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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Easter Peace Rally spreads message of universal peace in Gangtok

**SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 01 APR:**

Members of various churches from within and around Gangtok walked together in an Easter Peace Rally today.

The rally was organized by the United Christian Welfare Society

of Sikkim [UCWSS] to mark Easter Sunday and started from Convoy Ground in Tadong and proceeded via Deorali to the main town where it culminated at Bethlehem Church in Development Area.

Easter Sunday witnessed about 3,000 members from different churches celebrating the resurrec-

tion of Jesus Christ.

"The rally was also an occasion for members of different churches to celebrate the Easter Sunday together. We also prayed for the well-being of Sikkim and its people," UCWSS president, Elder Patrus Gurung said.

### FORCE-FEEDING ORGANIC COMES WITH CONFUSION

## If not us, then no one will be allowed to bring veggies from outside, wholesalers announce

### TRADERS WANT GOVT TO ENSURE ORGANIC SUPPLY IF IMPORT BAN IS TO BE IMPOSED

**SANDEEP PRASAD  
GANGTOK, 01 APR:**

The ban on import of vegetables from outside the State, a disruption which is currently being proposed without the wholesalers and vendors here being served any official communication "in written," has the sabji markets caught in confusion, unsure of what comes next. The ban which was believed to kick in today now appears to be slated for imposition, seizure and disposal from 04 April onwards, although even this, as per the traders, has been communicated to them only verbally.

Given the finances at stake of placing bulk orders from suppliers in Siliguri only to run the risk of having consignments "seized and disposed," as an official informed them today, the traders have decided not to bring any more vegetables from Siliguri until the matter is resolved.

The last shipment of vegetables arrived in Gangtok on 31 March it is informed, and this should last, on a stretch, till 04 April when the State action on vegetables from outside will become clearer.

This, and some other decisions, was arrived at today at a meeting convened here at Lall Bazaar by the All Sikkim Traders Association and attended by wholesalers of vegetables and fruits from Gangtok and two wholesalers from Siliguri.

Speaking to media-persons after the meeting, the ASTA vice-president, Lakpa Sherpa, in-



formed that given the confusion over the ban, they have decided to not lift any more vegetables, save potatoes and onions which are apparently exempted from the ban, from Siliguri until the matter was resolved.

Interestingly, a 10 March 2018 Home Department notification announcing the ban, although it did not mention the date from which it was to be imposed, had listed the vegetables which were to be banned from being brought from outside the State.

Be that as it may, a senior Horticulture official who reportedly visited Lall Bazaar today, informed the vegetable sellers there that they are being given time till 04 April to finish their stocks of vegetables from outside the State and that after that date, such vegeta-

bles will be seized and disposed in the composting machine installed in the facility.

The decision to stop bringing fresh stocks from outside follows from this verbal communication, because several wholesalers, till before this visit, informed Summit-Times that they would continue bringing vegetables from outside until they were officially directed not to.

A written notice to this effect has still not been served.

Meanwhile, today's meeting of the traders also resolved to approach the Department to ensure that adequate supply of locally grown Organic vegetables was provided to the markets.

Should Sikkim's organic produce fall short of what the market

turn to pg03

*KKKS protests exclusion of Darj and Kpg from panchayat polls*

### SUMMIT REPORT

**KALIMPONG, 01 APR.**

Kalimping and Darjeeling districts have been kept out of the panchayat election process announced for West Bengal, and this has not gone down well with a section of the people and their organisations here. It has now been 18 years since Panchayat elections were held in the Hills.

The Kalimpong Krishak Kalyan Sangathan has ruled that voices of marginalised farmers which could have been heard during these elections, will remain unaddressed since the Hills are not enlisted for panchayat elections.

KKKS said that they will take the matter to the Supreme Court and even take to the streets to protest this move of the Trinamool Congress Government.

The Sangathan further claimed that they received a letter from the Chairman of the Petition Committee of the Rajya Sabha, Prabhat Jha, a month ago extending support to their demand for panchayat elections

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## 71 new homes built under different schemes inaugurated in North

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 01 APR:**

Seventy-one houses were inaugurated and handed over to beneficiaries in Kabi, Mangan, Passingdang and Chungthang by Zilla members, Gram Panchayats and Block Development Officers on 31 Mar in North Sikkim, a press release from Additional District Collector [Development], North Sikkim, informs.

Of the 71 houses, 54 were constructed under Reconstruction of Earthquake Damaged Rural Houses [REDRH], three houses under Chief Minister's Rural Housing Mission [CMRHM] and 14 houses under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin) scheme.

The release further informs that 29 REDRH, one CMRHM and two PMAY houses were inaugurated and handed over to beneficiaries in Passingdang.

In Chungthang, 16 REDRH and three PMAY houses were inaugurated while five REDRH, two CMRHM and sev-



Inauguration of PMAY(G) house of Jigme Dadul Lepcha at Ramthang Tanek GPU along with Zilla & Panchayat members

en PMAY houses were handed over to beneficiaries in Mangan. houses built under es under PMAY scheme REDRH and two hous- were inaugurated.

## NMC Bill: Doctors, students to observe token strike on Monday

**NEW DELHI, APR 1**

(PTI): Scores of medical students and resident doctors of several hospitals across the country are set to observe a token strike tomorrow, over some of their demands regarding the National Medical Commission Bill not being accepted by the government.

The stir called by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) would be held for two hours from 12 noon to 2 pm. Healthcare services at multiple hospitals are likely to be affected briefly.

In Delhi, resident and junior doctors and medical students will hold a peaceful protest in front of the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS).

