by the Dalits and the Opposition who claim that the dilution of the Act will lead to

SAATHI conducts refresher camp for students at IHCAE

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 APR:**

Sikkim against Addiction towards Healthy India [SAATHI], in its endeavour against substance use, organised a refresher camp for students at Indian Himalayan Centre of Adventure and Eco-Tourism [IHCAE] in Chemchey, South Sikkim from 29 Mar-04 Apr.

A press release informs that 10 participants each from 10 schools namely Lingmoo-Kothang Sr Sec School, Lingee Sr Sec School, MangalBaria Sr Sec School, Kaluk Sr Sec School, Middle Camp Sec School, Ranka Sr Sec School, Hee Gyathang Sr Sec School, Mangshila Sr Sec School, Chujachen Sr Sec School and Lingdok Sr Sec School participated in the camp.



Resource person, Ashish Bangdel took a session on life skills while another resource person, Pranit Manger, conducted a session on medical aspects of drugs.

Experiences on drug use, habits and impact stories were shared by KC Nima of Freedom Rehabilitation. Station House Officer, Rangpo Police Station, Bikash

Tiwari, took a session on legal aspects of drugs while trained teacher co-ordinator from Mangalbaria Sr Sec School, PB Chettri, conducted session on the basics of

counselling. Physical activities and team building activities like treasure hunt were also included in the programme for encouraging leadership skills.

Acharya Tshering Lama and KRC thank Centre and congratulate Sikkim on lifting of travel restrictions on Karmapa

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 APR:**

Ecclesiastical Affairs Department chairperson, Acharya Tshering Lama who is also the chairperson of the Karmapa Reception Committee, along with Sikkim Democratic Front's frontal organisation, Scheduled Tribes Welfare Cell chairman, Kunga Zangpo Bhutia, and Sikkim Limboo-Tamang Tribal Cell vice-chairman, CB Subba, have jointly expressed gratitude towards the Central Government for lifting the travel restrictions on the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje, a development which opens the possibility for him to now finally be able to visit Sikkim.

They have also congratulated Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, Buddhists and people of Sikkim for the same.

A meeting held on 30 March at the SDF head-office has welcomed the

decision of the Centre to allow the Karmapa to visit Sikkim.

Addressing the meeting, the Acharya stressed that the SDF Government worked hard and sincerely to bring the Karmapa in Sikkim.

He added that the CM played a pivotal role and made a big contribution to making this task a success. He added that the State Government and the CM made repeated representations and placed numerous memorandums with Delhi to allow the Karmapa to visit Sikkim.

Acharya Lama stated that the State and the Karmapa Reception Committee were eager and ready to welcome the Karmapa to Sikkim.

Likewise, Scheduled Tribe Welfare Cell Chairman, Kunga Zangpo Bhutia and Sikkim Limboo-Tamang Tribal Cell vice-chairman, CB Subba gave the credit to the CM for this historic success.

They stated that the people of Sikkim were very happy with this decision of the Centre and now everyone needs to work together to bring

the Karmapa to Sikkim.

They stated that even though this was an international issue, the Centre gave the permission because the CM has won the trust of the Centre. They expressed that the arrival of the Karmapa will further increase the peace in Sikkim and serve as a blessing.

The Karmapa Reception Committee was constituted on 07 June in 2015 mainly for the visit of the Karmapa to Sikkim. Acharya Lama expressed that the committee has also been playing

an important role to take forward the Karmapa to Sikkim demand.

He informed that the committee had also officially met the Karmapa on 20 September 2016 in Dharmasala and during the meeting the Karmapa mentioned that the Centre and the State Governments have been working for his visit to Sikkim and also thanked the Centre and the State for their efforts.

It is informed that the committee again met the Karmapa on 10 November.

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BJP Sikkim engaging in petty politics: SDF

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 MAR:**

Sikkim Democratic Front has said that the recent press statement issued by BJP state president, DB Chauhan, is "unscientific and cheap". BJP had questioned the feasibility of the ban on non-organic produce in a press statement issued on Sunday.

In a press release, the ruling party has alleged that such "cheap" statements by the BJP state president shows that

the BJP state-unit does not want to see people of Sikkim progress and prosper.

Countering BJP's statement on water sources drying up in winter adversely affecting farming, SDF has said that it is a natural phenomenon and BJP state-unit is just engaging in petty politics on the issue.

The SDF government has always been working in the interest of Sikkim and its people, the release adds.

SDF responsible for delay in permission for Karmapa's visit: BJP

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 APR:**

Baratiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh has alleged that Sikkim Democratic Front is trying to politicize the Karmapa issue and take all credit for the approval of his visit to Sikkim granted by the Centre.

A BJP press release alleges that the SDF government had written a letter to the Centre in 1997 stating that Karmapa was a Chinese agent but is now trying to take credit for his arrival. The party further alleges that the objectionable letter of SDF was responsible for the Centre taking this long to allow the Karmapa to visit Sikkim.

Meanwhile, BJP Sikkim has expressed its deep gratitude to the Modi Government for granting permission for 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje to visit Sikkim. The party has also congratulated the Karmapa's followers, Buddhist monks and the people who have been waiting for 25 years for his arrival in the State

State Traders Association unhappy with Horticulture Department...

Contd from pg01

"We are not against the government's decision. Instead, we are happy and ready to sell organic produce but in carrying out this process, the concerned department has proved to be a total failure. The department is producing organic vegetables only on paper to impress the government but the same is not reaching the market to be sold to consumers," said Mr Sherpa.

"The department is showing everything perfect on paper but the reality is something different. We have been in this business for a long time now and we know the daily supply and demand of vegetables here. We are sure that the organic produce in the State will not be enough to fulfill the daily demand of consumers," said one of the ASTA members, Harka Lama.

The department's officers have directed the traders not to sell non-organic produce but till date, adequate supply of organic produce has not been arranged, added Mr Lama.

"The department has to identify and guide the traders as to how the organic vegetables can be made available for



the consumers. We are happy but a little dissatisfied over the decision as it will directly affect our earnings and livelihood," said one of the traders in Lal Bazaar.

Another trader, Raju Shah, expressed, "We are ready to follow the guidelines and sell organic produce but it will be a little difficult for all at the initial stage."

"Organic is good but everyone cannot afford it as organic produces are more expen-

sive compared to non-organic products. There should be freedom to choose for all," said a consumer, M Pradhan.

Meanwhile, the lack of clarity on how the State plans to check the import of vegetables at the border has led to insecurity amongst traders, who have stated that they themselves will camp at Rangpo to ensure that no non-organic produce enters Sikkim.

Vice president, ASTA, Mr Sherpa said that if the depart-

ment is imposing the ban, it should be for all.

"The department should set up a team at Rangpo for checking so that no one can bring non-organic produce from outside the State. We don't know about the department but we will definitely camp at Rangpo to check the buying and bringing of non-organic produce to stop anyone from bringing non-organic produce into the State," added Mr Sherpa.

He also said that buying and

bringing non-organic products from outside the State will not be tolerated by the association.

"We will give a warning if caught for the first time but if things continue, we will destroy the non-organic products that are being brought to Sikkim," Mr Sherpa added.

They also informed that they will continue to import items that are being allowed for sale in the State. As informed by the traders, onion, potato, garlic and lemon are allowed to be brought to Sikkim as the production of these items in the State cannot meet the demand of the consumers.

It may be mentioned here that the state government has announced a ban on sale of non-organic produces in the State keeping in mind the health of its citizens and to uplift organic farmers who are involved in organic farming.

The Home Department issued a notification on 31 Mar banning the import of non-organic produce into the State with immediate effect, which also said that Enforcement Officers will be designated for the purpose of seizure and disposal of non-organic produce.

CM begins three-day tour of North Sikkim

Contd from pg01

pending issue of His Holiness 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje's visit to Sikkim has been fulfilled. He will visit Sikkim soon."

Speaking on the anonymous poster in the area with regard to Save Gurudongmar, Save Dzongu and protection of BL seats, the CM said, "Our government has never stepped back in solving the said issues."

