

SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 53 | Gangtok | Wednesday | 28 February 2018

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5



INDIAN AIRFORCE TAKES DORNIER FOR TRIAL RUN OVER PAKYONG AIRPORT

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 27 FEB: An Indian Airforce 19-seater Dornier aircraft flew over the Pakyong Green-

field Airport today in a reconnaissance flight or 'override' to take aerial survey of the terrain. The airport author-

ities have expressed hope that a confirmed landing would be possible on Wednesday or Thursday.

50 students selected under CMMSS, 10 to study outside Sikkim

ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 27 FEB:

Counselling programme for the students selected for the Chief Minister's Meritorious Scholarship Scheme was held at the auditorium of Government Modern Senior Secondary School in Gangtok today.

Organised by Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim, the main objective of the programme was to provide counselling and allotment of seats to 50 students selected from all four districts of the State.

Out of 50 selected students, top 10 students will be sent to various renowned and prestigious schools outside the State while the remaining students will be allocated



seats in renowned private schools within the State. The expenditure for each of the students will be borne by the state government.

The top 10 selected students are Karma Chultim Bhutia [Namok JHS, North Sikkim], Aisha Pradhan [Sonamati

SSS, Khamdong, East Sikkim], Nensang Lepcha [Saffo Salim Pakyel JHS, North Sikkim], Nisha Rai [Bongten SS, West Sikkim], Suraj Rai [Lingdong 6th Mile PS, East Sikkim], Manish Subba [Neya Broom SS, South Sikkim], Amrita Rai [Lower Sudung Lakha

PS, East Sikkim], Ayush Rai [Lower Goom PS, South Sikkim], Tshering Doma Lepcha [Pakshap JHS, North Sikkim] and Karsangkit Lepcha [Ranaka SSS, East Sikkim].

While speaking to SummitTimes, the top three students expressed happiness over their se-

lection and thanked the CM, the state government, HRDD, schools and teachers for guiding them.

They said that this is a golden opportunity for them and that they will work hard towards gaining knowledge and life skills.

turn to pg03

Health and protocol keep Karmapa away from March event in Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 27 FEB:

Citing reasons of health and protocol, Karmapa Gyen Trinley Dorje, has conveyed his inability to accept the State Government's invitation to visit Sikkim in mid-March, an invitation which was extended to him after health reasons led the Dalai Lama to cancel his scheduled visit here.

In a letter dated 25 February to the Chief Minister, the Karmapa, while thanking him for the invitation extended to him (on 02 February) to visit Sikkim in March for a religious event at Rabongla, informs that he was currently in USA undergoing a thorough medical examination for some ailments he has been diagnosed with.

He has further shared that since the Dalai Lama was originally scheduled to bless and attend the occasion, "I personally feel that it would not be appropriate me to attend this program as I feel the need to maintain proper formality and protocol in such a situation".

His present health condition and teaching commitments have further made it difficult for him to visit Sikkim at this point in time, he adds.

"I am very appreciative of your kind gesture and invitation and look forward to visiting the State of Sikkim later this year," the Karmapa's letter concludes.



College students hold protest rally demanding justice for molestation victim

NIRMAL MANGAR
GANGTOK, 27 FEB:

Sikkim Government College students took out a rally today in protest of the molestation of a Sikkimese girl by a civil service officer in Bihar.

The rally which started from Government College in Tadong to Titanic park in MG Marg saw huge participation of students from Government colleges of Tadong, Burtuk and Law college as well as students of Sikkim University.

The students carried placards and shouted slogans.

"The main objective of the rally is to express solidarity with the girl who became victim of molestation. However we are surprised not to see any action from the state government. No statement was given by the government. Where is the Women's Commission? Why is our civil society quiet?" questioned the students while talking to reporters.

Joint Commissioner in the Income Tax department, Ram



Babu Gupta was arrested on charges of molesting a girl student from Sikkim on 24 Feb. He has been sent to jail for 14 days.

Gupta, allegedly molested the victim at a girls hostel in Patna, where she lived along with other girls from Sikkim.

The incident dates back to 17 Feb when the victim who

was at the hostel was forcefully taken inside her room by the tax official and molested.

The victim, however, managed to escape and informed her parents in Sikkim who came to Patna on Monday after which an FIR was registered against Gupta at the Digha police station.

During investigation, it came

to light that Gupta ran a coaching institute, Eklavya Super-30 for medical exams in Patna Boring Road area.

The victim along with 30 other girls from Sikkim were studying at this institute for past few months and were staying at the girls hostel provided by the

turn to pg03



Zangdokpalri installed at Denzong Mindroling Monastery

WANGCHUK BHUTIA
PHODONG, 27 FEB:

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, accompanied by Khochhen Rimpoche, Gonzang Rimpoche, Lachung Rimpoche and Lachen Dunsey installed the eastern holy door of Zangdokpal-

ri here at the Denzong Mindroling Monastery in Phodong, North Sikkim.

Zangdokpalri, the Copper-Coloured Mountain of Glory is the pure land where Guru Rinpoche is believed to now dwell.

The Chief Minister turn to pg03

Bamboo water bottles to be available soon in North Sikkim

REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 27 FEB:

Ban on the use of plastic mineral water bottles at Lachung and Yumthang Valley in North Sikkim is being successfully implemented since it was started last year by Lachung Dzumsa and the local public. The entire Lachung area and tourism hotspot of Yumthang Valley is free from plastic mineral bottles although it welcomes many tourists every season.

Taking the initiative further, the tourist season this year will be featuring water bottles made from bamboo, an eco-friendly alternative for the convenience of visitors.

Brain behind the bamboo water bottle project, Thupden Lachungpa is a social worker hailing from Lachung. He and his team are in constant touch with bamboo specialists from South Colorado.

"300 bamboos have been sent for treatment from which 900-1200



bamboo water bottles will be made. The bamboo water bottles will come in 1L & 5L. It will be called 'Khang

Chu' meaning fresh mountain water. It will not harm the environment. The bamboo bottles will be made



available soon," informed Thupden. "We are in the transition phase

and have been trying to overcome hurdles with the support of our Pioners and MP Rajya Sabha, Hishey Lachungpa," said Thupden.

Pema Wangdi Lachungpa, who was also one of the organisers for the recently held Lachung Dzumsa Losar Festival, said that the decision to ban plastic mineral water bottles was taken to make Lachung free of plastic bottles and to support eco-friendly tourism.

"We will be organizing training for local youth of Lachung and other stakeholders in the coming days. Certified trainers from North East India will be invited as resource persons," added Mr Lachungpa.

People will be charged Rs 200 per bamboo water bottle. However, after they return the empty bamboo water bottle, they will get a refund of Rs 180 which brings the cost to only Rs 20.

Tourists can even buy the bamboo water bottle as souvenir at the cost of Rs 200.

SKM Nari Morcha to design policies for women's welfare



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 27 FEB:

Executives of Nari Morcha [women's wing] of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha held a co-ordination meet at the party headquarter in Gangtok today. The meeting was called by Nari Chief Convenor, Kala Rai.

An SKM press release informs that the meet discussed the involvement of new Nari members and that all the new members will be given responsibilities according to their qualities and experiences. SKM Nari Morcha will be designing the party's policies for women's rights and welfare and will also work proactively towards working for rights of women in the State, it was stated.

Similarly, Nari Morcha also expressed

strong protest against the recent molestation case where a Sikkimese girl in Patna, Bihar was allegedly molested by one IRS officer. The Nari Morcha has demanded strong legal action against the culprit and has asked the Sikkim government to provide all necessary support including legal assistance to the victim.

Furthermore, the Nari Morcha has suggested that the state government communicate with the Union government regarding safety of Sikkimese women working or studying outside the State as time and again such cases are reported.

"Sikkim government needs to act strongly in order to safeguard our daughters settled outside the State," the release states.



Ghatani chairs preparatory meeting for SDF Day celebration

SUMMIT REPORT

JORETHANG, 27 FEB:

Minister-cum-Area MLA of Salghari Zoom Constituency, Arjun Kumar Ghatani, chaired a coordination meeting on preparation for the celebration of the 26th foundation day of Sikkim Democratic Front party here at the party office in Jorethang today.

A press release informs that the meeting was organized to finalise various activities for the success of the state level function scheduled to be held at Mining ground in Rangpo on 04 Mar.

The meeting also had the presence of Chairperson NJMC, Tika Gurung, Councillors, Panchayats, executive members of CLC, BLC, WLC, Cheli Morcha, youth wings and SDF party supporters.

Addressing the party workers, Mr Ghatani urged Councillors,

Panchayats, committees and youth to attend the foundation day at Mining Ground with an objective to adopt directives and guidelines to be underlined by party president, Pawan Chamling.

He also appealed to create a festive mood in Jorethang and rural areas with SDF flags to honour the 26th foundation day of the ruling party under the leadership of Mr Chamling.

Mr Ghatani also recalled series of developmental programmes and activities held during the last couple of months in the State and further motivated people to follow the ideology and principles of SDF party for the welfare and development of the State and its citizens.

He urged the educated youth to enhance dissemination of information on developmental activities carried out by the ruling govern-

ment and further appealed to them to come forward to hold posts in executive committees so that new activities are taken up smoothly.

He also suggested the formation of efficient committees to look after publicity in social media, print media and electronic media and further advised forming of grievance cell to coordinate in addressing other issues.

Mr Ghatani also condemned allegations made by opposition parties as baseless and counter alleged that these parties have no vision and agenda in the interest of Sikkim and its citizens.

During the meet, it was informed that party workers are working on war footing basis to distribute flags, invitation letters and conducting membership drive in various pockets of Salghari Zoom constituency.

Organic vegetable production demonstration for South farmers



GANGTOK, 27 FEB [PIB]:

ICAR-National Organic Farming Research Institute [NOFRI], Tadong organized 'Frontline Demonstration on Intensive Organic Vegetable Production' for the progressive farmers of Lingee, Payong, South Sikkim on 26 Feb under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture [MIDH-Vegetable] and Tribal Sub Plan [TSP] project in order to increase awareness and strengthen the progressive farmers on intensive organic vegetable production by dissemination of scientific knowledge along with input support.