Besides, protests will be held across India and a large number of doctors and medical students are set to hold rallies in many districts.

The Bill still remains "anti-poor, anti-federal, anti-democratic and lacks national character", the IMA has alleged.

The Bill does not address the issues of DNB

(Diplomat of National Board) and practical difficulties with common medical entrance test NEET and foreign graduates.

The Cabinet has apparently agreed to four of the 10 demands put up by the IMA in connection with the Bill, the association said in a statement.

Removing the clause for separate Exit Examination and to have a common final year MBBS examination, amendment to drop the provision of bridge course for AYUSH doctors and subsequent registration to practice modern medicine and introduction of a new punitive clause for quacks and unqualified persons for practising modern medicine were welcomed by the IMA.

"Although, the Cabinet-approved draft of NMC Bill has marginally increased the state representation and control of the government over 50% of the fee levied, IMA feels that these are cosmetic in nature and the Bill still remains anti-poor, anti-federal, non-

turn to pg03



## Chalamthang residents conduct cleanliness drive, seek cleanest Organic Village tag



REBYNA RANA  
GANGTOK, 01 APR:

Residents of Chalamthang ward in South Sikkim today organized a cleanliness drive under 'Chalamthang: Cleanest Organic Village Campaign', an initiative of the ward panchayat and the residents.

The drive began from Upper Chalamthang Junior School and culminated at Rekep Primary School.

The drive, led by ward panchayat Renuka Sharma, was participated in by villagers, youths, panchayats, teachers, Self Help Groups and students of the area.

The cleanliness drive was supported by Managing Director

[Temi Tea Estate], Mrinalini Srivastava.

The Ward Panchayat informed that the initiative aims to make Chalamthang a tourist spot by making it the cleanest organic village of the State.

She also announced the ward administration's plans to introduce herbal organic medicine treatment and spa facility in the area to attract tourists.

MD [Temi Tea Estate], Ms Srivastava, applauded the initiative and expressed her happiness in the success of the drive.

20 dokos were donated today by one of the retired teachers of Chalamthang Junior High School during the drive.

## IPL conducts GPU level training for farmers in Padamchey



SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 01 APR:

International Panaacea Limited, a service provider agency under the Sikkim Organic Mission, organized a Gram Panchayat Unit level training programme for famers on International Certification Service [ICS], organic certification and organic vegetable production at Padamchey, East Sikkim, a press release informs.

Horticulture Inspector, Srijana Gurung, Panchayat President, Saran Kumar Bhandari and IPL assistant project coordinator, Pema T. Tamang were the resource persons of the event.

Resource person Mr Tamang informed the farmers about ICS documentation and organic certification processes.

He urged the farmers to take advantage of the organic movement and establish strong business in the field. He also emphasized the farmers to help the government

spread the message of organic farming throughout the State.

The Horticulture Inspector delved on various schemes under Horticulture Department and emphasized the present market value of leafy and leguminous vegetables.

She focused on crop rotation technique and urged the farmers to grow different crops in different seasons depending on weather and water availability.

IPL Block in-charge, Pushpa Lal Dahal informed the farmers about documents necessary while applying for organic certificates.

Panchayat President Saran Kumar Bhandari urged the gathered farmers to follow the policy and methods of organic farming practices.

He thanked the State Government for supporting the farmers and the organizers for conducting the event.

## Farmers resist Guj company's bid to take possession of land

AHMEDABAD, APR 1 (PTI): About 50 farmers were today detained by police as thousands of cultivators protested the move of a Gujarat government company to take possession of land at a village in Bhavnagar district for a proposed lignite plant.

However, the local head of a farmers' group alleged that the police manhandled the protesters, including women and children, and in the process at least five people were injured.

The Gujarat Power Corporation Limited had acquired 3,377 acres of land from nearly 1,250 farmers across 12 villages under Ghogha taluka in Bhavnagar about two decades ago, to set up its proposed lignite plant.

However, all these years the land remained in the possession of farmers who were cultivating it. The farmers have now been opposing the company's bid to take possession of the acquired land.

The company had sought police protection for its task to take the possession of the land when the clash erupted, Bhavnagar Superintendent of Police Dipankar Trivedi said.

"We detained around 50 people and fired about 50 teargas shells, and also baton-charged the protesters near Badi village," he said.

Narendrasinh Gohil, a local farmer leader and member of Gujarat Khedut Samaj, a cultivators' body, claimed that the farmers were carrying out a peaceful protest.

"As we carried out a peaceful protest march against the company's move to take possession of our land, a large number of policemen were deployed to prevent us. The farmers and their families, including women and children, came out in thousands to protest this (taking over possession of land)," he said.

The police manhandled protesters, including women and children, and in the process at least five persons were injured, alleged Gohil.

At least 10 out of the 50 protesters detained by the police were women, he claimed.

## Dikchu observes Easter Sunday



SUMMIT REPORT  
MANGAN, 01 APR:

Marking the crucifixion of Lord Jesus Christ, his death at Calvary and resurrection, Christians in Dikchu area, including mem-

bers of Himalayan Free Church, Siloh Church and Indian Missionary Society, celebrated Easter Sunday today. A rally was also organized from Marchak Lower Tintek which culminated at Dikchu New Market, North Sikkim.

## SKM conducts CLC exec meet in Amba

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 01 APR:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's Rhenock wing conducted its monthly Constituency Level Committee executive meeting today at Amba ward, East Sikkim, a press release from the party informs.

The meeting, chaired by vice-president (in-charge zone II), Bishnu Kumar Khatiwara, was attended by party members, CLC executives, party supporters and local residents.