At Lingchom, the CM met with the people of Kabi-Rongpa, Lingchom-Tingda, Lingdok-Namphing, Kyongnosla and Navey So-

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE BY THE CHIEF MINISTER TODAY:

- Monthly Salary as per revised 6th Pay Commission will be given as follows w.e.f. 1st April 2018:
- AWW (ICDS): Rs. 10,000
- ICDS Helper Rs 6000
- Panchayat President Rs 9000
- Ex gratia Rs. 5 lakh for a Driver in case of accidental death
- Travelling Allowance of Rs. 6000 for all state government employees working below the post of Office Superintendent [OS] level
- Regularisation of MR employees working for more than five years

tak Gram Panchayat Units which also includes Upper Chandmari and Burtuk Municipal Wards.

He held a meeting with the public of Ramthang-Tanek,

Phodong-Rongong, Chawang-Menrongong and Phensong GPUs at Phensong monastery complex.

The public and Lamas of

Phensong felicitated the CM for undertaking various developments in the constituency.

Addressing the public at Phensong, the CM urged the youngsters to be creative and innovative.

Highlighting on organic farming, he urged the people to become producers and not just consumers.

"The only thing we buy is salt. Rest all should be produced by us," the CM added.

The CM also sanctioned a series of demands placed by the public. He urged the departmental officials to utilize

funds properly and requested the public to have a sense of ownership and responsibility.

Also on the day, the CM laid the foundation stone for construction of tribal sports complex at Phensong initiated by Social Welfare Justice & Empowerment Department. He also sanctioned in principle the 'Bungthing House' in Phensong which was demanded by the locals there.

The CM visited Phodong monastery in the evening and met with lamas and also sanctioned carpeting work of approach road to the monastery.

*Gangtok on
Tuesday,
03 Apr*

Temp: 25°C / 11°C
Forecast: Mostly
sunny and pleasant.
Sunrise: 05:25 AM
Sunset: 5:54 PM



SKM's Jan Chetna Yatra begins from Yuksom-Tashiding

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 APR:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's press & publicity and social media cell has started its state-wide Jan Chetna Yatra from Yuksom-Tashiding constituency in West Sikkim today. The team met the working committees of Tashiding-Yuksom and Yangthang constituencies and discussed future programmes of the party, informs an SKM press release.

It is informed that the team has appointed Nandu Gurung, Keshar Chhetri, Tirtha Subba, Bijay Gurung and Ongmu Bhutia from Yuksom-Tashiding as secretaries of press & publicity and social media of the constituency.

Likewise, the team also appointed Sumilal Limboo, Chosang Limboo and Aita Singh Limboo from Yangthang as secretaries of press & publicity and social media of the constituency.

The team was led by press & publicity in charge, Birendra Tamling, the release adds.

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 APR:

Khoryug, an association of over 50 Tibetan Buddhist monasteries and nunneries spread across the Himalayan region and South India to carry out environmental protection activities, hosted the 9th Annual Environmental Conference for Tibetan Buddhist monasteries and nunneries at Rumtek Monastery [Dharmachakra Centre] in Gangtok today.

A press release informs that Khoryug was established by the 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje in 2009 and is a non-sectarian community of eco-monasteries and nunneries leading projects ranging from environmental education, reforestation, river clean-up, spring-shed restoration, wildlife protection, and climate change adaptation.

The four-day conference being held at Rumtek is sponsored by the Kun Kyong Charitable Trust and has attendees from India, Nepal and Bhutan. The conference gives the monks and nuns the opportunity to learn more about building climate change resilience, to report back on their ongoing projects and to discuss and share lessons

learned from their previous experiences.

The topic of the conference is "Climate Resiliency for Ourselves and Our Communities" and the workshop includes training from partners such as ATREE, ECOSS, WWF, UNDP and the Science and Technology Department of the Government of Sikkim.

The 17th Karmapa, sharing his thoughts via video with 90 monastic representatives from 34 monasteries and nunneries, said, "I am aware of how hard you have been working on environmental protection for the last nine years and very pleased with the success you have all achieved. Due to the im-

portance of Tibet and the Himalayas as a source of water for billions of people downstream, I appeal to you all to also take up the responsibility of addressing climate change. We should see our actions of preserving nature and protecting the environment not only as ways of minimizing climate change impacts but

also as part of our Buddhist practice because everything we do will benefit other sentient beings."

Stating that climate change can seem very overwhelming on a personal level, the Karmapa who is a committed environmentalist and vegetarian, said, "We see our response to climate change

as a spiritual one and link it to the development of our inner self. Ultimately, science and technology cannot bring about the needed change in people's attitude and behavior. We need to combine dharma and science to do so successfully and I pray that Khoryug's collective activity helps pave such a way forward."



Rotary youth leadership development training camp concludes

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 APR:

Rotary Club of Gangtok South organized rotary youth leadership training camp from 29 Mar to 01 Apr at Aho village in Gangtok. Forty-seven youths from different schools of Tezpur & Guwahati in Assam, Kurseong, Kalimpong and Sikkim participat-

ed in the four-day programme, a press release informs.

The participants were given theoretical as well as practical training in various disciplines ranging from physical activities like yoga, trekking, to life skills covering self motivation, self reliance, team work, communication, inter-personal

relationship, confidence building, etc.

In line with the theme of the camp, "Get close to nature", the participants were taken for trekking to nearby places, visit to organic farm and Saramsa Garden, Ranipool.

Resource persons from Guwahati and Sikkim conducted the training camp.

MUSS felicitates 6 women on birth anniv of Mata Raj Rajeshwari Devi

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 APR:

Manav Utthan Sewa Samiti [MUSS], Mangan, has felicitated six women personalities on the occasion of the 86th birth anniversary of Mata Raj Rajeshwari Devi on 01 Apr.

It is informed that MUSS has been felicitating women personalities annually for their contribution towards the society on this occasion. MUSS mem-

bers also celebrate the birth anniversary of Mata Raj Rajeshwari Devi as Mother's Day.

Those felicitated were Khadka Kumari Pradhan, Tulshi Maya Pradhan, Vidya Devi Agarwal, Asha Tamang, Rama Devi Agarwal and Nima Bhutia.

The programme had Mahatma Gyan Baiji and Mahatma Virshanti Baiji as special guests.

Acharya Tshering Lama and KRC thank Centre and congratulate...

Contd from pg01

ber in 2016 in New Delhi. The committee, led by the MLA Ugen Nedup Bhutia apprised the Karmapa about the various efforts and initiatives of the State to arrange a Sikkim visit for him and the Karmapa also thanked the State government for its efforts.



SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

informed, inquisitive, relevant



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT
PRAYATAN BHAWAN
TADONG- GANGTOK, EAST SIKKIM
www.sikkimtourism.gov.in
Phone No: 232218, Fax: 232216
Email: secy_tourism@yahoo.com

No/DoT & Cav/___/.

Dated _____

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed Tender is invited from interested parties and local educated unemployed youth(s) of concerned area for talking on lease "the following property of Tourism & Civil Aviation Department on "As is where is basis." The details of the properties/assets and additional information may be obtained from the Office of Deputy Secretary (Assets) Paryatan Bhawan Tadong Gangtok during the office hours.

SL. NO.	NAME OF THE PROPERTY	RENT PER MONTH	TDR(SECURITY DEPOSIT)	COST OF TENDER FORM.
1	Cafeteria at Smile Land	Rs. /-pm 18625/-	Rs./-74,500/- equivalent four month rent)	Rs.2500/-

TIME SCHEDULE

- Sale of Tender **16.04.2018 to 21.04.2018** during office hours.
- Receipt of Tender form alongwith the relevant documents **23.04.2018 till 12.30 pm** in the Office of Additional Secretary, Paryatan Bhawan, Tadong Gangtok.
- Opening of Tender Documents **23.04.2018 from 2.30 pm** in the office of the Additional Secretary, Paryatan Bhawan Tadong, Gangtok.

The intending contractors/tenderers may visit the website of Tourism & CAv Department www.sikkimtourism.gov.in for information and further details may contact Deputy Secretary (Assets) at Paryatan Bhawan, Tadong, Gangtok.

Sd/- DEPUTY SECRETARY (ASSETS)
TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT.