During the programme, 24 farmers representing different Self Help Groups attended the programme and benefited with the technical know-how and various inputs distributed.

Joint Director, ICAR-NOFRI, Dr RK Avasthe, briefed about the overall activities of ICAR-NOFRI. He stressed upon the importance of scientific knowledge for commercial and intensive production of organic vegetables to bring about perceptible change in the vegetable production scenario of the region.

He said that hi-tech low cost production technologies are available with ICAR, which can be a good source of income for the rural youth. He further detailed about the importance of soils

in crop production and asked the farmers to conserve the soil by planting crops. He also emphasized the significance of soil health card and its role in organic nutrient management system.

Senior Scientist [Horticulture], Dr Ashish Yadav, briefed about the organic production techniques of vegetable crops and said that vegetables are quick cash crops. He discussed about the intensive vegetable production techniques under low cost plastic tunnel and plastic rain shelters.

During the program, Dr Yadav and Subject Matter Specialist [Plant Protection], Dr NJ Singh, practically demonstrated the construction of low cost plastic tunnels to the farmers.

Dr Singh discussed pest and disease management in organic production system. He stressed upon the importance of good agricultural practices to minimize pest incidence and that regular monitoring of farm is important for better management of insects and pathogens.

Panchayat President, Lingmoo-Payong GPU, Yogesh Bhandari, in his address, thanked the Joint Director and Scientists for their efforts in empowering the rural farmers through improved production technologies of vegetable crops with critical input support system.

State BJP condemns Forest Minister's social media posts on PM

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 27 FEB:

Bharatiya Janta Party Sikkim Pradesh has alleged that Forest Minister, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha, has made derogatory posts on social media regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The party has asserted that such hateful and derogatory comments by the State's Minister on the PM of the country is very unfortunate and condemnable.

A press release from BJP Sikkim president, DB Chauhan, states that Mr Lepcha, who has taken the oath of the constitution to abide by it and to maintain the procedure established by the law of the country, should have respect for the chair of the PM.

The release adds that BJP Sikkim Pradesh feels that the defamatory statement by a State Minister against the Nation's leader is a planned strategy of the SDF government.

"The CM in his speeches has also been spreading hateful and derogatory remarks against a national party hinting at BJP many times," the release says.

It is added that BJP Sikkim stands for national unity, peace, development and strengthening of the democratic institution of the country.



GRC reiterates demand for Sikkim-Darj merger

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 27 FEB:

Gorkha Rashtriya Congress [GRC] has reiterated its demand for the unification of Sikkim-Darjeeling today. The organisation stressed that Sikkim is the only key to separate Darjeeling from West Bengal.

Addressing a press conference here this afternoon, GRC general secretary, Amar Lucksom, informed that GRC has

been meeting the concerned Ministers and officials in the Centre and has been doing other required exercises for the unification of Sikkim-Darjeeling.

"Even after bandh for 105 days, the people of Darjeeling have got nothing and are still under WB. So we want to send a message to people and people's representatives of Sikkim that Sikkim is the only key that will help separate Darjeeling from

West Bengal," he said.

GRC president, Bharat Dong, stated that despite its 16-year movement on Sikkim-Darjeeling merger, the people of Sikkim are not aware of the issue.

"It is purely in the hands of Government of Sikkim to separate Darjeeling from West Bengal," he said.

He alleged that if former and present Chief Ministers of Sikkim took the issue seriously

then Darjeeling would have merged with Sikkim long time back.

Mr Dong mentioned that WB government had also issued white paper mentioning that Darjeeling was not a part of it. On the same, he added that Sikkim and its people just need to ask West Bengal for Darjeeling. He also stated that the merger will also address various pending issues of Sikkim.



TRUCK HITS PARKED UTILITY VEHICLE IN MAKHA

GANGTOK, 27 FEB: One truck bearing registration No. SK-01 D 0199 plying to Singtam from North Sikkim rammed a utility vehicle parked at 10th Mile in Makha, East Sikkim at 12 a.m. in the intervening night of 26-27 Feb damaging a house, a poultry farm and an electric pole. [Wangchuk Bhutia]

to book
advertisements in
SummitTimes, call
03592-208698
9734152541

CONTACT:-
9733015218
9609258314

RAMOLA CELLULAR
GANGTOK
2018
Happy New Year!

Bluetooth Speaker
30% discount

NOKIA
NOKIA WITH LATEST
OS ANDROID 7.1.2
NOUGAT

F5 Capture the real you
Selfie Expert

LAPTOP

VIVO Smart Phone

GIONEE
M7 Power

APPLE

GET EXCLUSIVE OFFER ON ALL BRANDS
BUY ANY SMARTPHONE ABOVE RS.10000/- &
GET EXCLUSIVE PRICE OFFER AND FREE GIFT

OFFER
OFFER
OFFER

AVAILABLE HERE
BAJAJ FINSERV EASY EMI FINANCE

New Year Offer

**Gangtok on
Wednesday,
28 Feb**

Temp: 22°C /08°C
Forecast: Times of
clouds and sun with
a shower or thun-
derstorm in spots.
Sunrise: 05:58AM
Sunset: 5:37 PM

SRP celebrates 2nd foundation day in Singtam

**YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 27 FEB:**

Sikkim Republican Par-
ty [SRP] celebrated its
2nd foundation day here
at Singtam today.

SRP president, KB
Rai, while addressing the
gathering alleged, "Wom-
en are not secure and safe
due to rising number of
crimes against women in
Sikkim. Many Sikkimese
girls are being trafficked
to other States. The SDF
party supremo has been
ignoring this issue focus-
ing only on his relatives."

He further alleged
that all government offi-
cers and employees from
lower to higher posts are
corrupt.

"Government officers
are supposed to work for
the people and be there
in their offices during
work hours. But we never
find them following
their 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
routine. The benefits and
opportunities which are
being provided for the
locals disappear before
reaching the beneficia-
ries," he alleged.

Mr Rai also men-
tioned Article 371 F
and urged every citizen
of Sikkim to know and
protect the same for the
coming generation.

College students hold protest rally demanding...

Contd from pg01

institute in Digha.

Since, Gupta was the
owner of the coaching
institute, he used to fre-
quently visit the girls
hostel. It is then that he
allegedly molested the
victim in her room at the
hostel.

In this case, the vic-
tim's medical examina-
tion was conducted and
according to sources, the
allegations of sexual mo-
lestation were found to
be true.

The police after send-
ing Gupta to jail said that
they will soon be filing a
charge sheet in this case
for speedy trial. Owing
to the fact that the victim
is a minor, the police is
also contemplating filing
charges under Protection
of Children from Sexual
Offences [POCSO].

On the other hand
Gupta has claimed inno-
cence adding that he is
being falsely implicated.

It may be mentioned
that the victim along
with other girls of Sikkim
were sponsored by the
state government for the
coaching classes in Bihar.

visit us at
www.summittimes.com



Neil Tara Academy students meet child they helped battle Leukaemia

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 27 FEB:**

It was a joyful Tuesday
for the students of Neil
Tara Academy to see sev-
en-year-old Adarsh Dar-
jee visit their school.

Last year, the students
had mobilized a donation
drive for Adarsh's treat-
ment. Adarsh is suffering
from Leukaemia [blood
cancer].

He was referred to
Vellore for treatment, but
because of financial trou-
bles, his parents were not
being able to take him for
the treatment. When stu-
dents at Neil Tara Acad-
emy learned about this,
they undertook a dona-
tion drive to help with his
treatment.

Adarsh was given a
rousing welcome in the

school by the students
and teachers.

"We are so happy to
see Adarsh visit our school.
We never saw him in per-
son but always prayed for
his speedy recovery. We
call him a fighter as he has
fought blood cancer," ex-
pressed the students.

Principal Navraj Tew-
ari said that it was the
initiative of the students

to organize a contribu-
tion drive for Adarsh
who hails from Gangtok.

"Our teacher Samir
Gurung was guiding the
students and they
collected more than Rs
45,000," he informed.

"This was an exam-
ple to prove that if the
intention is clear noth-
ing holds back from do-
ing good work," said a

teacher, Samir Gurung.
Adarsh's mother, Yasho-
da Jai, in her address
expressed gratitude to
the school and students.
Adarsh had to undergo
extensive treatment at
Vellore for ten months.

He studies in Wren-
z Public School. The stu-
dents also performed
songs in a brief function
held in the school.

Zangdokpalri installed at Denzong Mindroling Monastery

Contd from pg01

was accorded Tashi Chopa,
a grand welcome in ac-
cordance with the traditions,
and escorted to the Lakhang
where he participated in the
Tsok offerings conducted by
Khochhen Rimpoché and
monks of Mindroling Mon-
astery.

Ugen Nedup Bhutia for-
mally welcomed the digni-
taries and all present while
Kyabje Khochhen Rimpche
delivered the introductory
speech explaining the rela-
tionship between Denzong
Sikkim and the Mindroling
lineage which goes back
some 300 years and re-
marked that the construc-
tion of Zangdokpalri at Pho-
dong was a first of its kind
in Sikkim.

Mementos were present-
ed by Khochhen Rimpoché
to the Chief Minister and
other dignitaries while a co-
lourful cultural performance
was put by local students
and artists. A performance
by the Tibetan artists from
Kalimpong was also pre-
sented during the ceremony.

The Chief Minister, in his
address, thanked the Rim-
poché for establishing the
Zangdokpalri in Sikkim and
said that today was a mo-
mentous occasion in the re-
ligious history of Sikkim.

He said that for people

here, Buddhism was a way
of life and shared that the
non-violence and compas-
sion which were basic tenets
of Buddhism, were also the
guiding philosophies of his
government.

Addressing the Sangha,
he highlighted that under
the present Government,
many monastic schools have
been established where
apart from Buddhism, mod-
ern education like English,
Mathematics and Science
was also being taught.

Tutors at Shedas, the
monastic schools, were now
receiving salaries at par with
the teachers of government
schools, the CM shared. The
Chief Minister shared that
his dream of turning Sikkim
into a Singhkham was al-
most a reality now.