Retired Assistant Sub-Inspector, Yas Raj Dhakal, officially joined the SKM on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Jacob Subba was appointed as the youth convener of Rhenock constituency.

In his address, Mr Khatiwara criticized the concerned authorities



for delay in carpeting of the Amba Taza road.

He also demanded immediate response from the State Government regarding un-

ished projects in the constituency.

## BJP welcomes Organic idea, questions delivery



SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 01 APR:

Bharatiya Janta Party's Sikkim unit has appreciated the efforts of the State Government towards organic farming. The party, through a press release, has said that the Central Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been encouraging other States in the country to look up to Sikkim in its commitment towards organic farming.

However, the release mentions that the State has been witnessing low participation from the Sikkimese people in agriculture and animal husbandry, contending that most lands are occupied by private companies from outside the State.

The release adds that lack of proper irrigation systems and water scarcity in some remote areas of the State present

worrisome challenges to meet the demands of organic vegetables.

The release adds that while enquiring with lay people and hawkers, the BJP state-unit found that they were in panic-mode due to the sudden ban with possibility of price hike if vegetables from outside are not allowed into the State.

The party has also questioned the State Government whether all the vegetables produced in the State are organic certified.

The party has further alleged that the concerned department is not helping local farmers and some certification agencies are providing organic certification without any parameters.

On the same, the party has alleged that the State is just advertising organic farming without actually engaging in it.

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*Gangtok on  
Monday,  
02 Apr*

**Temp:** 24°C / 10°C  
**Forecast:** Partly sunny with a thunder-shower in parts of the area in the afternoon.  
**Sunrise:** 05:26 AM  
**Sunset:** 5:53 PM

## Singtam's Ward No.02 forms Dara Gaon Suraksha Samiti

**YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 01 MAR:**

Residents of Singtam's Ward No. 02, at a general meeting convened today, decided to form "Dara Gaon Suraksha Samiti" to focus on the overall development of the ward.

Working president Neeraj Pradhan informed that the Samiti from now on will look into all the developmental needs in the ward.

"Our main focus is to minimize antisocial activities in the ward like drug peddling, scuffles and misdeemeanor," Mr Pradhan added.

"We will stay alert and try to eliminate negative activities from the ward," he said.

The Samiti is scheduled to conduct a swachh abhiyan cleanliness drive in the ward as its first programme.

The members have decided to approach the ward councilor for providing safai karmacharis, dustbins and a collection vehicle for the drive.

The Samiti members also discussed raising funds from the residents for the Samiti to purchase utensils, LPG cylinders and other items for important events like weddings, funerals and parties in the ward.

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# Soon automakers to deliver cars fitted with number plates: Gadkari

**NAMITA TEWARI NEW DELHI, APR 1 (PTI):**

Vehicles will soon come fitted with number plates and the cost will be included in the four-wheelers' price, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said.

At present, a vehicle license plate -- which is attached to vehicles bearing its official registration number, commonly known as "a number plate" -- is procured by various states separately from designated agencies.

"We have taken an important decision. Now, manufacturers will fit the plates and embossing will be done later through

machine," Road Transport, Highways, Shipping, Water Resources and Ganga Rejuvenation Minister Gadkari told PTI.

Naturally, the price of the plate will be included in car's cost and the consumer will get some relief, he said.

The minister said the new technology number plates were intended to bring relief not only to consumers but also to bring in uniformity across states as each state used to buy these plates earlier.

The prices for number plates procured by states ranged from Rs 800 to Rs 40,000, he said.

At present, the the licence

plate (number plates) number is issued by the district-level Regional Transport Office (RTO) of respective states.

Also, Gadkari said that there would be no compromise in terms of security as far as vehicles were concerned and such norms will be same for all models be it economy or luxury.

"We will not compromise with security... what security norms we have done for economic models, same is for luxury and SUVs," he said.

The government has recently made it mandatory for all cars manufactured after July 2019 to have air bags for drivers and

seat-belt reminders besides speeding alert systems beyond 80 kmph and sensors for reverse parking to avoid accidents.

"Motor vehicles of category M1 (cars), manufactured on and after the 1st day of July, 2019, shall comply with the additional safety features and its requirements stipulated in AIS-145-2017," the notification issued by the Road Transport and Highways Ministry has said.

The minister also said that there would be no compromise on pollution front as well and a number of initiatives have been taken in this regard.

## Eight Sikkimese players selected for Zonal Cricket Academy Camp

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA**

**MANGAN, 01 APR:**

Eight players from Sikkim have been selected in different categories for the Zonal Cricket Academy Camp from North East/ Bihar Zone.

The news was officially confirmed by National Cricket Academy.

The selected players are- Anwesh Karan Sharma and Albert Rai in U-19 boys, Nur Pandi Lepcha, Tshering Yangden Lepcha, Enema Yanki Lepcha and Songkit Lepcha in U-19 girls category and Robin Limboo and Tarun Sharma in U-16 boys category

The players are scheduled to report for training on 22 Apr.

The camp will continue till 13 May.

## There will be 'zero tolerance' on air safety issues: Prabhu

**NEW DELHI, APR 1 (PTI):**

Asserting that there will be "zero tolerance" on air safety issues, Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu has said the aircraft with engine problems will remain grounded till the issues are addressed.

His remarks came against the backdrop of aviation watchdog DGCA grounding 14 A320 neo planes, operated by IndiGo and GoAir, due to problems with their Pratt & Whitney engines.