R.O. No. 01/IPR/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 2.4.18

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Corrupting the Future

People play along only to get played themselves

Agreed, no one really cares about corruption. For all the chest-beating that we may occasionally resort to, either individually or in social media groups, so many of us have been co-opted that we actually temper our rants by speaking about degrees of corruption. That is a weird analogy, because if one were to think about it, there is really no such thing as less or more corrupt; there is either corruption or none. The scale is decided not by the conscience but by the opportunity. Corruption is there. It makes people pliable, and helps speed things up. But for whom? The creamy layer keeps skimming more and more on the lame excuse that corruption has now become “institutionalised” and is thus unavoidable, while the less privileged and the weaker among us are still stonewalled by the monolithic babudom that ties-up every file in so much red tape that they eventually gets lost and have to be “greased” out.

Okay, let's set even that diatribe aside for later. Let's accept ground realities and see whether something acceptable to all sides can be worked out. Let's begin with what Corruption means. Corruption, as we know it, is the use of public office for private gain. The prevention of Corruption Act of 1988 defines bribery as: “a public servant taking gratification other than legal remuneration in respect of an official act; a public servant obtaining a valuable thing, without consideration from the person concerned in proceeding or the business transacted by such a public servant; and criminal misconduct.”

Now that we have established the legal pegging of corruption, let's understand what powers a bureaucrat holds. For now, let's also accept the awarding of supplies unannounced and “fixing” tenders for minor works as the spoils of power. So long as a road is repaired, no matter how tackily, the people don't appear to mind. It is however this immediate perception and response to corruption that threatens the future. When people rave and rant about the shoddy work a contractor has done of the jhora repairs in their area or painted when he should have pitched a road, they lose sight of the bigger machinations at work which impact all our futures more. Once compromises have been made and greed grows, recklessness sets in and then arrives the urge to leverage power to dictate where consultations would have worked better. Propriety is sacrificed and those with skeletons in the cupboard end up in a clique which plays along irrespective of what is at stake. The people's representative and the bureaucrats have a say not just in the award of contracts, but also in long-term strategising which will remain with Sikkim long after the officers have retired and the politicians replaced. The State is still haunted by many ghosts released decades back and still refuses to acknowledge that there are some decisions that should never be slipped through in consideration of private gains. Too much remains at stake than just a plunder of the State treasury.

Public representatives have to update themselves better on the functioning of their departments so that they can see through the overtly subservient, but subtly dexterous manoeuvring of proposals by their officers to pass on years of Sikkim's future into the hands of those who have culled their favour. It would be stating the obvious, but people need to understand that it is not the politician who forces corruption, but the bureaucracy which plays the coach and is the culprit here. Look around, how many still prosperous former politicians do we have in our midst? And how many still affluent retired babus who were once “powerful”?

If I can dream: The Elvis tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr.

ROBERT MORRISON
theconversation.com

Fifty years ago, on April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. was standing on the second-storey balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, when he was gunned down by a sniper.

Only 39 years old at the time, King had, in the eight years that preceded his tragic death, transformed the American civil rights movement. It became a national crusade that inspired people from across the social spectrum and turned long-neglected economic and racial injustices into major political issues, not just in the United States, but around the world.

As a social activist, King's greatest moment came in August 1963, when he helped to organize the March on Washington.

More than 250,000 people gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial to protest against segregation and bigotry, and King delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech.

In the months that followed, younger and more militant members of the civil rights movement grew increasingly frustrated with King's caution and his commitment to non-violent resistance, but King pushed on. And in the aftermath of his assassination, millions of people paid tribute to his courage, his eloquence and his determination.

Elvis Presley was one of them. He recorded the song “If I Can Dream” just two months after the murder, and the emotional intensity with which he delivers it still brings back the shock and grief that gripped America in the wake of King's murder.

Presley was just six years younger than King, and both were born and raised in the Deep South (King in Georgia and Elvis in Mississippi), where they were surrounded by institutionalized racism.

King was not a great admirer of rock 'n' roll, but Presley greatly admired King, who was killed less than nine miles from Presley's home at Graceland.

Presley was unable to attend the funeral in person as he was filming *Live a Little, Love a Little*, one of his many movies. But according to his co-star Celeste Yarnall, she and Elvis “watched the funeral of Martin Luther King, Jr. together over lunch in his trailer. He cried. He really cared deeply.”

A few weeks later, Elvis began to work on the one-hour TV show now widely known as his '68 Comeback Special. Filmed in June and airing in December, the show was originally scheduled to close with Elvis singing “I'll be Home for Christmas,” a plan enthusiastically endorsed by his Machiavellian manager, Colonel Tom Parker.

But in light of King's assassination (and, as production of the show got under way, the murder of Sen. Robert Kennedy on June 6, 1968), Elvis balked. He wanted to conclude with a song that reflected his deep sadness at the racial and political strife dividing the country.

Steve Binder, the director of the Comeback Special, agreed. “I wanted to let the world know that here was a guy who was not prejudiced,” Binder declared, “who was raised in the heart of prejudice, but was really above all that.”

Binder and Elvis were able to outmanoeuvre Parker, and for once Elvis got to sing what he wanted to sing. The Comeback Special closes — unforgettably — with “If I Can Dream,” written by the vocal arranger Earl Brown, and performed by Elvis in a white suit standing alone in front of large red letters that spelled out Elvis.

‘WHY CAN'T MY DREAM COME TRUE?’

King's “I Have a Dream” speech is clearly Brown's inspiration for the lyrics of “If I Can Dream.” Freedom, promise, redemption and darkness are at the crux of both, as the speech is variously echoed, adapted and rewritten in the lyrics.

King's image of “a great beacon light” reap-



pears in Brown's reference to “a beckoning candle.” King's “solid rock of brotherhood” corresponds to Brown's vision of “brothers” walking “hand in hand.” King's “sunlit path of racial justice” prompts Brown's invocation of “a warmer sun / Where hope keeps shining on everyone.”

Above all, of course, both King and Brown “dream” of a better, more equitable society and future, though King's optimism (“I Have a Dream”) contrasts sharply with Brown's tentativeness (“If I Can Dream”).

Faced in 1963 with bigotry, gun violence and police brutality, King remains convinced that “somehow this situation can and will be changed,” and that “my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.”

Brown struggles to be as confident. Confronted in 1968 by the assassinations of King and Kennedy, his lyrics — unlike King's speech — are suffused with “doubt and fear,” though he maintains that he is “sure that the answers gonna come somehow.”

King did not deny “the difficulties of today and tomorrow,” but he had the courage to imagine a better world in spite of them, and had already spelled out the cultural, legal and moral changes that needed to take place in order for us to create that world.

In response, Brown asks the most pressing question of all. If the example of King enables us to “dream of a better land,” and if we and millions of other people believe in that same dream, “why, oh why, oh why can't my dream come true?”

STILL, WE DREAM

Brown's lyrics are an impassioned reaction to the devastating news of King's death, but it is what Elvis does with those lyrics that transforms “If I Can Dream” into what is, I believe, one of the most moving tributes ever paid to the bravery and vision of King.

For the first time in almost a decade, and for one of the last times in his career, Elvis is singing — and knows himself to be singing — a song that matters. His voice is full of raw emotion that seems at times almost to overwhelm him, and that drives him in the bridge (“the strength to dream”) and at the climax (“right now”) to an intensity that approaches a scream.

Before us once again is the angry, urgent, anti-establishment Elvis who exploded onto the American music scene 12 years earlier, and who now, at 33 years old, closes his Comeback Special

by honouring the country's greatest Black leader.

Less than a decade later, Elvis himself was dead, and while “If I Can Dream” has been recorded by several other artists, and included on a number of different Elvis compilations, no re-mastering or re-release can replace the power of the song in its original context.

Martin Luther King, Jr. urged us to dream. After his assassination, Elvis hopes that we still “can dream.” The death of King half a century ago reminds us of how far our society still is from the equality that King imagined.

As his words continue to inspire us to more unified and purposeful action, especially in the current political climate, so too they inspired Elvis, and the trembling, soaring voice with which he sings “If I Can Dream.”