With the inauguration
of the statue of Cherenzig
in Pelling in April, the installa-
tion of the trinity of Buddha,
Guru Rimpoché and Cheren-
zig will be completed in the
state thus making the land
purer than ever.

The Government had in-
vited the Dalai Lama to inau-
gurate the Cherenzig statue
and also to conduct prayers
at Buddha Park but due to
the ill health of His Holiness,
the program is due, he in-
formed.

On the issue of the Kar-

mapa, the Chief Minister in-
formed that his government
has already taken 35 dele-
gations to New Delhi request-
ing that the Karmapa be
allowed to visit Sikkim. The
efforts continue, he stressed.

Only recently, the State
Government had invited the
Karmapa to lead prayers at
Buddha Park, but health is-
sues and his prior commit-
ments made the Karmapa
unable to visit in March, the
CM informed.

The Chief Minister stated
that he was leaving no stone
turned to bring the Kar-
mapa to Sikkim and hoped
that the people will not be
swayed by those trying to
politicize the issue.

The CM also highlighted
that the Organic Philosophy
of the State Government
was in consonance with
Buddhist philosophy and
expressed hope that the
monks will endorse the or-
ganic revolution.

The event was also at-
tended by the Chairperson of
the Tibetan Local Assembly,
Deputy Speaker Sonam Gyat-
so Lepcha, Forest Minister
TW Lepcha, Roads & Bridges
Minister GM Gurung, area
MLA Ugen Nedup Bhutia,
monks from different mon-
asteries, officials, guests from
outside the State and local
people at large.

Rhenock JHS elects its School Captains



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 27 FEB:**

Rhenock Junior High
School, East Sikkim
conducted elections for
students' representatives
for the 2018 session at
the school premises to-
day. The students had
been canvassing since
the day they filed their
nominations. Their com-
mitments towards the
school were also made
known to all in the morn-
ing assembly, a press re-
lease informs.

School Management
Committee members,
Maina Pradhan and Devi
Pradhan, were invited as
Presiding Officers. After
the counting the elected
students were offered
khadas by SMC members.
Speaking on the occa-

sion, Headmaster of the
school, SD Bhutia, said,
"We wanted the students
to learn about our dem-
ocratic system of admin-
istration. It was a won-
derful experience for the
students as well as the
school staff."

The elected cap-
tains are Sahil Bhusal
[Captain], Sneha Gupta
[Vice Captain], Til B
Darjee [Discipline Cap-
tain], Shristi Puri [Dis-
cipline Vice Captain],
Diya Chettri [Literary
Captain], Sajal Chettri
[Literary Vice Captain],
Maina Pradhan [Games
& Sports Captain], Youraj
Rai [Games & Sports Vice
Captain], Syraash Pradhan
[Culture Captain] and
Shristika Thapa [Culture
Vice Captain].



Remanti Sangeet Academy calls on Pawan Drishti Girls Home

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 27 FEB:
Singer Remanti Rai
visited Pawan Drishti
Girls Home at Uttarey

in West Sikkim today
and handed over some
essential items for girls
there on behalf of the
Remanti Sangeet Acad-

emy family, Gangtok, a
press release informs.
The Home is man-
aged by Social Worker of
Sikkim, Jangmu Sherpa.

Remanti and her
team also held a musi-
cal session with them
and interacted with
the girls.

Captains take office at NPS

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 27 FEB:

Deserving young talents
of Namchi Public School
were picked to lead the school
with their commitment, confi-
dence and competence during
an investiture ceremony held
today. The ceremony marked
the inauguration of the School
Captains, Prefects, House
Captains and Class Captains for
the academic session 2018, a press
release informs.

The investiture ceremony
was presided over by School
Principal, Fr George A D'Souza,
who administered the oath of
office to the elected members
and also presented them the



Badges and the Special Ties.

Taking the oath, the School
Captains, Sita Rai and Amrit
Manger, along with the Pre-
fects, House Captains & Class
Captains pledged their commit-
ment with great enthusiasm.

Both the School Captains
received admission in NPS
through the Chief Minister's

Meritorious
Scholarship
Scheme, it is
informed.

The
Principal
delivered a
motivational
speech
urging them
to have a

clear conscience while delin-
eating their duties. He em-
phasized on the pressing need
to uphold the school motto
"Strive For Excellence" and also
stressed on the importance of
honesty, integrity and loyalty
as vital qualities for positions
of dignity.

50 students selected under CMMSS, 10 to study outside Sikkim

Contd from pg01

"I am very thankful to the
department and our CM for
providing such scholarship
for students like us," said 2nd
State topper, CMMSS 2018, Ai-
sha Pradhan.

The programme had the
presence of Advisor, HRDD,
OT Lepcha, as chief guest and
Special Secretary, MT Sherpa,
as guest of honour.

During the programme, the
chief guest felicitated all the
selected students with khadas
and congratulated them on
getting selected for the meri-
torious scholarship.

Also present were Di-
rector [Primary Education],
Bhim Thatal, and Principals
and representatives of vari-
ous empanelled schools of the
State along with parents, stu-
dents and others.

Advisor, Mr Lepcha, while
congratulating the students

urged them to take advantage
of the opportunity being of-
fered to them.

"It is due to the vision and
the pro-poor and pro-peo-
ple thinking of Chief Minis-
ter Pawan Chamling that he
has directed the department
to start such a wonderful
scholarship scheme for the
students of the State in or-
der to let the underprivileged
students study in various
renowned and prestigious
schools in and outside the
State," said Mr Lepcha.

Mr Lepcha also urged the
parents to support the stu-
dents during their study pe-
riod and guide them thoroughly
and avoid discontinuing their
studies mid way as the state
government has been invest-
ing a lot of money for this
scheme for brighter future of
the children.

Special Secretary, Mr Sher-

pa, highlighted the various
important aspects of the Chief
Minister's Meritorious Schol-
arship Scheme and the bene-
fits that the selected students
will be receiving.

Director [Scholarship], Dr
YP Nepal, informed that 819
students including this year's
50 students are being ben-
efited from the CMMSS and
are studying in various presti-
gious institutions.

He also informed that the
scholarship has now been up-
graded and is being provided
till higher education which
was not included earlier.

The programme was also
addressed by Joint Director,
HRDD, Sabita Pradhan, Deputy
Director, D Prabhakar.

Students selected in the
previous years and who are
presently studying in St Xav-
ier's School, Pakyong and Tashi
Namgyal Academy, Gangtok

also shared their experiences
during the programme.

Alina Rai of St Xavier's
School and Bed Prasad Giri
of TNA expressed happiness
for having the opportunity to
continue their studies in re-
puted schools.

The event was followed
by allocation of schools to the
students as per merit acquired
during the Selection Test.

It may be mentioned here,
the state government had
launched the CMMSS from the
year 2010 wherein the state
government bears education
expenses of students selected
from amongst the Class V to-
ppers of Government schools
in empanelled public schools
both within and outside the
State. It is awarded after stu-
dents qualify in the entrance
test conducted by HRDD, Gov-
ernment of Sikkim.

A total of 20% of the state

toppers are awarded admis-
sion in public schools outside
the State and 80% of the to-
ppers are awarded admission
in public schools within the
State, it is informed.

Till date 769 students,
647 within the State and 172
outside the State, have been
granted the scholarship with
additional 50 students spon-
sored this year.

As per the selection pro-
cess, all students securing
1st position in Class V Annu-
al Examination between the
age of 11-12½ years and who
have studied in Government
Schools from Class I-V will
be eligible for appearing for
the selection test for CMMSS.
The preference for allotment
of the school will be based
on marks achieved in the se-
lection test and availability of
seat in a particular school.

As per the data from the

department, 145 students
under this scholarship will be
appearing for Class X board
examination and 90 students
will be appearing for Class XII
board examination this year.

The empanelled schools
outside the State are Scindia
Boys' School [Gwalior, Mad-
hya Pradesh], Scindia Kanya
Vidhyalaya [Gwalior, MP],
Pinergrove School [Dharam-
pur, Himachal Pradesh], Ary-
an School [Dehradun, Uttra-
khand], Singhally Hills In-
ternational School [Dehradun,
Uttarakhand], and Delhi Public
School [Haryana].

The schools empanelled
within the State are Tashi
Namgyal Academy [Gangtok],
St Xavier's School [Pakyong],
St Joseph's School [Martam],
Namchi Public School [Nam-
chi], Don Bosco School [Mal-
basey] and St Mary's School
[Gyalshing].

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Language and Religion Don't an Indian Make

Unfortunately, chauvinism is becoming increasingly commonplace

Recently, an MLA belonging to a party which wears Hindutva on its sleeves remarked that those in India who do not say Bharat Mata Ki Jai are Pakistanis. He was not the first to draw such a conclusion and there have been many from his ilk who draw this parallel and air it with a shallow ignorance and dangerous conviction to rabid applause. And then the army chief exposed his inadequacies on the secular front when he praised the Indian-ness of Arunachalis because they spoke shudh Hindi. Wonder whether his rating of Arunachalis as Indians will scale down if he learnt that they also like beef apart from referring to schools as vidyalaya?

None of this – equating Hindu credentials to patriotism or Hindi to being Indian – are new stupidities and have been around ever since there have been individuals and groups cursed with a monochromatic view framed by how insularity has explained things to them. Earlier though, they navigated in the fringe, but now that they swim in the mainstream, the closet bigots have come crawling out and amplified the insularity. They now work hard to paint “secular” as a short-coming even as they lather themselves with superficial nationalism. And because the monster of intolerance for anything that does not kowtow to blanket majoritarianism has become so commonplace, it is a big worry.