"Pratt & Whitney has done some retrofitting, which has resulted in some challenges in engines. So, when I became the (civil aviation) minister, it was pointed out to me... I said this is too risky because safety should not be compromised on any account," Prabhu told PTI in an interview.

Prabhu, who took charge of Civil Aviation Ministry on March 12, noted that safety should not be compromised on any account.

On the same day, aviation regulator DGCA ordered IndiGo and GoAir to immediately ground 11 A320 neo planes powered with a certain series of P&W engines after incidents of

mid-air engine failures.

"Let them rectify this error and till that time they will be grounded and we called the airlines and told them to make alternate arrangements," Prabhu said.

"By doing this, we are ensuring that there will be zero tolerance on safety issues," he said, adding that the engines will be required to be certified again for air worthiness.

While 14 planes were grounded by IndiGo and GoAir last month due to engine issues, some of them are back in operation after being fitted with spare engines from P&W.

Following the grounding of aircraft, there has been a significant number of flight cancellations by the two carriers. According to the minister, the situation is more or less stabilised in terms of disruptions.

About regional air connectivity scheme UDAN, Prabhu said funds are not an issue. The funds are coming by way of cross-subsidisation, "so there is no problem," he added.

UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) seeks to connect unserved and under-served airports.

## Shiloh Church celebrates Easter



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 01 APR:**

Shiloh Church, Singtam, celebrated Easter Sunday with a special church service and a programme to mark the resurrection of Christ.

A press release informs that Zilla

Upadhakshya [East], Sharmila Chettri, who attended the celebration as the chief guest, congratulated the church members on the occasion and applauded the Church for conducting social service activities and programmes in the area.

## NMC Bill: Doctors, students to observe token strike on Mon

**Contd from pg01**

representative and undemocratic," said Secretary General of IMA RN Tandon.

He expressed concern about the unaddressed major issues such as token presence of elected members, sub-optimal representation to state governments and health universities and the lack of autonomy of the National Medical Commission itself.

The doctors' body has also decided to

come out with a health policy for the benefit of the community and fraternity and to support those parties and candidates, who accept it. At the meeting of the State Working Committee of IMA Karnataka State Branch on April 8 at Raichur, the national president will launch this policy, it said.

The Cabinet on March 28 approved amendments to the NMC Bill including removing the contentious provision of

"bridge course", which would have allowed practitioners of alternative medicines to pursue allopathy.

The Union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi also approved that the final MBBS examination would be held as a common examination throughout the country, and would serve as an exit test, to be called the National Exit Test (NEXT).

## KKKS protests exclusion of Darj and Kpg from panchayat polls

**Contd from pg01**

in the Hills as soon as possible.

However, the Hills are not mentioned in the panchayat election process.

Bishnu Chettri, general secretary of the Sangathan, said that keeping the Hills away from such an important election was a violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

"Neglecting Darjeeling and Kalimpong shows their (West Bengal government's) outlook towards the hills; moreover, we cannot ignore the fact that the voice of the villagers is very important," he stressed.

He went so far as to say that the Panchayat elections in the rest of West Bengal should be called off if Darjeeling and Kalimpong are left out of the process.

## If not us, then no one will be allowed to bring veggies from outside, wholesalers announce

**Contd from pg01**

requires, then they will troop to the concerned Department and gherao it until the issue is resolved. "We will have no option left. Apart from the local consumers, this is also tourist season and hotels need to be supplied as well," Mr Sherpa said.

What the meeting also resolved is that they will ensure that if they cannot bring in vegetables from outside Sikkim, then they will not allow anyone else to do so either.

The hint here is clearly to the loophole they are spying in the notification announcing the ban which says that sale of vegetables from outside Sikkim will be acted against. They see this as meaning that there is nothing stopping people or establishments from

bringing in their supplies for consumption.

The traders are clearly opposed to such an eventuality and have announced plans to camp at Rangpo and stop anyone else from bringing in vegetables from outside. "We will also seize and dispose vegetable supplies being brought in from outside," they announced today.

The meeting also resolved that they will not tolerate any black-marketing or hike in prices of the existing stock and inform that directions have been passed that vegetables should continue to be sold at the existing prices till stocks last (or are seized and disposed by the authorities).

To get a sense of the scale of supplies that will need to be met

locally if the ban is imposed in earnest, a wholesaler dealing in fruits informed the meeting that he moves 4,000 kg bananas (the highest selling fruit in Sikkim) every day. He is not convinced yet that the local produce can meet his requirements. He will know soon enough.

The traders, it is learnt, have also kept the option of approaching the Courts if the ban is forced through without adequate measures taken to ensure that there was no shortage or loss of business.

And even as the traders deal with this new situation with no clear communication or detailed consultation on the matter, consumers across the State are feeding off rumours and speculations.





# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Protect Forests from Greed as well, Not Need Alone

*Yes, going genuinely green will require more effort*

Some years ago, in the run-up to a National Art Festival that Gangtok was hosting, the sculptors had to twiddle their thumbs with no material to work with for two days because the wood they had ordered from Siliguri was held up as clearance from the Forest Department was taking too long. They might as well have contacted some locals who would have commissioned some others to chop down the required kind of wood. The worst that would have happened is that the woodcutters would have been arrested under some clause of the Forest Act. After all, much the same has transpired for much lesser a cause than Art at reserve forests across the State. Once, the people with the saws, all of them essentially daily-wagers were arrested for cutting down trees for timber reportedly required for the construction of an army garage. Only the porters languished in judicial custody, the string was never unspooled to reach to the better informed people who had placed the order.