‘IF I CAN DREAM:’ Lyrics

*There must be lights burning brighter somewhere
Got to be birds flying higher in a sky more blue
If I can dream of a better land
Where all my brothers walk hand in hand
Tell me why, oh why, oh why can't my dream come true
oh why
There must be peace and understanding sometime
Strong winds of promise that will blow away the
doubt and fear
If I can dream of a warmer sun
Where hope keeps shining on everyone
Tell me why, oh why, oh why won't that sun appear
We're lost in a cloud
With too much rain
We're trapped in a world
That's troubled with pain
But as long as a man
Has the strength to dream
He can redeem his soul and fly
Deep in my heart there's a trembling question
Still I am sure that the answer gonna come somehow
Out there in the dark, there's a beckoning candle
And while I can think, while I can talk
While I can stand, while I can walk
While I can dream, please let my dream
Come true, right now
Let it come true right now
Oh yeah*

Songwriters: Earl Brown If I Can Dream lyrics © Raleigh Music Publishing
[the writer is Professor of English Language and Literature, Queen's University, Ontario]

Emotional intelligence is life and death where I'm from

DWAYNE BROWN
theconversation.com

Jermaine Brown became Toronto's 15th homicide victim of 2006. His murderers shot him five times — once in each of his legs, twice in his torso; the final bullet maliciously tunneled through his neck and out of his side.

Jermaine Brown was my older brother. I often imagine how he felt, as he laid on the cold concrete, motionless as the life left his body. The pain. The fear. The loneliness.

It always brings me back to the profound sadness and anger I felt when I was 15. The restless nights where my mind would do nothing but wander and cogitate revenge. That was a word I fixated on — revenge — a word that began to govern each of my breaths. I was slipping down an emotional slide from which a return could be impossible.

This emotional slide is not unique to me. It is a commonplace narrative of despondency among youth in the Jane and Finch community of Toronto — a neighbourhood where nearly a quarter of residents are on social assistance and high school graduation rates are low.



Mental health and emotional intelligence must be a focus in communities like this — communities that are home to marginalized Black youth.

If it wasn't for basketball, a few caring mentors and teachers, family and my brother's constant reminder to, “focus on ball and school... be the best,” I don't know where I would be today.

As a teacher with the Toronto District School Board and a PhD candidate in York University's Faculty of Education, I now

focus my research on mental health and its influence on the success of Black youth throughout our education system.

I am also the co-founder of a program called Generation Chosen.

WE NEED TO INVEST IN MENTAL HYGIENE

The federal government has announced it is setting aside \$19 million over five years to research culturally-appropriate mental health programs and support for vulnerable Black youth.

Mental health experts say this funding will help improve access to treatment for a vulnerable sector of the population.

However, although treatment is important, our society is far too treatment-oriented.

We should consider investing into programs that focus on the development of mental hygiene.

Generation Chosen, an inner city program tailored to the needs of disenfranchised youth, does exactly this.

The focus of the program is on mental health, emotional intelligence, education, jobs and recreation — keystone items we have identified as dictating the social mobility of those most vulnerable in our society.

A PROGRAM THAT SAVES LIVES

Generation Chosen tackles monthly themes that are often conceptualized as being taboo, such as fear, hate, forgiveness, resilience, love, stress, vision and identity.

Each topic is addressed through four components: Anchor Sessions (30 minute hands-on group activities that build team work, catalyze introspection, elicit vulnerability and promote meaningful relationships); Anchor Talks (30 minute

themed talks infused with multi-media and provocative discussions); Educational Workshops (monthly visits from professionals who are culturally similar to our youth and can speak about their work experience); and finally a ChosenTrip (a field trip that brings everything discussed and experienced in the month together).

The program has been very successful in creating positive change for its participants in its two years of operation.

We have helped 13 participants apply to get into college and university programs, connected youth with various job opportunities, helped homeless youth obtain shelter, inspired youth to disassociate themselves from gangs and repaired broken family relationships.

Many have even said that the program saved their lives.

One such instance of this was in July 2016. Some of our youth were reluctant to attend programming that evening, as the offer of driving around with neighbourhood friends seemed like a more appealing evening plan.

Dahir and friends made the difficult **turn to 05**

SATA members bring home 5 gold & 2 bronze medals from sub-Jr nationals

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 02 APR:

The young team of Sikkim Amateur Taekwondo Association [SATA] has returned with a rich haul of seven medals from the 34th edition of the Sub-Junior National Kyorugi & 8th Sub-Junior National Poomsae Taekwondo Championship 2018. The four-day long tournament was organised by the Taekwondo Federation of India [TFI] from 22-25 Mar at Pune in Maharashtra.

The State team bagged five gold and two bronze medals for Sikkim.

Kritika Pradhan won a gold each in Pair Poomsae and Girls' Team Poomsae and Chittiz Pradhan won a gold medal in Pair Poomsae and a bronze in Individual Poomsae.

Likewise, Anushka Subba and Yangzey Tamang secured a gold

medal each in Girls Team Poomsae and Gokarna Chettri won a bronze medal in U-44 kg Kyorugi.

The 26-member State team was accompanied by Suman Tamang and Phurba Sherpa as coaches in Kyorugi and Pradeep Mukhia and Pritam Thapa as coaches for Poomsae.

The team was also accompanied by Kumar Pradhan and Sunumaya Tamang as managers in Poomsae and Nima Sherpa and Karma Ongmu Bhutia as managers in Kyorugi.

At a function held here at White Hall this evening, SATA felicitated the medal winners and coaches for bringing laurels to the State.

SATA joint secretary, Rajen Subba, congratulated the medal winners and members of the State team for their per-



formance and encouraged the young martial artists to continue with

their committed practice to improve their skills further and to do well in

future competitions as well.

Team coach Suman

Tamang mentioned that although most of team members were freshers,

they gave an outstanding performance in their debut performances in the national championship.

"All these young martial artists are promising and have potential to do well in the national and international levels if they go with the same form and level of performance," he said.

Likewise, team manager, Karma Ongmu Bhutia, appreciated the performance shown by the State team members. She also urged the young team members to practice more in order to

do well in the upcoming championships.

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Emotional intelligence is life and death where...

contd from pg4

decision to attend Generation Chosen that evening with the intention of meeting up with their friends later. That would be the last time they saw one of their friends. Shortly after they were dropped off, there was a drive-by shooting that targeted the vehicle they were in.

At the word of the news, the young men began sobbing uncontrollably, tasking us with the duty of consoling and building back up these vulnerable men. "That could have been us," said Dahir.

\$19 MILLION IS NOT ENOUGH

In 2016, Statistics Canada reported about 1,198,540 people of the Black diaspora living in Canada.

I am of the philosophy, "what's essential for some, is good for all." I also believe that all people of the Black diaspora suffer from trauma that can lead to a wearing down of their mental and physical health.

Let's crunch some numbers.

If we assume the population of Black youth 15-24 years of age has stayed at around 17 per cent of the Black population since 2001, the total number of Black youth between the age of 15 and 24 years would be about 203,752.

Using this value, the promised \$19 million investment for Black youth amounts to an allotment of approximately \$93.25 per person over five years. That is about \$18.65 per person per year.

This is an embarrassing amount that does not consider long-term outcomes for the Black community, especially when the cost to see a counsellor or other mental health specialist ranges from \$50 to \$240.

Although some services may be covered

by private health insurance, \$19 million is not enough!

LIFE OVER DEATH FOR BLACK YOUTH

Institutional racism, economic disadvantage, racial profiling and social exclusion are daily realities for the youth we serve and there is no escaping this.

What we can do is provide them with the skills they need to weather the storm of white supremacist capitalist patriarchy, and navigate the complicated world before them.

There need to be more programs in the Black community that, like Generation Chosen, focus on the development of emotional intelligence. Or we will continue to lose our youth.

Take for example my nephew, Clayshawn "Caheem" Monteith, who was murdered in 2016 just after his seventeenth birthday. Or Edmond Clovis, one of our participants who was murdered in Thunder Bay after making a step to turn his life around.

Or the many other people I knew and grew up with like Delaine, Jeremy, Skippy or Byron who would have benefited from a program like Generation Chosen.

If the killers of my brother and all these other youth had a program like Generation Chosen it would probably have led to a shift in the culture of hopelessness.

An investment of \$19 million is a good start. It shows the government is finally listening. But it is definitely not enough.

With a more sustainable funding amount, invested in the right kinds of programs, the government can show it values life over death in our communities.