Let's take the two instance cited above for instance. Patriotism is an instinctive and even personal emotion but the kind of nationalism that demands that we make public displays of it by lustily shouting Bharat Mata Ki Jai is an exhibitionist display that not all are comfortable with. Further, because the call has been rather provocatively appropriated by the Right, it has lost the pure passion with which the freedom fighters first raised it. If those who feel similarly do not join the chorus, they cannot be accused of being anti-nationals because they are instead taking a position as Indians. But wait, the MLA in question did not accuse them of being anti-nationals, he called such people Pakistanis. To begin with, no aspersions should be cast on the citizenship of Indian Muslims. If anything, their belonging is even more reiterated than that of Hindus or people of other faiths here because they did receive an option in 1947 to relocate to a Muslim country carved out for them. In fact, those who stayed back did so despite the communal rioting which birthed this nation. Agreed, there were many other factors at play in ensuring that India remains one of the countries with the largest Muslim population - its written-into-the-Constitution commitment to secularity for one - but since we are debating in jingoism, this argument has also been slipped in. Citizenship, as things stand, require no displays or evidence of nationalism or even patriotism, let that be made clear. What the BJP-RSS penchant to equate what they as antinational behavior with Pakistan is also dangerous because it is an overt, almost exclusive targeting of the Muslims as being anti-India. They drum up this sentiment and then follow the killings and rioting. We allow the horror to perpetuate because we do not call out the nightmarish regression which cannot accommodate diversity. For these parts, this is something that should not be allowed to go unchallenged because a step away from Muslims being Pakistanis is the equating of all Mongoloid looking folk who do not fall in line as Chinese. Think about it... both stereotypes play out from existing prejudices.

A similar shortsightedness was also displayed by the Army chief when he presented the Arunachali fluency in Hindi as evidence of their “amalgamation”. In one swoop, he presented supporting arguments for the Sankritisation of the entire region to make “amalgamation” possible. This is such an obsolete approach that even pseudo-academics can demolish this position. Unfortunately, not enough of them will and the argument will keep gaining strength and end up deepening resentments among local communities as they watch state-muscle bulldoze diversities and individuality to extend the “mainland” to the margins.

These are dangerous trends which are being increasingly normalized to dangerous levels.

WRITE US: Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/indecent 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

Nigeria's conflict is a result of environmental devastation across West Africa

OLALEKAN ADEKOLA
theconversation.com

Nigeria is experiencing a major conflict between nomadic herdsmen and indigenous farmers. In 2016, the conflict led to the death of 2,500 people, displaced 62,000 others and led to loss of US\$13.7 billion in revenue. In January 2018 alone, the conflict claimed the lives of 168 people.

The herdsmen are predominantly Fulani, a primarily Muslim people scattered throughout many parts of West Africa. The farmers, meanwhile, are mostly Christian. Therefore, when violence erupts between the two groups, with symbolic results like churches being burnt down, it is unsurprising that the dominant narrative in Nigeria and abroad is that this is a conflict motivated by religion and ethnicity.

What's missing is the environmental perspective. Nigeria spans more than 1,000km from a lush and tropical south to the fringes of the Sahara Desert in the north. And, in Nigeria, the Sahara is moving southward at a rate of 600 metres a year. At the same time, Lake Chad in the country's far north-east has largely dried up. Fulani herdsmen who once relied on the lake have thus moved further south in search of pasture and water for their livestock. The further south you move, the more the population becomes Christian, hence when resource conflicts emerge they appear religious.

Such conflicts between herdsmen and farmers aren't entirely new. A drought in the late 60s, for instance, kicked off struggles over land use across the Sahel, and the Fulanis do have a history of strategic annexation of territories. What's new this time round is that the conflict has taken on an entirely different scale, as a problem once restricted to the north of Nigeria has become a major issue in the country's south.

This is because environmental devastation has necessitated widespread migration of Fulanis from all over West Africa to the south of Nigeria, which has been unable to prevent nomads from other countries from coming in along its long borders. The influx of new people has disrupted the existing

dynamics and relationship between predominantly farming local communities and nomadic herdsmen.

But environmental explanations are largely ignored in favour of talk of ethnic or religious conflict. Such talk quickly becomes highly emotive, preventing a full analysis of all the driving forces behind the conflict. The dominance of the “ethnic war” narrative therefore makes it harder to develop holistic and sustainable solutions and, in a country that is a mix of cultures and religions, puts national unity and peace-building at risk.

SILENCE FROM THE AUTHORITIES

The government's response to all this has been near silence. In the vacuum, political explanations have emerged, often from people with a vested interest. For instance, elites and political leaders from affected regions suspect the president, Muhammadu Buhari, who himself is Fulani, of being complicit in the attacks (though they have stopped short of directly accusing him). There's no evidence the president has anything to do with the conflict but, in a hierarchical society like Nigeria, the word of elites can be taken as gospel.

The central government has proffered solutions such as cattle “colonies”, which take lands from indigenous farmers and give it to the Fulanis to graze. But among the farmers this only reinforces worries of an ethnic land grab.

The president has often spoken of “recharging” Lake Chad to its former size, perhaps using water

diverted from the Ubangi River in the Congo basin, and he recently spoke on the subject at an African Union conference. Yet the lake still is not really built into the government's strategy for the farmer-herder conflict.

HEALTHY LAKE, PEACEFUL PEOPLE

So what would a sustainable and just solution to the conflict actually involve? Lake Chad certainly will need to be “recharged”, along with a massive programme of tree growing and sustainable water management. This will require the engagement of neighbouring countries – who have serious environmental problems of their own – and the support of international donor agencies, but it would go a long way towards stemming the migration southward and should reduce incidences of conflict.

The government must also recognise, publicly, that this is at root a conflict over resources exacerbated by environmental problems. It must point this out when the need arises, rather than waiting until half-truths dominate public discourse.

The Nigerian media, for its part, often thrives on emotive narratives. But this story of conflict between herders and farmers calls for less sensationalism and more investigative journalism that helps reveal further nuances to the complex issue. This isn't a simple tale of ethnic conflict – the environment cannot be ignored.

[the writer is Lecturer in Geography, York St John University]



India and Pakistan's rivalry isn't territorial or ideological – it's psychological

JAWAD KADIR
theconversation.com

Ever since their birth as two separate countries in 1947, India and Pakistan have been psychologically obsessed with their assorted mutual conflicts. They have fought four conventional wars, and regularly display their nuclear capability to outpace and undermine each other. From the outside, it resembles nothing so much as a family feud – and psychologically speaking, it's a very apt analogy.

Across the subcontinent, family and lineage are the most influential institutions in people's lives, and people tend to transpose the psychological moral structure of their kinship relations into every other institution in the outside world. Respecting your seniors and expecting care and nurture is the norm, and it holds sway in various forms across every sphere of life.

As one famous South Indian proverb puts it, after living together for six months, “they” become “we” and “we” become “they”; neighbours should be treated like family members. It is the violation of this norm that underpins the modern India-Pakistan (or Hindu-Muslim) rivalry.

By the time of partition, the two sides had lived together in one society for more than a millennium. South Asian Hindus and Muslims shared not just a cultural gene pool and biological ties, but common kinship institutions: the extended family group joined by marriage, which is called Khandan in Pakistan and Pariwar in India, or the lineage group with common descendants, known as Biradari

in Pakistan and Jati in India.

The rupture between the two can be traced to what happened within India's predominantly Hindu Congress party, which represented both communities against the British Raj in the years before the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947. As partition neared, the reservations of Muslims were not properly considered, and their demands were thus not met. The Muslim minority was excluded from most decisions, which created in them a fear of “not mattering at all”. The Muslims, suddenly the “junior” family members, felt neglected – and as younger siblings oftentimes do, they became extra-competitive.

THEM AND US

Viewed this way, the India-Pakistan conflict owes more to historical and psychological “nearness” than to mere competition for resources or

territory. And that much is clear in the language they use to talk about each other.

In many parts of India and Pakistan, especially in both Punjab, the word used for the 1947 Partition of India is “batwara”, which literally means “the distribution of ancestral land” between brothers or patrilineal cousins. The word comes with resonances that the English word “partition” simply doesn't carry: harmonious family, painful division, cousin rivalry, love-hate competition.

These are the psychological dynamics that play out in the dispute over Kashmir. Both India and Pakistan claim Kashmir as if it were their ancestral property, and people on both sides feel a deep emotional attachment to it. In the subcontinent, to give up a claim to one's ancestral property brings “dishonour” to one's family and

group, and is considered a weakness.

For Pakistanis, the rivalry against Indians is driven by a deep sense of being “wronged” at the time of partition, the corollary being a “desire” to compete with and trump Indians at any cost. It's this bitterly competitive urge that drives Pakistan's leaders, army officers and populace to defy India's obvious demographic, economic and military supremacy, and to do so with such intensity.

As William Blake said, “it is easier to forgive an enemy than to forgive a friend”. Whoever we are, it seems we can all feel a special kind of enmity for the enemies we most resemble – whether a sibling or a neighbour, we simply cannot accept “them” as “us” despite our obvious similarities.

[the writer is Doctoral Candidate, Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion, Lancaster University]



HIV testing camp held in Gyalshing

SUMMIT REPORT
GYALSHING, 27 FEB:

HIV Testing Camp organized by the youth of Aarigaon Samaj Sudhar Mandali with the support of Sikkim State AIDS Control Society under the banner of Folk Media Campaign 2017-18 was successfully completed today at the premises of Sikkim Government College in Gyalshing, West Sikkim, a press release informs.

The camp is organized with the aim to make Sikkim free of HIV AIDS and 217 candidates enrolled for HIV test during the programme.

The youth of Aarigaon Samaj Sudhar Mandali also performed drama "Tiraskar hoina maya dew" in different villages of West Sikkim.

Mobile testing group of STNM Hospital, Gangtok conducted the camp.

Arunachal guv requests Centre to check growth of pvt varsities

ITANAGAR, FEB 27 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh Governor Brig (Retd) B D Mishra has urged the Centre to check the growth of private universities in the state which do not meet academic standards.

The governor, who is on an official tour to the national capital, called on Union HRD minister Prakash Javedkar at his office and discussed various pressing issues pertaining to higher education in the state, an official statement said here today.

Mishra also stressed on the need to ensure "transparency in establishing private universities in the state", it said.

The governor, who is the ex-officio president of North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST) Society, briefed the Union minister on the current status of the premier technical institute, including vacancies in top posts.

The minister assured to take care of issues that hamper the smooth functioning of NERIST, the statement added.

Mahananda Bridge to finally receive required repairs

SMRITA KHAWAS
SILIGURI, 27 FEB:

The Mahananda Bridge along Fulbari bye-pass in Siliguri has remained in a deplorable state caused by the heavy vehicles which ply on it and is in urgent need of repairs.