The laws protecting our forests and wildlife are very strict. Apart from rape and murder, violations of the Forest Act are perhaps the only crimes that cannot be settled out of court or withdrawn. We have seen how strict forest officials can become when it comes to evicting encroachers from forest land when they are impoverished families like migrant labourers or rural folk who rely on the forests for sustenance. We often hear of woodcutters arrested for illicit felling and rural folk have been banned from taking their cattle to graze. How often have we heard of a raid on a palatial building which has consumed many trees just to get the flooring done and consumed still more trees for the paneling and the furniture? The porters who double as woodcutters might or might not be aware of the forest laws, they might even be felling trees knowing that it is illegal to do so, but they are driven by their need to do so. Those who order the wood from them are definitely aware of the laws against such activities and have only their greed to blame for their actions.

What has to be targeted is this greed.

No amount of legislations and laws and rules can succeed if the only people who get rounded up are those driven by their need. Greed, on the other hand, can be easily suppressed if some examples are set or a genuine stab made at raising awareness and transposing some guilt. People in need for a wage and some quick money are easily replaced so rounding them up does not address the problem until the demand remains. Our protectors of the forest have to start striking at places from where the demands are being placed from. Why is it that illicit wood is almost always caught in-transit or in houses serving only as warehouses? Why are those who place orders after which trees are felled, never booked?

## Migrants: When Europeans once flocked to North African shores

M'hamed Oualdi  
theconversation.com

*"Praise be to God. To my master, may god preserve you. After our master scolded me and became angry with me, accusing me of having often acted without advising him, and of bringing my mother here from Greece without his consent [...] I took refuge amongst the most humble people [...] I am your slave. You have to give orders to your slave. You also have the power to forgive him. You claim I brought my mother to me without informing your Excellency. [Well.] I have no mother, nor father. You are my mother and my father. I have only you, master."*

Now conserved at the Tunisian national archives, this is an excerpt from a letter written in 1832 by a Greek slave who converted to Islam under the name Muhammad the Treasurer (Khaznadar).

His apology was addressed to his master, the Vizier (or Prime Minister) of the Ottoman province of Tunis, al-Shakir Sahib al-Taba, Keeper of the Seals. Sahib Al-Taba, a slave himself, was born in Circassia, in the Northern Caucasus region. Today this area is part of the Russian Federation, north of Georgia, covering the modern day Russian Republics of Karachay-Cherkessia, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Adygea.

One of many accounts by slaves over the course of the 19th century, this letter, written in Arabic, takes us back to a time when men and women moved around quite differently within the Mediterranean.

### MAGHREB, AN ELDORADO FOR EUROPEANS

Until the first half of the 20th century, it was rare for men, women and children to cross the South Mediterranean from North Africa in a bid to reach the shores of Europe and beyond.

On the contrary, Italians, French, Spanish and Greeks flocked to North Africa, fleeing poverty and overpopulation in their own countries. They sought their fortunes on fresh soil, in Maghreb and in the trans-Atlantic colonies.

North African (rather than European) countries were also a landing point, not only for African slaves forced to cross the Sahara but also, until the mid-19th century, for Caucasian, Georgian and Greek slaves, following their uprisings against the Ottoman Sultans in the 1820s.



*Could a North-African migrant become the Prime minister of a European country in the 21st century? In the 19th century, a Greek slave rose to the highest ranks in Tunis. The Bey of Tunis, Muhammad Sâdiq Bâšâ-Bey, greets Napoleon III in Algiers, on 20 September 1860. A. de Belle Ksar Said Museum, Author provided*

At the time Muhammad Khaznadar wrote this brief letter, Maghreb was not yet under European colonial rule. The French had taken Algiers two years earlier, and also conquered a number of cities on the Algerian coast in a series of violent attacks between 1830 and 1832.

The rest of North Africa was either ruled by the Alawite dynasty, as was the case in Morocco, or as in Tunis and Tripoli, under the authority of a governor appointed by the Ottoman Empire.

Men who came from afar, like Muhammad Khaznadar and his master Shakir, climbed prodigiously high in the social ranks: Shakir was the Vizier, the chief advisor to the Ottoman governors of Tunis. Italians, Maltese, British, French and other Europeans rushed to Tunis and Algiers and Tripoli to make money through more or less legal means, in trade, coral fishing and sometimes smuggling (tobacco, arms, coffee, etc.).

### DEBUNKING THE THEORY OF A 'GREAT REPLACEMENT'

What has happened since the days of Muhammad the Treasurer? What brought on the upsurge in African migration to Europe [especially since the 1950s]? How did Maghreb change from a place that attracted and controlled the migration and movement of women and men from Africa, Asia and Europe, to a stopover on the way to the Mediterranean and Europe?

If we just jog our short memories and take a look back at the 19th century, we can remember all the great transformations this part of the world has undergone: the slow takeover of African markets and economies by European powers; the official abolition of slavery

from the late 1840s onwards, in Tunisia and Algeria, and the gradual disappearance of slave trafficking, first in the Mediterranean and then from West Africa to Maghreb; the advent of colonization, first in Algeria in 1830, then in Tunisia as early as 1881, and Morocco and Libya in the early 1910s, just prior to the outbreak of World War I; the immigration of European colonists, whose number in Algeria would reach 1 million, against 9 million "Muslims" when the country became independent in 1962, when the pieds-noirs left the country en masse for mainland Europe; and, finally, the economic immigration of North African workers, and workers from other African nations, after World War II, to help rebuild and bolster the economies of the former colonial powers.