[the writer is PhD student in Education, York University, Canada]

Ex-Kami Dev & Cultural Board member alleges corruption in the Board

SUMMIT REPORT
KALIMPONG, 02 APR:

Kami Development and Cultural Board member, Subodh Khati, today alleged corruption in construction houses of beneficiaries from the community.

Mr Khati, along with his team, today accused that the Boarch chairperson, KB Barailly, vice-chairperson Yakin Lamichaney and Member Secretary of the Board, the SDO Kalimpong, of being involved in the said corruption.

Mr Khati said, "We have the sought a list of 500 beneficiaries whose houses were supposedly completed in 2017 and utilization certificates submitted to government. These constructions were done only on paper."

He added that when they verified the list, they found that only 300



houses had been completed, and in 150 cases, construction was still underway and for 50 beneficiaries, work had not even begun. Utilisation Certificates had however been submitted for all of the, he added.

The list of 500 beneficiaries was secured through an RTI application.

Meanwhile, when contacted, the Kami Development and Cultural Board chairperson said that Subodh Khati and his team had resigned last year during the agitation.

"Now, they want to come back but they cannot be reinstated hence they are leveling these

allegations. He claims that construction material was diverted during the agitation, which is true because many beneficiaries said they lacked space for unloading the material. We have nothing to hide which is why we gave the answer to the RTI application," he said.

WB violence: NHRC notice to govt, DGP; asks internal team for on-spot probe

NEW DELHI, APR 2 (PTI): The NHRC today sent a notice to the West Bengal government and the state police chief over alleged failure of law enforcement agencies in protecting the liberty and dignity of people who have become victims of violence in Asansol-Raniganj area during Ram Navami celebrations.

Expressing serious concern over the situation, the National Human Rights Commission has issued the notice to the state's chief secretary, home secretary and the director general of police, seeking detailed reports in four weeks.

The rights panel in a statement said, it has also asked its Director General

(Investigation) to depute a team headed by an officer not below the rank of an SSP to visit the disturbed areas of Asansol-Raniganj for spot investigation or inquiry to assess the actual situation and submit a report within three weeks.

The Asansol-Raniganj belt had witnessed clashes between two groups over Ram Navami celebrations, resulting in the death of one person. Two police officers were also injured in the clashes.

The NHRC said it has taken suo motu cognisance of reports alleging "failure of law enforcing agencies in protecting

the right to life, liberty and dignity of the innocent people, who have become victims of violence in Asansol-Raniganj area of West Bengal since March 25".

"According to media reports, people, who dialled helpline 100 to seek police assistance, have stated that no police personnel came to help them. The unruly mob has destroyed the public and private properties.

"There are many families from different communities, as mentioned in the news report, who have lost everything in the ongoing violence," the Commission said in the statement.

However, reportedly, the Commis-

sioner of Police of Asansol has said that the "situation is under control" and loud speakers are being used to spread awareness to scotch rumours and a large number of police personnel have been deployed in sensitive areas, it said.

The Commission added, "It is also stated in the news reports that according to many victims, the police just stood there for a while and then vanished when the crowd attacked the victims. Apart from this, people suffering from illness and pregnant ladies are the worst victims in the affected area."

SHILLONG, APRIL 2 (PTI): A huge cache of arms and ammunition has been recovered from Meghalaya's East Garo Hills district, the police said today.

Acting on a tip off, a team of officers raided Dorengkigre village in the district last night and dug out 21 rusted pistols and magazines, two walkie-talkie sets, some arrow heads and Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) literature, Superintendent of Police Ringran T G Momin said.

Momin suspects that GNLA militants had hidden the cache in the village a long time ago.

"Going by the rust

formation on the pistols, it seems that the arms were buried in the village many years ago," the SP said.

The founding member of the militant outfit, Sohan D Shira, was gunned down at his hide-out in February. He was on the run since 2010.

Shira, who carried a reward of Rs 10 lakh on his head, was accused of killing of NCP candidate Jonathone N Sangma, ahead of the February 27 Assembly elections.

Two weeks after Shira's death, eight of his close aides surrendered before the new home minister James Sangma at police headquarters in Shillong.



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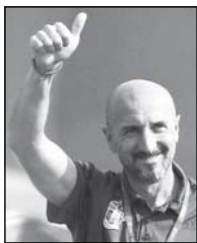
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Coach Popovic says FC Pune City is ready for Super Cup

PUNE, APR 2 (PTI): After an impressive performance in the Indian Super League, FC Pune City is all geared up to continue their good show in the Super Cup when they take on I-League side Shillong Lajong in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday, April 4.

"It's one more competition for us, and we are doing everything to keep up the motivation and put in the same efforts as we put during the ISL, head coach Ranko Popovic said after a gruelling training session today.

The coach felt his team shouldn't only be prepared physically but also mentally since all of them joined back after a break post ISL season.

Like ISL teams, even the I-League teams will be aiming to win the Super Cup, so we can't give anything less than 100% for this, Serbian coach added.

After watching the qualifying rounds, the coach seemed to be impressed with the quality of competition and said the tournament should bode well for Indian football to grow in the near future.

For us, every competition is a competition, be it ISL, Super Cup or anywhere else we participate. I want my players to be ready for any challenge and show the urge to play at the highest level, he remarked.

Barring Vishal Kaith, who was on national duty, Popovic has the entire squad at his disposal for the tournament in Bhubaneswar.



Sethu beat Rising Indian Women's League

SHILLONG, APR 2 (PTI): Sethu FC defeated Rising Student Club 2-0 to register their second win in the Indian Women's League here today.

Bangladeshi striker Sabina Khatun struck in the 47th minute before Manisha doubled the lead with her strike in the 90th minute at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

Rising Student Club came off stronger of the two as they went on the attack straightaway.

Anju Tamang saw her shot go just wide in the 2nd minute before Sanju shot it straight to-

ward Sowmiya in the 5th.

The other frontline players Ngoubi and Pyari Xaxa also joined in as they had a crack at the goal in the opening 10 minutes. A brilliant save by Sowmiya off Anju kept the Southern side at parity in the 11th minute, in a spell which saw some frantic defending by Sethu.

The game slowed down but Rising kept the pressure intact with Pyari coming close with her header in the 38th minute before Sanju's shot was saved just before half-time. Goalkeeper Sowmiya being the solid wall

between the goal and Rising players.

The 2nd half started with a bang as Indumathi's pass split the Rising defence. Sabina Khatun did the rest as she scored to give Sethu the lead in the 47th minute. The goal seemed to charge up Sethu as they made more frequent forays into the Rising box. Jabamani Tudu did the star turn as she pulled off a goal-line save.

Meanwhile, at the other end, Sanju missed by a whisker as her ill-fortune in front of the goal continued. Anju then had

a golden chance to equalise but Player of the Match Sowmiya pulled off another stunning save to deny her.

With the clock ticking, Rising drove forward in numbers but a goal remained elusive. With the team playing a high line it left them vulnerable to counter attacks and Manisha utilised one such opportunity to score in the 90th minute.

Sethu FC will face India Rush SC on the April 4 in their next encounter with Rising Student's Club taking on Indira Gandhi ASE the same day.

Ankita, Ramkumartouch career-best ranks

NEW DELHI, APR 2 (PTI): Ankita Raina leapfrogged 43 places to her career-best singles rank of 212 in the WTA chart while Ramkumar Ramanathan also achieved his career-best rankings after climbing four places to 132.

Ankita became world No 212 on the back of her first singles title in more than three years when she beat Amandine Hesse in straight sets in the final of the USD 25,000 ITF women's event in Gwalior.

"One more milestone achieved, getting closer to one of my goals of playing Grand Slams. This has just made my belief stronger that dreams do come true, if you put the efforts and be patient, nothing can stop you to get to the top," Ankita



told PTI.

In the ATP rankings, country's top singles player Yuki Bhambri jumped two places and is now ranked 105 followed by Ramanathan, Sumit Nagal (213, +5), Prajnesh

Guneswaran (263, -17) and Arjun Khade (394, +29).

Ramkumar had reached the quarterfinals of the Euro 43,000 Marbella Challenger in Spain. In the doubles, Ro-



han Bopanna (19) and Divij Sharan (43) gained one spot each while Leander Paes remained unchanged at 45. He was followed by Purav Raja (62).