Addressing the issue, Tourism Minister, Gautam Dev, said today, "The Mahananda bridge on Fulbari needs to be repaired soon and the vehicles, both light and heavy, travelling through the said route should drive within the speed limit of 20 KMPH.

We have decided an al-



ternative route for goods vehicles via Ranganpani Bazaar, Kawakhali More, Chathat Medical More, Nougaghat More, Tinbatti

More, Uttarkanya and Fulbari. Vehicle weighing 10 tonnes and above will not be allowed to ply on Mahananda Bridge from 01

April onwards. Bridge repair work will take almost six months to complete."

He further recognized that the alternate

routes mentioned are not adequate for vehicles to ply at present and hence the Darjeeling DM has been asked to arrange immediate repairs and widening on the PWD road from Md Baksh to Kawakhali More so that the traffic diversion of heavy goods vehicles can be started through it.

Trucks and trailers [more than 6-wheelers] will be stopped for checking from 06 AM to 21PM, he further informed. Relevant notification under 115/117 MV Act about diversion of such vehicles will be issued soon.

Air strikes and rockets hit Syria enclave despite truce

BEIRUT, FEB 27 (AFP): A fledgling "humanitarian pause" announced by Russia in Syria's rebel-held enclave of Eastern Ghouta was rattled today by fresh air strikes and rocket fire, several sources said.

"Fighting continues this morning. That is what our reports from Eastern Ghouta tell us," a spokesman for the UN humanitarian office, Jens Laerke, told reporters in Geneva, adding that it was premature to discuss any relief operations for desperate civilians given the persisting clashes.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group reported air raids, including the dropping of two barrel bombs, as well as rocket fire, while state



media accused rebel forces of shelling humanitarian corridors to keep civilians hostage.

The Britain-based Observatory said two barrel bombs -- crude, improvised munitions that cause indiscriminate damage -- on the Shai-funiyah area of Eastern Ghouta.

Rockets were also fired on several areas in the enclave but the head of the Observatory, Rami Abdel Rahman, said no deaths were immediately reported as a result of the fresh violence.

The toll for the deadly blitz against Eastern Ghouta continued to mount nonetheless when five

bodies were found in the rubble of destroyed buildings, he said.

A woman also died today when the roof of her home, damaged by earlier bombardment, gave in and collapsed on her, an AFP correspondent in the main town of Douma reported.

The Syrian state

news agency SANA also accused the rebels of firing several rockets on the path of the corridor declared by Russia to allow for the evacuation of civilians.

It specifically accused the former Al-Qaeda affiliate present in some parts of the enclave of trying to prevent civilians from leaving "to use them as human shields".

The latest violence rattled the first five-hour pause that is due to take place daily, according to the terms of a deal announced by Russia yesterday.

The violence remained significantly lower than at any point since February 18, when Syria and Russian forces intensified their bombardment of Eastern Ghouta.



District Level Workshop on TB Control held in Gyalshing

GYALSHING, 27 FEB [IPR]: District Tuberculosis Centre, Gyalshing conducted a District Level Workshop on the "Control and Elimination of TB from Sikkim by 2022" at the Conference Hall of Gyalshing District Hospital today.

District Collector, West, Kapil Meena, chaired the programme as chief guest along with Chief Medical Officer, Dr Thinlay Wongyal, ADHS-cum-STO, State TB Control Society, Dr DS Keronagi, and Zilla Panchayat, Dentam-Gitang Constituency, S Gurung.

The workshop was conducted with the aim to materialize and chalk out important issues and its solutions prior to the State Level Meeting which will be held in the capital soon. The participants in the workshop formed discussion groups and presented possible

causes and solutions to the ongoing issue of the spread of TB in the State.

The DC West said that the major role players in eliminating this disease are the students of schools and colleges. The society should be sensitive towards TB patients and avoid attaching stigma to the disease.

Further, he also stressed on the roles of Zilla and Gram Panchayat members as they address the public at grass root level and can act as active agents in eliminating the social stigma attached to this disease whilst helping in the State's goal of achieving Tuberculosis Free society.

The workshops were attended by various PHC doctors and staff consisting of ASHA and Anganwadi workers along with line department officials of the West District and students from DIET.



Mungram students visit Sumbuk Post Office

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 27 FEB:

Government Primary School, Mungram in South Sikkim organised an exposure visit for its Class IV students to Sumbuk Post Office today. The students were led by school teacher, Amit Sundas.

Branch Postmaster, Suyog Pradhan, addressed the students on the working of a Post Office and Postal Banking like Sukanya Samridhi Account, Saving Bank, RD, TD, etc. He also encouraged the students to open an account in their name and advised them to convey the same to their parents. He also displayed different postage and revenue stamps for the students, a press release informs.

Chilika lake largest habitat of Irrawaddy dolphins globally

Bhubaneswar, Feb 27 (PTI): The Chilika lake in Odisha has emerged as the single largest habitat of Irrawaddy dolphins in the world with the spotting of 155 such animals, a Chilika Development Authority (CDA) official said.

The finding is based on the preliminary report of the first ever 'Annual Monitoring' of the lake held on Saturday, CDA Chief Executive Susanta Nanda said.

The 'Annual Monitoring' was conducted by the CDA to count the number of the marine mammals and to study the hydrological impacts of removal of pen culture (locally known as gherries), he said yesterday.

The number is more compared to the last year's figure of around 100 dolphins during the annual census, Nanda said.

Stating that the results of the monitoring are being analysed by plotting the locational GPS, Nanda said the finer details were likely to take some time.

"The dolphins are now seen in different sectors of the lake where they were



not seen before due to removal of obstruction for their migration," Nanda said.

While dolphins are seen in different parts of the lake has raised the hope of

eco-tourism, Nanda said high degree of cautions was necessary to preserve them by taking up responsible tourism.

The monitoring also revealed that

the lake houses around 0.9 million birds which is similar to the trend of population over the years. No new species is identified during the monitoring, he said.

However, it has been observed that the birds, mainly the migratory ducks, have started colonising new areas previously covered by pen culture as their new habitat, he said.

The CDA official said Barunakuda and Krushnaprasad offered tremendous opportunity for eco-tourism due to congregation of the winter birds along these new areas.

Some waders have already started leaving the lake, but other migratory birds have prolonged their stay mainly because of cool nights and increased available food in the lagoon, the preliminary report said.

The sea grass bed which was reduced to 86 square km in 2016 has now shown a marked improvement and with ground trothing stands at 135 sq km indicating improved hydrological condition of the lake, it said.

"This will provide ample opportunity for the mud crabs to grow. The presence of Sponge, which was found by the ZSI in the lake before 1985 and had disappeared thereafter, have made their appearance indicating a clean and healthy eco-system," the report said adding that Spongillaalba species was identified by the monitoring team in certain locations.

The use of zero nets for fishing has also been reduced significantly, but they still pose the maximum threats to the eco-system of the lake as they increase siltation.

All the three channels and the Palur canal are free from obstruction. But, the number of nets used in the outer channel for fishing is silting up the channel at a very fast pace, it said.

Nanda said this problem was needed to be discussed with the fishermen of these localities to prolong the life of the lagoon by promoting responsible fishery and adhering to certain self restrictions to reduce the siltation.

Neymar suffers fractured metatarsal, serious doubt to face Real

PARIS, FEB 27 (AFP): Paris Saint-Germain star Neymar suffered a sprained ankle and a fractured metatarsal when he was stretchered off in Sunday's win over Marseille, the Ligue 1 leaders has announced.

The Brazilian, who signed for PSG in a world-record move from Barcelona last year, is now a serious injury doubt for the Champions League last-16 second leg against Real Madrid at the Parc des Princes on March 6.

PSG trail in the tie after a 3-1 first-leg defeat in Spain, with their hopes of a maiden Champions League title taking a further body blow with the confirmation of Neymar's injury, although they didn't specify how long the 26-year-old would be out of action.

"Additional examinations performed today (ultrasound and CT) confirmed an external sprain of the right ankle, but also an associated fissure of the fifth metatarsal," PSG said in a short statement.

The chances of Neymar returning to fitness in time to face the reigning European champions now appear extremely slim.



He is all but certain to miss Wednesday's French Cup quarter-final against Marseille and the weekend's Ligue 1 visit to Troyes, with the Real clash just three days later.

Metatarsal injuries usual-

ly take weeks, if not months to recover from.

Just last year, Neymar's international team-mate Gabriel Jesus was out of action for two months after breaking a metatarsal with Manchester

City, and has struggled with further injuries since.

Former England stars David Beckham and Wayne Rooney spent six weeks on the sidelines with metatarsal injuries in the past, with both

still arguably being rushed back too soon for the 2002 and 2006 World Cups respectively.

Brazil fans will also be keeping a close eye on Neymar's fitness, especially after he missed their 2014 World Cup thrash-

ing by Germany with injury.

PSG, who lead the French top flight by a massive 14 points, also said that Brazilian centre-back Marquinhos had picked up a leg muscle problem.

Neymar was stretchered off in anguish towards the end of PSG's 3-0 victory over their great rivals in the capital, having innocuously rolled his right ankle and flopped to the ground in pain.

With the game already as good as over, the stadium held its breath as he was treated and then carried away, with PSG forced to finish the match with 10 men having made all of their substitutions.

Neymar himself posted a picture on Instagram of his right leg with the ankle and foot heavily bandaged, before later appearing to delete the post. "08:10. Finished for today," said the caption.

French newspaper Le Parisien had earlier reported that tests on Monday morning had ruled out a "fracture of a serious sprain".

But the club later confirmed their fans' worst fears, with the return game against Real just eight days away.

Despite the injury potentially benefiting Madrid, the Spanish side's coach Zinedine Zidane claimed he hoped Neymar would recover in time to play.

"I'm not happy with the Neymar injury and I hope he can be back for the game. I will never want a rival player to be out injured," Zidane said at a press conference in the Spanish capital earlier on Monday.

While Neymar was leaving the Parc des Princes on crutches on Sunday, PSG coach Unai Emery insisted he was "optimistic".

"We will be optimistic. If I had to say today (whether or not he will face Real) I would rather say yes," said the Spaniard.