Talking into account all these historical events, migration from the South to the North cannot possibly be described as an "invasion" or as part of the so-called great replacement theory, as some would have us believe. It is the result of constructed economic dependence, new labour migration, exploitation, and colonial and post-colonial domination. From a simple treasurer, Muhammad the slave became Prime minister at the beginning of the 1880s, when France took over Tunisia. His life, like that of millions of other migrants, was also shaped by the many great transformations that transpired in the Mediterranean.

*[the writer is Assistant professor, historien spécialiste de l'Afrique du Nord moderne, Université de Princeton, Fellows 2017- IEA Paris, Réseau français des instituts d'études avancées (RFIEA)]*

*Jesus wasn't white: he was a brown-skinned, Middle Eastern Jew. Here's why that matters*

ROBYN J. WHITAKER  
theconversation.com

I grew up in a Christian home, where a photo of Jesus hung on my bedroom wall. I still have it. It is schmaltzy and rather tacky in that 1970s kind of way, but as a little girl I loved it. In this picture, Jesus looks kind and gentle, he gazes down at me lovingly. He is also light-haired, blue-eyed, and very white.

The problem is, Jesus was not white. You'd be forgiven for thinking otherwise if you've ever entered a Western church or visited an art gallery. But while there is no physical description of him in the Bible, there is also no doubt that the historical Jesus, the man who was executed by the Roman State in the first century CE, was a brown-skinned, Middle Eastern Jew.

This is not controversial from a scholarly point of view, but somehow it is a forgotten detail for many of the millions of Christians who will gather to celebrate Easter this week.

On Good Friday, Christians attend churches to worship Jesus and, in particular, remember his death on a cross. In most of these churches, Jesus will be depicted as a white man, a guy that looks like Anglo-Australians, a guy easy for other Anglo-Australians to identify with.

Think for a moment of the rather dashing Jim Caviezel, who played Jesus in Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ*. He is an Irish-American actor. Or call to mind some of the most famous artworks of Jesus' crucifixion – Ruben, Grunewald, Giotto – and again we see the European bias in depicting a white-skinned Jesus.

Does any of this matter? Yes, it really does. As a society, we are well aware of the power of representation and the importance of diverse role models.

After winning the 2013 Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her role in *12 Years a Slave*, Kenyan actress Lupita Nyong'o shot to fame. In interviews since then, Nyong'o has repeatedly articulated her feelings of inferiority as a young woman because all the images of beauty she saw around her were of lighter-skinned women. It was only when she saw the fashion world embracing Sudanese model Alek Wek that she realised black could be beautiful too.

If we can recognise the importance of ethnically and physically diverse role models in our media, why can't we do the same for faith? Why do we continue to allow images of a whitened Jesus to dominate?

Many churches and cultures do depict Jesus as a brown or black man. Orthodox Christians usually have a very different iconography to that of European art – if you enter a church in Africa, you'll likely see an African Jesus on display.

But these are rarely the images we see in Australian Protestant and Catholic churches, and it is our loss. It allows the mainstream Christian community to separate their devotion to Jesus from compassionate regard for those who look different.

I would even go so far as to say it creates a cognitive disconnect, where one can feel deep affection for Jesus but little empathy for a Middle Eastern person. It likewise has implications for the theological claim that humans are made in God's image. If God is always imaged as white, then the default human becomes white and such thinking undergirds racism.

Historically, the white-washing of Jesus contributed

turn to 03

## Can the cricketers banned for ball tampering ever regain their hero status? It's happened before

KEITH PARRY & EMMA KAVANAGH  
theconversation.com

Overnight, Cricket Australia handed out its promised "significant sanctions" for a ball-tampering incident that has engulfed the sport in scandal. Steve Smith and David Warner, the team's captain and vice-captain, have been banned for 12 months. Cameron Bancroft, who carried out the failed plot, received a nine-month ban.

It was also revealed it was sandpaper, and not "yellow tape and the granules from the rough patches of the wicket" as originally claimed, that Bancroft tried to use to alter the ball's condition in the Test match between South Africa and Australia.

While the International Cricket Council (ICC) initially suspended Smith for only one Test, all three are now banned from international and domestic (professional) cricket in Australia. Smith and Warner have also had their lucrative Indian Premier League contracts torn up, and some sponsors have already distanced themselves from the players and the sport. But these measures fall short of the lifetime bans some called for.

As captain, Smith has borne the brunt of the public and media vitriol, particularly as he accepted responsibility for what had happened. He may yet be Australian captain again in the future.

But according to Cricket Australia's investigation, it was Warner who developed the plan and instructed Bancroft – a younger player – to carry it out. Warner also showed a "lack of contrition" and will therefore not be considered for any leadership position in the future.

**DOES THE PUNISHMENT FIT THE CRIME?** Ball tampering is clearly cheating; it breaks the rules and is against the "spirit of cricket". But while it has been deemed the "moral equivalent of doping", there is a lack of consistency in how sanctions are dished out to offenders.



Bans for doping violations are often severe. Players such as Andre Russell have been banned for 12 months for failing to record their whereabouts for drug testing. But, historically, ICC bans for ball tampering have been more lenient: Pakistan's Shahid Afridi received a two-game ban for biting the ball in an attempt to alter its condition.

However, a harder line has been taken for incidents of match-fixing. Three Pakistan players were banned and jailed for a spot-fixing incident in 2010. South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs received a six-month ban in 2000 for agreeing to fix a match, even though he did not follow through with it.