In the WTA rankings Karman Kaur Thandi

was the next best player singles after remained unchanged at 273.

In doubles, out of action Sania Mirza moved down seven places to number 23, her lowest rank in seven years.

China slaps tariffs on 128 US products

BEIJING, APR 2 (PTI): China has slapped new tariffs on 128 US products, including pork and fruits, worth about USD 3 billion in response to the duties on imports of steel and aluminium imposed by the Trump administration, its Ministry of Commerce said today.

The ministry said the central cabinet has decided to impose a tariff of 15 per cent on 120 American products, including fruits and related products, and a tariff of 25 per cent on eight items, including pork and related products, imported from the US.

The decision was a "countermeasure" in response to the US move to slap tariffs on steel and aluminium imports, it said in a statement.

US President Donald Trump had on March 23 signed a memorandum that could impose tariffs up to USD 60 billions on imports from China and restrictions on Chinese investment in America.

China's Ministry of Commerce had announced last week that it was considering suspending tariff concessions on 128 categories of US products, including pork, wine and seamless steel tubes, worth USD 3 billion, according to

a report by the state-run Xinhua news agency.

The ministry today said China advocates and supports a multi-lateral trade system, but suspending tariff concession on the US imports was a "just move" to safeguard the country's interests using the World Trade Organisation [WTO] rules.

Although in violation of the WTO rules, the US measure, which came into effect from March 23, has severely undermined China's interests, the statement said.

Despite worldwide objections, the US decided to impose a 25 per cent tariff on steel imports and a 10 per cent tariff on aluminium from many countries, including China, the Xinhua reported.

China is keeping big-ticket items like soybeans, sorghum and Boeing airplanes for heavy tariffs to counter Trump's imposing tariffs on Chinese products to reduce about USD 375 billion trade deficit between the two countries.

After signing the memorandum, Trump had asked China to immediately cut trade deficit by USD 100 billion.

Pak PM accuses India of launching "brutal crackdown" in Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, APR 2

(PTI): Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has accused India of launching a "brutal crackdown" in Kashmir after terror groups suffered a major setback following killing of 13 terrorists in counter-insurgency operations.

Abbasi's statement late last night came after Indian security forces on Sunday gunned down 13 militants in three counter-insurgency operations that also claimed the lives of three Army jawans and four civilians in Anantnag and Shopian districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The brutal crackdown, including the despicable use of pellet guns on civilians who were protesting against the killing is deplorable," Abbasi said.

He also asked the international community to urge India to allow access to fact finding missions of the UN to Kashmir.

Yesterday's operations by the Indian security forces have rendered a severe blow to terror groups such as the Hizbul Mujahideen and the Lashkar-e-Taiba.



No dope shame but needles could land Indians in trouble at CWG

POONAM MEHRA

GOLD COAST, APR 2 (PTI): The Indian Commonwealth Games contingent could be in trouble amid speculation that its boxers possessed syringes in violation of the event's 'no needle policy' but the country is believed to have steered clear of any doping embarrassment.

Commonwealth Games Federation CEO David Grevenberg, in a press conference here, said the CGF has initiated an investigation into the matter but did not name India as the target of the probe.

Grevenberg said the CGF was in talks with the concerned Commonwealth Games Association amid spiralling speculation that Indian boxers are the ones under the scanner in this case. The Games are due to start April 5 after an opening ceremony on April 4.

"That CGA has now been summoned to engage in a meeting with our medical commission later today (Monday 2 April)," Grevenberg said. The Indian contingent has been insistent that there has been no wrongdoing on its part.

After claiming that the syringes found could have belonged to other teams who are staying in the same compound of the Games village, a top official today confirmed that the recovery was indeed made from an Indian but denied any dope violation.

"There has been no doping violation because the syringe had been used to inject multi-vitamins. The boxers have been tested and had there been a violation, we would have known by now," a top official in the Indian contingent told PTI.

"We are now waiting for what the CGF decides," he added.

The CGF CEO, meanwhile, said sanctions would be in order depending on the explanations put forth by the concerned unidentified Commonwealth Games Association.

"The report (of the medical commission) will include the testimony of the concerned CGA and that will be put forward to our federation court for further deliberation to determine the appropriate sanction."

Games organising committee chairman Peter Beattie insisted that the matter would be dealt with transparently.

"There will be transparency and nothing will be covered up," he said.

The CGF 'no needle policy' prohibits the administration of injections without strong medical support. The policy is relaxed only for athletes requiring prescribed medication or nutritional supplements under the supervision of a medical practitioner.

However, the CGF insists that athletes should take prior permissions, failing which can result in unspecified sanctions.

When will class 10 maths re-examination be held: HC asks CBSE

NEW DELHI, APR 2 (PTI): The Delhi High Court today asked the Central Board of Secondary Education about its plans, if any, to re-conduct the class 10 Maths test the question papers for which had been leaked recently.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar sought information

on possible re-examination for the class 10 Maths paper after CBSE said it was still ascertaining the extent of the leak before announcing the date for the fresh test.

The court put the query to the secondary and higher secondary education regulator while issuing notices to the CBSE and the Centre seeking their stands on a plea for a court-monitored probe into the recent leaks of the Maths and Economics question papers of class 10 and 12, respectively.

During the brief hearing, the bench asked the CBSE as to how could it wait till July to re-conduct the test and keep the students on "tenterhooks" till then.

The court observed that it would not only waste an academic year

of the students, but would also be akin to keeping "a sword hanging over their heads."

The CBSE said no decision has been taken regarding class 10 Maths re-examination as it was ascertaining if the leak was pan-India or confined to Delhi and Haryana alone.

The court subsequently asked the CBSE to take a decision on the issue and inform it by April 16, saying that even class 10 is crucial for the students as they decide on the basis of their results what streams of studies to take up for classes 11 and 12.

The CBSE has already decided to re-conduct the Class 12 Economics examination on April 25.

The PIL was mentioned today before the bench which had agreed to hear it.

The petition by NGO Social Jurist has sought that the class 10 Maths exam be held in April, instead of in July as proposed by the authorities.

The petition by advocate Ashok Agarwal has also prayed for a direction to the CBSE to award liberal marks to the students in the Maths and Economics re-examinations.

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Malala ends first visit to Pak since shooting

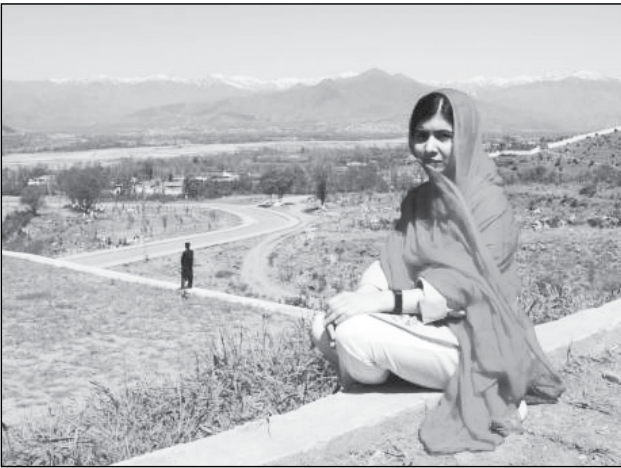
ISLAMABAD, APR 2 [PTI]: Malala Yousafzai, the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner, today returned to London after her first visit to Pakistan since she was shot in the head by Taliban militants for advocating girls' education more than five years ago.

Malala, 20, arrived in Islamabad on March 29, six years after she was shot by a gunman for campaigning for female education in 2012 in Pakistan's Swat Valley.

Local media footage showed a smiling Malala along with her parents at the airport in Islamabad to take a flight back to London after the four-day visit.

The visit was kept highly secret and hardly anyone knew until she landed in Islamabad and was driven in security to a hotel.

On her visit, she met



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at the PM House where a ceremony was also organised in her honour.

"I have been dreaming of returning to Pakistan for the past five years," teary-eyed Malala

had said. She also made an emotional visit to her hometown in Mingora area of Swat district where she lived, went to school and was attacked in 2012.