But now his team's hopes of keeping their European dream alive are hanging by a thread, despite the continued presence up front of Edinson Cavani and Kylian Mbappe.

PSG have never reached the Champions League final, and lost at the last-16 stage last season after a humiliating 6-1 second-leg thrashing by a Neymar-inspired Barcelona, having won the first game 4-0.



FC Goa looking for first ever win against ATK

MARGAO, FEB 27, (PTI): FC Goa will look to capitalise on an excellent opportunity and take a step closer to making it to the semi-finals of the Indian Super League when they host ATK at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here tomorrow.

A win for the Gaurs will take them to fourth place, with a point's advantage over Jamshedpur FC.

One of the most entertaining outfits in ISL history, Goa will be aiming for nothing less than three points to get their season back on track. As for ATK, the Kolkata outfit has not managed a win

in the last seven matches - six of them being losses.

The best ATK can do is finish eighth, if they win both their matches and the teams below them don't match their results. Although the team doesn't have injury concerns apart from Ryan Taylor, the confidence is certainly low.

However, they have nothing to lose and their assistant coach Bastab Roy said that it would make for a good watching.

"We don't have any psychological edge - in fact, the situation is not in our favour. But it will be a good open match for the spectators,"

Roy said.

"This is not the right time to discuss what went wrong. That will be done after the season. Something is going wrong in the last 15-20 minutes and FC Goa is a well-balanced team and in the run up for the top four. So it's a tough task and we will give our best," he added.

Meanwhile FC Goa are riding high after beating a strong Pune City side 4-0. Most of their top performers clicked on the night - with Ferran Corominas scoring a brace while Manuel Lanzarote and Hugo Boumous also got on the score-sheet.

FC Goa head coach Sergio Lobera said: "If we can do it like last time, then great - but we have to tick a few boxes to win. We have to play good football, try and keep a clean sheet and do multiple things right. We don't want to just win in any manner."

"We are at a stage where the game tomorrow is very important for us. We fought a lot to reach here and at this moment in time, (qualification) still lies completely in our hand. Hopefully when the two next games are done, our fans will be happy that their team will be competing in the semifinals," he added.

Sikkim goes down to Nagaland in Dr T Ao tourney



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 27 FEB:

Sikkim lost to Nagaland in the semi-final match of the ongoing Dr T Ao Memorial U-21 Football Tournament 2018 at Guwahati in Assam to-

day. Nagaland won the match by 3-0.

Sikkim will now play the third place match on Wednesday against Meghalaya which lost to Assam in the second semifinal match this evening.

Speaking over the phone from Guwahati, Sikkim team manager, Arjun Rai, mentioned that although Sikkim players performed well, they could not net any goals throughout the match.

www.summittimes.com | news@summittimes.com

'Holi' of Nawabs of Avadh kept alive by generations

SANGITA BAKAYA

LUCKNOW, FEB 27 (PTI): The Nawabs of Avadh have been known for their grand Holi celebrations, a symbol of communal amity between Hindus and Muslims, and their descendants say they are continuing with the tradition despite the "harsh" realities of changing times to keep the 'ganga-jamuni tehzeeb' alive.

These families residing in the old Lucknow localities have been celebrating the festival since the days of yore. Though the celebrations have become subdued over the years, they still maintain the tradition of joining Hindus in the festivities.

"The old and the young come over to our place on the festival day and exchange colours to mark the festival. We offer them sweets like gu-



jhiyas which are synonymous with Holi," Nawabzada Syed Masoom Raza of the erstwhile royal family of Avadh told PTI.

Hindus and Muslims celebrate all festivals together in the Awadh tradition and "we have kept it going", he said,

adding that this time too it will be no different as he and his family will await the 'to-lis' (groups of Holi revellers) with colours and delicacies.

"Unlike other places, Lucknow's culture has been guided by the Nawabs who

considered both the communities equal," said Raja and cited the story of Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula (1775-1797) who, it is claimed, came out in public in the evening for the festival when it had once coincided with Muharram, the Islamic

month of mourning observed with sincerity by the Nawabs who were Shias.

Things have changed tremendously over the years with the "advent of the new kind of politics" as well as migrants in Lucknow from all over. "It has eclipsed the local dialect and culture to a great extent," Raj Kumar Amir Naqi Khan of Mehmoodabad estate said.

"Up until the abolition of the Zamindari system, Holi was a grand affair with all friends, irrespective of their faith, collecting at our place and playing with natural colours derived from 'tesu' flowers, sharing lunch and enjoying the cultural show in the evening," Khan said.

Till today the festival is celebrated in his house with dry colours, 'abir' and 'gula' (scented colours smeared on Holi) but the grandeur is, of

course, missing.

Begum Naseema Raza, who is the wife of Syed Masoom Raza and belongs to the family of the law minister of the first nawab of Avadh Nawab Mir Shah Ali Khan, says that the youngsters offer gulas on the feet of the women folk and seek their blessings.

For the women, there are fun filled get-togethers in the evening to enjoy the Holi delicacies of gujhiyas, papads, dahi badas among others, Naseema Raza said, adding that the day cannot be over without the Holi dinners in the house of their Hindu friends.

"Preparations are already underway with the white attire worn on the festival day to highlight the colours of Holi being readied and abir and gula being bought from the markets," she said.

Though for Raj Kumar

Amir Naqi Khan this year also the festival is unlikely to be any different from previous ones, he fears for how long they will be able to maintain the traditions which have been part of Lucknow's distinct cultural identity.

"The new generations of our families too have migrated to bigger cities. Besides the culture around us has also been changing fast under the influence of people from other towns... what we see today is very different from the Lucknow in which we had grown up," he said.

Masoom Ali is, however, more optimistic. He says all festivals which give a message of brotherhood, camaraderie and a chance to even those who have been forced to tread wrong path to come together, will continue to have a place in the society.

Xi term limit proposal sparks rare public dissent in China

BEIJING, FEB 27 (AP): In a rare public expression of dissent in China, a well-known political commentator and a prominent businesswoman have penned open letters urging lawmakers to reject a plan that would allow President Xi Jinping to rule indefinitely.

Their impassioned statements on a popular messaging app were circulated widely after the ruling Communist Party announced a proposal Sunday to scrap term limits on the president and vice president.

In a statement yesterday on WeChat to Beijing's members of China's rubber-stamp parliament, Li Datong, a former editor for the state-run China Youth Daily, wrote that lifting term limits would "sow the seeds of chaos." "If there are no term limits on a country's highest leader, then we



are returning to an imperial regime," Li told The Associated Press today.

"My generation has lived through Mao. That era is over. How can we possibly go back to it?" Wang Ying, a businesswoman who has advocated for government reforms, wrote on WeChat that the Communist

Party's proposal was "an outright betrayal" and "against the tides."

"I know that you (the government) will dare to do anything," she wrote, "and one ordinary person's voice is certainly useless. But I am a Chinese citizen, and I don't plan on leaving. This is my motherland too!" An

official in the information department of the Standing Committee of the legislative body, the National People's Congress, said today that he was not aware of the open letters.

The congress is all but certain to pass the constitutional amendment when it meets for its annual session early next

month, at which it will grant Xi a second five-year term and appoint new ministers and other government officials.

Under the 1982 constitution, the president is limited to two five-year terms in office, but Xi "already China's most powerful leader since Mao" appears to want additional terms to see through his agenda of fighting corruption, eliminating poverty and transforming China into a modern leading nation by midcentury.

Government and party spokesmen have yet to offer any detailed explanations on the reasoning and motivation behind the dropping of term limits. Nor is it clear whether Xi will seek to remain president for life or will only stay on for a set number of additional terms.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang

yesterday said that the proposal "was made in accordance with new situation and the practice of upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era."

In a commentary today, the official China Daily newspaper mentioned the proposal to strip out language in the constitution limiting the president and vice president to two five-year terms, saying it was "necessitated by the need to perfect the party and the state's leadership system."

While Chinese censors have moved swiftly to delete any satirical online commentary on the move, a range of opposition views continue to be shared. The Global Times, a newspaper published by the Communist Party, said "outside forces" were trying to challenge the party's leadership.

Book by FBI chief fired by Trump to hit stores in April

NEW DELHI, FEB 27 (PTI): James Comey, who was abruptly removed as FBI chief by US President Donald Trump last year, will share unheard stories from his career in a book this April.



In "A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies, and Leadership", Comey will "explore what good, ethical leadership looks like and how it drives sound decisions", according to Pan Macmillan, which has acquired the publishing rights in the UK and the Commonwealth excluding Canada.

"Using examples from some of the highest-stakes situations in the past two decades of the American government, Comey will share yet-unheard anecdotes from his long and distinguished career," it said.

Jeremy Trevathan, Publisher at Pan Macmillan UK, said about the acquisition, "This is an extraordinary look at what leadership under pressure, in the highest of public offices, means

from the point of view of someone who has experienced the best and the worst aspects of both.

"Each chapter reads like a scene from the West Wing, except this is for real. It's unusual and riveting to read a book that takes you inside key moments of recent history in such detail."

"A Higher Loyalty" will be published in the UK on April 17, the same day Flatiron will publish the book in the US.

Comey served as director of the FBI from 2013 to 2017, appointed to the post by President Barack Obama.

He previously served as US Attorney for New York, and the United States Deputy Attorney General in the administration of President George W Bush.

Maldives declines India's invite for naval exercise

NEW DELHI, FEB 27 (PTI): Maldives has declined India's invitation to participate in the eight-day-long mega naval exercise -- Milan -- beginning March 6, in an apparent snub to New Delhi which has been critical of the Yameen government in view of the emergency in the island nation.

"Maldives was invited to join the Milan exercise but they have declined," Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba told reporters, and indicated that the country may have taken the decision possibly due to the current situation there.

place in the backdrop of China's growing military posturing in the Indo-Pacific region and officials indicated that the issue is likely to figure during deliberations at the event.

Officials said China's military manoeuvres in the South China Sea may figure during discussions among navy chiefs of the participating countries at the event.

'Milan' was first held in 1995 with the participation of just five navies. The aim of the initiative was to have an effective forum to discuss common concerns in the Indian Ocean Region and forge deeper cooperation among friendly navies.