Lifetime bans are not uncommon in sport generally. Ryan Tandy was banned for life for attempted spot-fixing in a rugby league game. Lance Armstrong was banned from sanctioned Olympic sports for life and had his results voided for his serial doping in cycling. Even figure skating is not immune: Tonya Harding was similarly banned for hindering the prosecution into a vicious attack on a fellow competitor.

It is difficult to compare sanctions across sports. But, when doing so, the inconsistencies are apparent. Boxer Mike Tyson was handed a 15-month ban for biting off part of Evander Holyfield's ear; footballer Luis

Suarez received an eight-game ban for racially abusing an opponent; fellow footballer Paul Davis only served a nine-match ban for punching and breaking an opponent's jaw.

In light of these punishments, are nine- and 12-month bans for premeditated cheating and lying reasonable and just?

Cricket Australia has been criticised for the time it took to reach a decision. But it's essential that due diligence is done and facts are gathered before a sentence is handed down. Without this, decisions are made through the pressure of public shaming, and social media get to cast the final vote on the punishment.

If sporting organisations want players to act morally on field, then they too should be guided by moral behaviour in governing the sport.

### FORGIVE AND FORGET?

Society is often keen to forgive top athletes when they transgress. When athletes admit their mistakes and ask forgiveness it is usually granted.

Over time, sports fans also tend to forget athletes' errors and focus solely on their on-field ability. In cricket, for instance, Don Bradman's role in disputes over pay as a cricket administrator is largely glossed over. Shane Warne's year-long ban for a doping violation is rarely mentioned.

Drugs cheats are accepted (and sometimes welcomed) back into sport – some even after multiple doping offences.

In many sports, athletes' chequered pasts are ignored in favour of their on-field ability. It is often the actions that come as a result of their behaviour that are judged, and not the infringement itself.

Athletes frequently transgress, but their subsequent redemption is often woven into the narrative around them. Stories around sporting heroes follow several patterns, but the most recognised is the hero's journey. The "hero" sets out on a quest but is faced by a crisis or descends into a hellish underworld. They "heroically" overcome these challenges and ultimately return to glory.

In this instance, Smith, Warner and Bancroft are in a hell of their own making. If they manage to return, and do so triumphantly, then it is likely they will be forgiven – and some may even forget their role in this sorry affair. Only time will tell whether they will again be considered heroic.

*[Keith Parry is Senior Lecturer in Sport Management, Western Sydney University; Emma Kavanagh is Senior Lecturer in Sports Psychology and Coaching Sciences, Bournemouth University]*



# NBSTC starts Siliguri to Deolo bus service

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**KALIMPONG, 01 APR:**  
The state-run NBSTC has started a bus service from Siliguri to Deolo via Kalimpong. Aimed primarily at tourists, but not exclusively for them, this new 30-seater bus started operations today. The bus starts from Siliguri at 6.30 AM and arrives at Kalimpong at around 9 AM.

After waiting for half hour at the depot here, the bus then proceeds to Deolo as a ferry service charging Rs 10 for the ride from Motor Stand to Deolo. Today, during the inaugural run, students from Jalpaiguri Engineering College arrived on board the bus and expressed that they were thrilled with the ride. Especially thrilled was a passenger coming in from Siliguri who had to visit Dr Graham's

Homes School and found this convenient and cheap alternative. "Earlier, after stopping at Motor Stand I had to take a local taxi which would cost Rs 200, but today I reached Dr. Graham's Homes paying just Rs. 105, and that too from Siliguri! This service has saved me money and time. Thanks to those who started the service," he said. Many local passengers too were seen taking the bus as it returned from Deolo to Motor Stand. Against the Rs 30 they would a taxi for this ride, the bus costs only Rs 10. Shekar Khati, the Depot Manager of Kalimpong NBSTC, said, "CM Mamata Banerjee has directed that this service be started. We hope we will get a good response to it."



## CBSE paper leak: Students hold protest in Kolkata

**KOLKATA, APR 1 (PTI):** A number of students, who appeared for this year's CBSE class XII examinations, staged a protest here today over question paper leak and re-tests and alleged that the board was jeopardising their careers. The students, numbering around 50 and wearing uniforms of their respective schools, congregated at a Garia locality in the southern part of the city to protest the leak of class 12 economics question paper and the board's decision of re-test. The board has announced re-examination of the Class 12 economics paper on April 25, while the re-test for the Class 10 mathematics paper is likely to be conducted in July. The protesting students held placards and blamed the CBSE for "jeopardising" their preparations for other examinations. "We do not want the board to hold the economics examination again. Why should we have to suffer for something which we were not responsible for?" asked a student who participated in the protest. A girl student said re-test means that the results would come out very late, which would affect their admission in colleges. "It will also affect our preparations for entrance tests to under-graduate courses in colleges and institutions across the country," she said.

## EFLU Shillong campus to offer Japanese & Mandarin courses

**SHILLONG, APR 1 (PTI):** The Shillong campus of the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) will soon offer two new foreign language courses within the next three months, Vice Chancellor Prof E Suresh Kumar has announced. The foreign languages to be introduced are Japanese and Mandarin. The Shillong campus is already offering certificate courses in German, Spanish, French and Russian languages, he said. From the next academic session, the Shillong campus would be offering undergraduate degree in all the six foreign languages, he said. The reason for starting Japanese language course is in view of the

immediate job market as Japanese companies have already started setting up offices in India, the VC said yesterday. He said that people conversant in Japanese language would almost have a job ready for them in India besides getting an opportunity to work in Japan. The same was the case for Mandarin, he said. He also informed that EFLU, Shillong campus would be conducting tester session during which a student would be fully oriented about the aspects of his/her choice of course. This will help students choose the right subject for their future growth. He said professors from the university will be visiting schools and

colleges across Meghalaya and North East to conduct such tester sessions. Additionally, he said the North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) and EFLU have agreed in principle to have exchange of faculties. He also proposed to train teachers of Meghalaya in a scientific and systematic manner. This, the VC said, has been appreciated by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma and the modalities will be worked out soon. The university will also be launching USR University Social Responsibility in line with the CSR, under which it will develop mobile app and have free content for general masses in its website.