"So much joy seeing my family home, visiting

friends and putting my feet on this soil again," she had tweeted about the visit, terming Swat as "The most beautiful place on earth to me."

Malala, who is currently studying at Oxford University, also said that

she plans to return to Pakistan after completing her studies in Britain.

The famed human rights activist was shot at by the Taliban gunman in December 2012 for her female education campaigning in the Swat Valley in northeastern Pakistan.

Severely wounded, she was airlifted from one military hospital in Pakistan to another and later flown to the Great Britain for treatment.

Post the attack, the Taliban released a statement saying that they would target Malala again if she survived.

At age 17, Malala became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for her education advocacy in 2014 when she shared the coveted honour with India's social activist Kailash Satyarthi.

Unable to return to Pakistan after her recovery,

Malala moved to Britain, setting up the Malala Fund and supporting local education advocacy groups with a focus on Pakistan, Nigeria, Jordan, Syria and Kenya.

Malala began her campaign aged just 11, when she started writing a blog for the BBC's Urdu service in 2009 about life under the Taliban in Swat, where they were banning girls' education.

In 2007, the Islamist militants had taken over the area and imposed a brutal rule. Opponents were murdered, people were publicly flogged for supposed breaches of the sharia law, women were banned from going to market, and girls were stopped from going to school.

The Taliban, who are opposed to the education of girls, have destroyed hundreds of schools in Pakistan.

India's "provocations" on the border will "destroy" foundation of mutual trust: Chinese analyst

BEIJING, APR 2 [PTI]: India's "provocations" on the border with China will "destroy" the foundation of mutual trust and undermine bilateral ties, a Chinese analyst has said.

The statement comes after top Indian Army officials told PTI that the Indian troops have been deployed along the disputed Sino-India border in the Himalayan range to increase their patrolling at a tri-junction of India, China and Myanmar to prevent a repeat of a Doklam-like standoff.

Reacting to India's increased deployment of troops along the border, Zhao Gancheng, director of the Center for Asia-Pacific Studies at the Shanghai Institute for International Studies, claimed that India's "provocations" on the border will "destroy" the foundation of mutual trust and undermine bilateral ties.

"India keeps enhancing its military deployment along the border because it has never believed the border region will become peaceful," Zhao was quoted as saying by the Global Times yesterday.

"India thinks that border conflicts with China will eventually happen," Zhao said.

"India's provocations will destroy mutual trust and aggravate the delicate regional situation," Zhao added.

The mutual military distrust will ultimately undermine Sino-Indian relations in all sectors including diplomacy, economy and cultural exchanges, he said.

The Indian officials said the tri-junction, located around 50km from Walong, the easternmost town of India near the Tibet region, is extremely important for India to help it maintain its dominance in the nearby mountain passes and other areas.



Japan's Abe to visit US to discuss North Korea with Trump

TOKYO, APR 2 [AP]: Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has announced plans to visit the US from April 17-20 to discuss North Korea with President Donald Trump ahead of expected summits between the North and the US and South Korea.

Abe said today he will hold two days of talks with Trump at the president's Mar-a-Lago Club in Florida to discuss North Korea and bilateral issues. Trump is expected to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un by the end of May.

Abe has said he wants to remind Trump of shorter-range missiles and other North Korean security threats for Japan, and seek U.S. help on the issue of Japanese abducted by North Korea. Abe is also expected to discuss new US tariffs.

Abe last visited Trump's resort in February 2017.



At least 18 people were killed and 84 wounded when Boko Haram jihadists clashed with Nigerian soldiers near the northeastern city of Maiduguri overnight, the emergency services agency said today. "So far we have recovered 18 dead bodies from the two villages Bale Shuwa and Bale Kura," on the outskirts of Maiduguri, Benlo Dambatto, an official from the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) told AFP. Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State, is the birthplace of Boko Haram, whose nearly nine-year fight to establish a hardline Islamic state in northeast Nigeria has claimed at least 20,000 lives and displaced more than two million people. "The victims were killed while trying to escape the fight between the insurgents and the military," said the Borno branch of SEMA.

Defunct Chinese space lab plunges back to Earth

BEIJING, APR 2 [PTI]: A defunct, uncontrolled Chinese space laboratory disintegrated under intense heat as it re-entered the Earth's atmosphere today and its debris caused "no harm" as it plunged to a watery grave in the South Pacific, Chinese officials said.

The eight-tonne Tiangong-1 was mostly burnt up when it entered the Earth's atmosphere in the central region of the South Pacific at around 8:15 am Beijing time, China's Manned Space Engineering Office [CM-SEO] said.

Tiangong-1 -- or "Heavenly Palace" -- was placed in orbit in September 2011, acting as a testing ground for China's efforts to build its own space station by 2022, but ceased functioning in 2016.

According to my information currently there is no sign that the re-entry has caused any harm to the ground," China's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang told reporters here



today.

"Most of the parts burnt up and disappeared," Geng said adding that China kept the United Nations space agency informed about the situation.

Quoting CMSEO, the spokesman said that Tiangong-1 re-entered earth atmosphere this morning. The location was the central part of the southern pacific and most part of the Tiangong-1 was burnt up on the re-entry."

Earlier, Chinese space officials had promised that the disintegration of the 10.4-meter-long spacelab, upon re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere would offer a "splendid" show akin to a meteor shower. But the remote location likely deprived stargazers of the spectacle.

According to experts, generally, thrusters are fired on such a large space lab to control and drive them towards a remote zone over the Southern Ocean, but it appeared that such a facility was not available with it after the loss of command links.

Tiangong-1 was launched on

September 29, 2011 and its service ended in March 2016. It has docked with Shenzhou-8, Shenzhou-9 and Shenzhou-10 spacecraft, and undertaken a series of tasks, making important contributions to China's manned space cause. Six astronauts, four men and two women, spent time in the lab.

The module, which was used to practise complicated manual and automatic docking techniques, was originally intended to be used for just two years, but ended up serving for considerably longer period of four-and-a-half years.

The spacelab had hosted Chinese astronauts on several occasions when they performed experiments and even taught a class that was broadcast into schools across the country.

"Tiangong-1 will go down in China's space history. It helped us accumulate precious knowledge for work on the space station," Geng said.

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The X Factor 2018 panel!

Nicole Scherzinger “AXED from latest series” in bid to bring “fresh blood” to the show. She will reportedly not return to the X Factor judging panel for the forthcoming series.

The former Pussycat Doll, 39 - who has been a judge on the hit ITV singing competition since 2012 - allegedly doesn't have a contract for the 15th season, according to The Sun.

The publication reported that show producer and fellow judge Simon Cowell is planning a massive overhaul of the show to try and entice a younger audience.

Judges Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh are also set for the chopping block, with their contracts on the line as show bosses try to rearrange the show to increase its viewership.

According to the publication, pop hunk Craig David and One Direction's Louis Tomlinson are both in the



running to take over Louis' spot on the show.

Referencing Louis' new role as a hearing aid spokesman for Specsavers, a show insider told the paper: “Louis and Sharon are both contracted to return this year, but Simon and the producers have lost faith. They were both terrible on the panel last year. Louis has had a great run, but he's advertising hearing aids for God's sake. It's beyond a joke. Nicole was a passionate judge but has no contract and won't be back this year in order to bring in fresh blood'

the source continued.”

MailOnline has contacted representatives for Nicole and The X Factor for comment.

Louis' new hearing aid promotional role and Sharon's transatlantic commitments to a US-based daytime show - The Talk - puts both judges in a precarious situation when it comes to returning to the judges table - with Sharon's exhausting trips to-and-from America causing a strain.

Nicole's spot on the show has already been in question, as it's been rumoured that Cheryl, who was abandoned

last year's series to concentrate on her venture into motherhood, is in talks to return.

Despite being shrouded in mystery, Poison hitmaker Nicole has previously voiced her frustration about Simon's last minute panel decisions. Chatting to The Sunday Mirror, Nicole explained that the judges don't find out their fate until the same month the show returns.

She told the publication: “Simon is so f***** last minute we know in the same month that he announces it. We'll see what happens.”



Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt divorce: Hollywood exes “respectfully AGREE on terms” and plan to “finalise within weeks”

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's divorce is expected to be finalised within weeks after they reportedly agreed on terms. The Hollywood actors are believed to have finally made their relationship “respectful” for the sake of their six children.