Prosecutors seek 30 years' jail for ousted S. Korea president

SEOUL, FEB 27 (AFP): South Korean prosecutors today demanded a 30-year-jail sentence for former president Park Geun-hye, sacked over a wide-ranging corruption scandal which exposed shady links between big business and politics and prompted massive street protests.

The 66-year-old daughter of a former dictator was dismissed in March 2017 and has now been in custody for almost a year.

"We ask the court to hand down 30 years in prison and (a fine of) 118.5 billion won (110 million) for the accused, who must take ultimate responsibility for the scandal as the 18th president of this country," prosecutors said in a statement.

They said Park, in collusion with her secret confidante and long-time friend Choi Soon-sil, took or was promised bribes totalling 59.2 billion won (52 million) from three South Korean compa-

nies, Samsung, Lotte and SK, in return for policy favours.

Park has also been charged with coercing 18 large firms to "donate" a total of 77.4 billion won to two dubious foundations controlled by Choi.

The Seoul Central District Court earlier this month found Choi guilty of abuse of power, bribery and interfering in government business and sentenced her to 20 years in prison.

The verdict and sentence was seen as a potential pointer to the decision in Park's separate trial in the same court, because 15 of the 18 charges Choi faced mirror charges against the ex-president.

A date for the verdict on Park may be announced at the end of Tuesday's session.

"The accused (Park) abused her power delegated by the people for private gain for Choi and herself... violated core constitutional values on the protection of the

market economy and free democracy," the statement said.

"Consequently, the accused became the first president to be sacked through impeachment, leaving an indelible scar on the country's constitutional history."

The prosecutors also rebuked Park for "allying with the chaebol instead of the people", in reference to the country's family-controlled large conglomerates, accusing her of strengthening "unhealthy ties between political power and economic power".

They also decried her attitude toward justice.

Some legal experts believe she is in an even worse position than Choi was, noting that the judge who sentenced Choi had denounced Park for having "delegated" presidential authority to a private individual.

Park, daughter of late dictator Park Chung-Hee, was brought up in Seoul's presidential Blue House.

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES
LABHLAXMI TAURUS
Draw No:4 DrawDate on:27/02/18
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 3499
2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 5574 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 5210
4th Prize Rs.300/- 2533 5th Prize Rs. 201/- 3453
6th Prize Rs.100/-
1011 1018 1031 1044 1076 1080 1089 1094 1169 1199
1226 1232 1240 1242 1259 1269 1295 1315 1319 1368
1394 1400 1407 1423 1432 1493 1570 1575 1590 1633
1647 1667 1683 1723 1724 1726 1810 1814 1822 1837
1844 1860 1946 1960 1975 2001 2095 2118 2189 2194
2234 2244 2248 2254 2310 2369 2421 2443 2452 2453
2473 2521 2576 2578 2594 2665 2676 2696 2752 2776
2812 2828 2845 2867 2880 2881 2886 2891 2945 2982
2994 3031 3034 3047 3054 3096 3109 3157 3193 3248
3252 3282 3284 3315 3327 3329 3363 3400 3401 3418
3426 3428 3430 3471 3483 3484 3506 3539 3540 3620
3639 3649 3661 3678 3681 3719 3720 3730 3816 3830
3833 3845 3848 3853 3854 3875 3892 3900 3911 3942
3952 4024 4039 4073 4109 4123 4126 4132 4133 4134
4142 4161 4178 4182 4217 4238 4276 4298 4342 4404
4408 4434 4471 4472 4502 4521 4524 4540 4562 4636
4640 4652 4657 4666 4707 4720 4729 4743 4774 4810
4892 4919 4939 4966 5047 5085 5124 5149 5182 5236
5311 5320 5329 5330 5347 5348 5369 5391 5413 5481
5485 5580 5606 5613 5640 5649 5669 5705 5764 5768
5774 5789 5810 5812 5867 5877 5888 5932 5988 6000
6003 6011 6030 6124 6140 6143 6145 6155 6213 6245
6314 6317 6368 6378 6451 6456 6493 6513 6516 6541
6555 6641 6709 6758 6760 6770 6838 6914 6987 6991
Issued by:
The Director ,Mizoram State Lotteries,
For result please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com

ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES
MUMBAILAXMI LAXMAN
Draw No:4 DrawDate on:27/02/18
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 5052 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 1821
3rd Prize Rs. 1,000/- 4867 4th Prize Rs. 501/- 4426
5th Prize Rs.200/-
1082 1154 1177 1178 1192 1252 1292 1318 1332 1437
1545 1614 1652 1724 1752 1761 1966 2041 2078 2151
2201 2241 2269 2272 2310 2432 2463 2497 2568 2570
2678 2808 2809 2852 2871 2969 2998 3118 3160 3212
3243 3349 3380 3416 3463 3484 3490 3526 3572 3605
3659 3684 3697 3699 3781 3843 3866 3880 3936 3951
4039 4110 4131 4145 4173 4290 4291 4457 4471 4516
4553 4567 4597 4716 4798 4841 4885 4899 4987 5032
5070 5190 5215 5269 5310 5329 5343 5364 5365 5390
5391 5524 5537 5592 5798 5821 5903 5953 5959 5988
6th Prize Rs.100/-
1014 1071 1073 1092 1101 1102 1109 1130 1131 1148
1152 1160 1162 1163 1183 1198 1257 1286 1296 1380
1406 1423 1459 1473 1537 1591 1598 1629 1665 1679
1700 1729 1735 1751 1773 1836 1862 1872 1904 2014
2054 2059 2060 2061 2184 2199 2202 2208 2247 2278
2282 2283 2285 2313 2330 2358 2370 2408 2423 2424
2438 2439 2475 2502 2512 2540 2577 2621 2623 2628
2652 2660 2661 2673 2697 2722 2750 2724 2723 2795
2814 2828 2874 2878 2888 2909 2953 2976 3026 3077
3086 3111 3147 3161 3171 3180 3186 3189 3297 3316
3386 3398 3409 3455 3491 3492 3537 3555 3557 3566
3576 3581 3584 3593 3610 3637 3653 3678 3691 3710
3739 3742 3747 3753 3754 3768 3820 3898 3912 3930
3953 3974 3997 4025 4051 4078 4092 4143 4170 4187
4211 4217 4250 4355 4381 4393 4395 4416 4427 4519
4536 4550 4555 4581 4619 4623 4653 4750 4764 4773
4790 4802 4812 4836 4842 4892 4925 5020 5083 5169
5170 5225 5227 5261 5295 5352 5396 5410 5450 5483
5514 5538 5542 5576 5610 5645 5663 5708 5710 5715
5719 5724 5727 5733 5784 5837 5861 5870 5911 5927
Issued by:
The Commissioner,
ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES,ITANAGAR.

to book
advertisements
in
SummitTimes
call
03592-208698
9734152541
9647102692
advertise@
summittimes.
com

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR SINCERE MORNING
Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards
Draw No:13 DrawDate on:27/02/18
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 85D 01577
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.9495/- 01577 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
17546 22475 26207 36876 37091
46095 51992 67321 73326 84864
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0889 2405 3004 3872 4304 4878 5662 7340 7558 9185
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0254 0579 1250 2345 4491 7716 7725 8123 8302 9863
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0033 0082 0103 0124 0233 0274 0311 0405 0507 0586
0595 0607 0668 0905 0984 1217 1488 1603 1681 1729
1835 1982 2117 2158 2197 2501 2606 2652 2671 2868
2903 2966 3067 3230 3402 3581 3641 3643 3826 3827
4155 4168 4249 4258 4330 4331 4342 4351 4366 4430
4761 4948 5057 5392 5427 5686 5791 5936 5939 6003
6061 6081 6129 6221 6399 6411 6430 6655 6784 6916
6951 7125 7205 7293 7297 7374 7444 7504 7652 7668
7742 7880 7957 8462 8567 8653 8696 8746 9011 9189
9235 9280 9303 9326 9389 9391 9649 9827 9840 9975

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR LOVED
Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards
Draw No:13 DrawDate on:27/02/18
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 95A 06308
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.9495/- 06308 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
07801 09225 09343 11382 18982
24129 31387 33430 61644 77792
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0003 0902 1636 1806 2941 4959 6127 7012 7255 9513
4th Prize Rs.250/- 2896 3064 3963 5942 7309 7807 8356 8391 8640 9612
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0023 0220 0263 0390 0696 0752 0892 0940 0948 0953
1144 1152 1236 1253 1306 1367 1430 1473 1996 2011
2070 2213 2318 2404 2805 2883 2948 3091 3308 3478
3630 3906 4127 4162 4163 4217 4236 4277 4443 4514
4732 4753 4760 4765 4800 5025 5036 5060 5257 5330
5435 5480 5526 5640 5649 5675 5695 5797 5993 6018
6067 6232 6291 6309 6349 6468 6710 6732 6735 6784
6815 6895 7027 7116 7228 7284 7290 7398 7418 7592
7832 8352 8573 8575 8586 8623 8783 8786 8907 8936
8991 9081 9097 9430 9509 9744 9790 9825 9900 9923

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR PARROT EVENING
Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards
Draw No:31 DrawDate on:27/02/18
1st Prize Rs.27 Lakhs/- 62C 74018
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.9495/- 74018 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
12770 15352 15527 38913 39148
42911 60744 74380 75033 84119
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1978 3881 3963 4599 4884 5039 5256 7264 7942 8828
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0376 0596 0872 1515 2472 4506 5888 6208 9083 9587
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0016 0275 0297 0309 0436 0513 0685 0833 0967 1110
1155 1192 1285 1286 1352 1356 1392 1402 1559 1616
1637 1711 1835 2000 2286 2541 3083 3107 3176 3178
3763 3826 3840 3846 3975 4331 4343 4463 4617 4684
4699 5011 5022 5049 5171 5250 5255 5281 5361 5674
5684 5925 5975 5976 5979 6124 6376 6389 6449 6547
6557 6601 6715 6803 6940 6967 6971 7010 7326 7413
7428 7434 7823 7874 7950 7983 7990 8285 8309 8319
8379 8412 8420 8478 8926 8952 8963 9013 9194 9206
9279 9311 9423 9481 9486 9553 9577 9676 9778 9979

Issued by:
The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland
For Results, Please visit: www.nagalandlotteries.com

KINDLY CHECK THE RESULTS WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE



SING ALONG! Kelly Clarkson and host Jimmy Fallon during the "Google Translates Songs" segment on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" at Rockefeller Center.