A new report, published this weekend, hints that proceedings are imminent, following news that both have moved on with new love interests.

“The terms of the divorce are now agreed,” a source informed The Sun on Sunday. “They are being finalised by both legal teams, but will be filed within weeks. It's a huge turnaround from where the marriage ended, especially given the claims Angelina made against Brad, but they are now on pretty good terms. Both decided it was crucial for the children that they had a respectful relationship.”

The divorce terms have been back and forth for many months, owing to disagreements about Brad's access to the children, it's reported.

Brad and Angelina are parents to Maddox, 16, Zahara, 13, Pax, 14, Shiloh, 11, and nine-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne.

Earlier this month, it was claimed that Brad was in a better place and focussing on being a better father because he wanted to see more of his children.

“Brad seems to be in a better place,” a source told People. “The separation was very dark for him, but lately he looks healthier and happier. He seems excited about life.”

Meanwhile, he's said to be “quietly dating” while she has been seeing a real estate agent. Jolie's new man has been described as “handsome” and “older looking”. And it was also noted that he “isn't a celebrity or high profile in any way”.

It is likely that he is based in Los Angeles as that is where she spends most of her time to tend to the six children. The insider also noted that the relationship is “not serious”, but “just having another adult to spend time with has been helpful”.

Friends also like to see her happy for a change because “Angie was in a very bad place after [her] split [from Brad]”.

The source says that Pitt has also moved on, and any possibility of him getting back together with Jolie is highly unlikely.

“People talk about them reuniting, but it will never happen,” the source added. “Things between Brad and Angie really ended poorly, and while they've attempted therapy with the [six] children [they share], they can barely be in the same room together”.

As far as Brad - who was married to Jennifer Aniston and was engaged to Gwyneth Paltrow, he is not dating any famous women.

“He's very private about who he's seeing, but he does continue to casually date. The women he sees are not in the public eye,” it

was noted. “He has made changes in his life since the split. When they first split, he spent a lot of time at home and was often very down about what was going on. He was a homebody for many months, but in the last month or two, he's been going out more. He enjoys going out to eat with close friends.”

Despite this, another source close to the situation has insisted that Brad isn't looking to settle down again anytime soon.

The insider shared: “He is in no way ready to get serious with anyone. He invites his dates over to his house and never takes women out in public. While it's been a year and a half [after their split], it still feels too soon to him.”

Brad is focused on the welfare of his six children rather than his dating life for the time being.

The source added: “Dating hasn't been a priority because Brad wants to spend more time with the children. He has been working on himself. Brad has been spending a lot of time learning to play guitar and hanging with musician friends.”

Angelina recently gave a candid interview to InStyle. She said the older she gets, the more she sees the resemblance between herself and her late mother, Marcheline Bertrand.

“I look in the mirror and I see that I look like my mother, and that warms me,” she told the website. “I also see myself aging, and I love it because it means I'm alive—I'm living and getting older. Don't love having a random dark spot from a pregnancy, sure. I see my flaws. But what I see that I like isn't about a structure or an appearance. It's more that I see my family in my face. I see my age.”

Things have certainly changed for Angelina, who admitted to rebelliously using a sharpie to dye her hair as a teenager.

“I was a bit of a tomboy. And then I was a bit of a punk. Nowadays it's very popular to dye your hair blue, for example. In my day you bleached it and used a Sharpie.”

As a girl, Angelina says she was never one to play with makeup. But now, she enjoys watching her adopted daughter Zahara, 13, do just that with her friends.

“I buy a lot, especially for Z [Zahara]. She went through a period of trying different things, but she's pretty natural. I remember she had a girlfriend over one night, and they said they were going to do dress-up and did I have any makeup? I gave them my makeup, but I wear one color red, and I have black eyeliner and mascara—I have the most boring makeup kit. And my daughter and I are different shades of brown. I now have a backup kit in case anybody wants to play”.

In a series of black-and-white images accompanying the interview, Angelina dazzled with her trademark bold red lipstick as she showcased her many tattoos in a sleeveless white ensemble.



IN THE CART! 36-year-old runway maven's svelte figure was on display as she did some last minute grocery shopping in a pair of tight black leather pants.

THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: You might be much more aware of yourself than usual and hyper-alert to every move you make today, especially around others, Aries. You're feeling self-conscious about your words, and you could be constantly wondering if you're saying the right thing to the right person at the right time. Too much self-analysis of could drive you completely insane if you aren't careful. Try not to take everything so seriously.

TAURUS: Your attitude is calm and matter-of-fact when talking to others, Taurus. You tell it like it is while omitting the frills and fantasies. You have no reason to hide the truth, so you're happy to disclose information to any willing listener. Be careful, because you could get into someone else's private business

uninvited. If you hear some secret information, you could tell it to others who definitely shouldn't hear it.

GEMINI: You're likely to have tremendous concentration that seems to have materialized out of nowhere. Use this to your advantage, Gemini, because it may not last long. You're usually blown from one thing to another like a leaf in the wind, and it's hard for you to settle on one project or issue for an extended time. You may have to shut a few people out in order to finish some tasks, but that's fine. Do what you have to do.

CANCER: Be careful about shutting yourself off from the rest of the world, Cancer. You might hesitate to talk to people. You could have the feeling that they're unworthy

of your time. Perhaps you feel that your problems are more important and that others are too concerned with superficial things to understand the true depth of your nature. Isolating yourself certainly isn't going to remedy the situation. You really need to communicate more.

LEO: You might talk as if you possess many lifetimes of wisdom, Leo. Perhaps you do, but that doesn't mean you should be arrogant about it. Your words might have the tone of a sage schooled in every subject. As a result, you could grow frustrated with others who act immature or uneducated. It isn't your job to judge. Help others understand the bigger picture instead of assume they're unworthy or unwilling to learn.

VIRGO: Once you've made up

your mind, Virgo, it's doubtful that anyone can change it. You're set in your ways and your plans are set in stone. Having this solid base to stand on will let others support you effectively. You're trustworthy and predictable. Others can depend on you and know where they stand in relation to you. Don't let self-doubt slip in. This is your time to stand tall and proud.

LIBRA: You might be hard and cold when it comes to the facts, Libra, and you could come across as tough and rather harsh. In reality, this often just masks your sensitive interior. Perhaps you're insecure about your feelings and how you express yourself. People might never know this because you're so good at showing only the strong-willed, electric side of your personality. Be careful of

being too stingy about sharing yourself with others.

SCORPIO: You're likely to be feeling a bit lonely, perhaps even isolated, Scorpio. Maybe you think no one else has your same wild thoughts running through their heads. You'd be surprised to learn how many people do. It's unlikely, however, that you'll share these thoughts with anyone, especially now. Don't feel like you have to. Just know that you aren't alone and that you have a network of support at all times.

SAGITTARIUS: If you have the opportunity to teach someone a lesson, Sagittarius, feel free to do so. There's probably someone in your world who could use a bit of instruction now. You'll have the patience and clarity of words to straighten things out and make

the correct path obvious. Don't be stingy with your knowledge. The situation will improve for you and everyone else when you selflessly spread your wisdom to others.

CAPRICORN: You could hesitate to take the initiative, Capricorn. Instead, you'd rather wait and see how things pan out before you make a major move. Your movements are hindered in some way, although you may not be sure why. It's best to go with your intuition and not question too much. Just know that you're better off taking the safer route rather than walking too far out on the thin ice.

AQUARIUS: You could feel increasingly uncomfortable as the day goes on, Aquarius. Perhaps you're tongue-tied in conversations - quite rare for

you. The problem is that you simply don't know what to say, or if you do, you don't feel comfortable saying it in front of these people. Perhaps you feel you've lost your edge. Don't despair. This is only a passing phase. You should return to your full-blown communicative self before long.

PISCES: You could lapse into pessimism, Pisces. Suddenly the glass appears half empty and everything looks bleak. You feel like you're going around in circles. You might ask yourself what you're doing it all for anyway. You can talk yourself out of this mood as easily as you talked yourself into it. It might not seem possible, but you must trust that it's necessary in order to see the glass as half full again.