Shakira 'hit with £18 MILLION tax bill'!

Colombian singer Shakira has reportedly paid Spanish tax authorities nearly £18 million after being warned she could be prosecuted for alleged tax fraud.

The performer is said to have handed over the six-figure sum to settle a 2011 tax debt after Spanish authorities asked prosecutors to look into her financial affairs between 2011 and 2014 after claiming she could have evaded paying the proper taxes.

Respected Catalan newspaper El Periodico has revealed that Shakira, 41, paid £17.65 million for the 2011 tax year and could subsequently launch an appeal against the tax office demand.

The star's 2011 tax return was understood to be one of the four at the centre of the dispute between Shakira and Spanish authorities which was outside the prosecution time limit and could only be settled via administrative proceedings.

The Hips Don't Lie hitmaker is reportedly still being probed over her tax returns for the following three years.

This comes after Spain's Tax Agency argued Shakira was living in Spain during that period and therefore should have paid income tax on her worldwide earnings and not just earnings obtained in Spain, as reported by respected Catalan daily La Vanguardia.

The Barcelona-based singer, previously tax resident in the Bahamas, registered as a full tax resident in Spain in 2015.

Sources close to Shakira, who became a full tax resident in Spain in 2015, told La Vanguardia she had always met her tax obligations and was ready to abide by the 'economic consequences' of what they considered could be simple differences in 'evaluation criteria' rather than a deliberate attempt to evade taxes.

At the time the news came to light, the Catalan paper reported Spanish prosecutors could go after Shakira for 'several dozen million euros' if they agreed with the tax authorities' take on the situation and could even demand a



possible prison sentence.

The singer's tax experts are expected to insist she was in Spain less than 183 days for the years in question - and so was not required to pay wealth tax on her worldwide assets as well as her earnings in Spain.

Shakira was named in the recent Paradise Papers scandal after it was revealed late last year she transferred £30million in musical rights to an off-shore firm in Malta.

Her lawyer Ezequiel Camerini told Spanish news website El Confidencial the singer lived in Barcelona - but quot-

ed him as justifying her links to a tax haven on the basis that 'as an international artist, she had lived in several places in the course of her professional life, acting in total accordance with the laws of all the jurisdictions she resides in.'

Shakira, full name Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoll, separated from Antonio de la Rua, son of a former Argentinian president, in August 2010 before starting a relationship with Barcelona footballer Gerard Pique in 2011.

They have two children Milan, who turned five on Monday, and Sasha, who will turn four at the end of January.

'She opened her mouth and blew us away'

Amy Winehouse's demo which she recorded at 17 to attract record labels has been released online.

Amy was known for her rare singing talent, as well as her struggle with alcohol and drug dependency, which led to her untimely death from alcohol poisoning on 23 July 2011 at the age of 27.

And while the late songstress' demos were mostly destroyed after her passing, composer Gil Cang has offered another snippet into her talented early years by releasing her recording of the tune My Own Way to YouTube.

Amy rose to fame with her first album, Frank, in 2003, but it was the arrival of her second album, Back to Black, in 2006, which catapulted the shy singer into her status as an international phenomenon. She won a then-record five Grammy's at the 2007 annual awards ceremony including Best Pop Vocal Album for Back to Black and Song of the Year for Rehab.

But Amy started from humble beginnings, which is evident from the tune Gil uploaded to YouTube - a recording Amy used to lure in record labels as a teenager.

Speaking before the time Winehouse was signed onto Island Records in 2003, Gil told Camden New Journal: 'We'd been writing quite a lot of pop tunes, doing a lot of pop promos with various artists who would come in, many of various, dubious talent. It was at a particularly dire time in the pop world - lots of terrible, terrible girl bands and boy bands and we had to make something for them.

'Amy came in to see us, opened her mouth and just blew us all away. We were struck immediately by her talent - it was a real jaw on the floor moment. We were like wow, yes,' Cang recalled.

After Amy passed away in 2011, an album of B-sides and covers entitled Lioness: Hidden Treasures was released by Universal - but was not well received by audiences.

Universal UK CEO David Joseph destroyed the rest of Amy's demos - telling the Guardian in 2015 that it 'was a moral thing.'

And speaking about his decision to upload Amy's My Own Way to the internet, he revealed: 'I've had it knocking about for so long. I found it again last week and thought - I'll put it out there so people could hear it.'

Amy was a celebrated singer but faced a fair few difficulties in her personal life. In the last interview she gave before her death in 2011, Amy opened up about the debilitating nerves she faced



ahead of live performances.

Speaking to the Telegraph, she said: 'I'm not a natural born performer. I'm a natural singer, but I'm quite shy, really.

'You know what it's like? I don't mean to be sentimental or soppy but it's a little bit like being in love, when you can't eat, you're restless, it's like that. But then the minute you go on stage, everything's OK. The minute you start singing.'

In the month before her body was found Amy was booed off the stage in Belgrade on the opening night of her 12-leg run of European performances, after she appeared to forget the lyrics.

She cancelled the rest of the tour, which many hailed as proof she was still recovering from her crack cocaine, heroin and alcohol addictions which caused her to take so much time out of the limelight in her twenties as she went in and out of rehab.

Amy also endured a

messy two-year marriage to Blake Fielder-Civil, which was fraught with substance abuse and violent rows.

The couple married in Florida in 2007 but they were divorced in September 2009.

In an interview in 2008, her mother Janis, now in her early 60s, said she would not be surprised if her daughter died before her time. She said: 'I've known for a long time that my daughter has problems.

'But seeing it on screen rammed it home. I realise my daughter could be dead within the year. We're watching her kill herself, slowly.

'I've already come to terms with her dead. I've steeled myself to ask her what ground she wants to be buried in, which cemetery. Because the drugs will get her if she stays on this road.

'I look at Heath Ledger and Britney. She's on their path. It's like watching a car crash - this person throwing all these gifts away.'

ARIES: A rebirth of romance in your life could take place today, Aries. If you're currently involved with someone, a happy event could enrich the bond between you and bring you closer together. If you aren't presently attached, you could be by the end of the day. You might meet someone new and exciting, probably an intelligent person who could be involved with modern technology. Make sure you look your best, and expect the unexpected!

TAURUS: Today you might notice a change in yourself, Taurus. You could look in the mirror and see that you suddenly look as gorgeous as a movie star. This change in your outer self is due to transformations taking place within. You've probably been releasing a lot of old traumas from the past, and

therefore considerable stress and tension have vanished from your face. Treat yourself to some new clothes. It's a great time to do it!

GEMINI: An unexpected conversation with a current or potential romantic partner could end with both of you revealing a lot of your deepest feelings, Gemini. This discussion may only indirectly concern the status of your relationship, but you will learn a lot about each other that could cause you to seriously consider whether or not you want to continue the relationship. However, all signs indicate that the relationship might change slightly but will continue.

CANCER: Some rather intense work, perhaps involving in-depth research, could take up much of your time today, Can-

cer. You could spend a lot of time in libraries or on the Internet trying to discern certain facts that you need for a project that could make a big difference in your income. This can be fascinating and exciting, but there is one caution: remember to rest your eyes from time to time. You won't want to give yourself an eyestrain headache. **LEO:** Today, Leo, you could direct an overwhelming amount of love and passion toward a current or potential romantic partner. Your friend might feel a little taken aback, but is likely to be flattered and therefore respond in a positive manner. This might not have the potential to become a committed relationship, so don't expect anything from it. Just get to know each other, see where the bond takes you, and go with the flow.

VIRGO: Information that you retrieve from deep within your psyche might lead to a revelation as to a great way to increase your income, Virgo. This could be something you read and forgot, or it might be something you overheard in a restaurant. Whatever it is, look into it carefully, and then if the information seems to be accurate and useful, go for it. These days, fortunes are being made in surprising ways!

LIBRA: Today, Libra, you might attend a group event of some kind. While there, you could encounter an old friend who seems to have changed. As a result, you might find this person very attractive and direct a rush of physical passion their way. This could be disconcerting, but don't brush it off because you've always thought

of this person as a friend. The most successful marriages are the ones that start out as friendships.

SCORPIO: A new creative project of some kind, perhaps involving modern technology, could set your career in a new direction, Scorpio. This may be the break you've been hoping for, and you're apt to be very excited about it. Any new enterprise begun today is going to have its ups and downs, but all signs indicate that it will succeed. Consider the project carefully before making a decision. Then if it feels right, go for it! **SAGITTARIUS:** If you're taking a trip any time soon, Sagittarius, you can expect to experience a powerful attraction for someone you meet along the way. This will definitely make your journey more interesting;

however, the friendship might not survive the trip. You may be from opposite sides of the country, and one or both of you could be involved with other people. Nonetheless, if neither of those restrictions applies, it's worth pursuing. Go for it! **CAPRICORN:** You could soon receive news of an unexpected cash inflow, Capricorn. This might be money earned on your own, but it's more likely to be investment income. If you own stocks, bonds, or land, expect their value to skyrocket. If you work for a company that has a good profit-sharing plan, don't be surprised if the amount of profits earned this year doubles. Whichever it is, you're on your way!

AQUARIUS: Today the energy is on partnerships, Aquarius, probably those begun on the

spur of the moment. You and a colleague might have a conversation about the possibility of going into business together. There is also the possibility that you could fall in love at first sight, maybe with someone from far away. Any sort of partnership formed today will have its ups and downs, but with work, it could succeed. If it feels right, go for it!

PISCES: Have you been entertaining the idea of changing jobs, Pisces? If so, put out some feelers today. You've been working hard and may have felt as if you've been barking up the wrong tree. Don't hesitate to research possibilities on the Internet, prepare your resume, and chat up knowledgeable people in social situations. It's time to pass carefully from reflection to action.