## Centre releases three months' salaries of paper mill staff

**GUWAHATI, APR 1 (PTI):** The Centre has released three months' salary for the employees of Hindustan Paper Corp's defunct Nagaon and Cachar paper mills amidst attempt to revive the units, an official release said. "Following the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister for Heavy Industries & Public Sector Enterprises released three months' salary of the employees of Nagaon Paper Mill at Jagiroad and Cachar Paper Mill at Panchgram," a release from Assam Chief Minister's Office said. It, however, did not mention the months. The Centre has released the fund for paying the due salaries of the employees working at the two paper mills of the state, the statement added. "On the other hand, the process of revival for the paper mills has also started," the release issued last night, said. Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has been pursuing the matter with the Centre and held discussions with the Prime Minister and Union Min-

ister for Heavy Industries Anand Geete for releasing the salary of the employees as well as reviving the two units. Sonowal thanked the Centre for releasing salaries of the employees weeks ahead of the Rongali Bihu festival in the state, the release said. On February 1, the Assam government said that the Centre had decided to hand over the Cachar and Nagaon paper mills to a third party to revive the units at an estimated cost of Rs 1,800 crore. Assam Commerce and Industry Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary had said that although the management is likely to be handed over to a third party for the revival package, the ownership will remain with the Centre. The two units have a total staff strength of around 1,500 and installed capacities of one lakh tonnes each per annum. The Nagaon unit's last production day was March 13, 2017 with an output of 270 tonnes against an installed capacity of 300 tonnes a day, while the production at Cachar Paper Mill has been stopped since October 2015.

## Restoration of power supply in Arunachal Pradesh to take few more days: Minister

**ITANAGAR, APR 1 (PTI):** Arunachal Pradesh Power Minister Tamiya Taga today said total restoration of electricity supply in eastern part of the state which was disrupted due to Thursday's cyclonic storm would take a few more days. Most of the electrical installations in 10 districts of the state were badly affected during the cyclonic storm. The minister appealed to the consumers to bear with the inconvenience caused to them, and assured them of restoring the power supply at the earliest possible. The state Cabinet has ordered engaging all its machinery in extending help to the power department in normalising power supply. Taga said the quantum of damages to the electrical installations were beyond one s imagination. "The Power department with the help of local people and other government bodies has been doing their best in restoring the power supply. "The services rendered by the department during the hour of disaster are beyond its capacity with the limited resources and manpower available, which is in fact praiseworthy," the minister said in a statement here. During the cyclonic storm which hit the state on March 29, majority of the electrical installations in the West Kameng, East Kameng, Papum Pare, Lower and Upper Subansiri, Kra-Daadi, Kurung Kumey, Kamle, Lower Siang, Upper Siang, Siang, East Siang districts and the entire eastern part of the state have been badly affected.

## Kolkata teenagers celebrate life through dance and paintings

**KOLKATA, APR 1 (PTI):** Sixteen teen agers here participated in a workshop to express their feelings through dance and paintings in a British Council initiative. The workshop 'Teenage Times Remix Kolkata' was organised by ThinkArts (India) and Curious Seed of Scotland and supported by British Council India and British Council Scotland. The workshop was conducted by a Scottish choreographer Christine Devaney and two dancers from the Gaelic country on Friday. Devaney told PTI "we asked the participants to draw self-portrait among other things. We also asked them to express how they feel about themselves and their lives." She said the 'Teenage Times Remix Kolkata' was initiated at the Edinburgh Music Festival in the past when ThinkArts representatives "saw some of our works." Asked about the similarities faced by teenagers of two countries, she

said, "They are under the same pressure of examination and pressure to think about future." Ruchira Das from ThinkArts said, "After Devaney had conducted a five-day workshop in October 2017 here in smaller form with teenagers, dancers, visual artists, we applied for fund from British Council and the Teenage Times Remix Kolkata 2018 came off." "It is a residency programme where the performances have been devised entirely by the teenagers. They are celebrating teenage through dance," Das said. "We now intend to take the programme to different schools," she said. Devaney said the performances of the teenagers at the workshop at a city school, where they talked, danced and drew self-portraits in colours, had been filmed and would be posted in a video sharing website. Director, British Council (East) Debanjan Chakrabarti said, "we are delighted with this collaboration between ThinkArts and Curious Seed. This year, as we celebrate 70 years of the British Council in India, we hope this Scotland-India collaboration will inspire young people in both countries to know each other better."

British Council and the Teenage Times Remix Kolkata 2018 came off." "It is a residency programme where the performances have been devised entirely by the teenagers. They are celebrating teenage through dance," Das said. "We now intend to take the programme to different schools," she said. Devaney said the performances of the teenagers at the workshop at a city school, where they talked, danced and drew self-portraits in colours, had been filmed and would be posted in a video sharing website. Director, British Council (East) Debanjan Chakrabarti said, "we are delighted with this collaboration between ThinkArts and Curious Seed. This year, as we celebrate 70 years of the British Council in India, we hope this Scotland-India collaboration will inspire young people in both countries to know each other better."

## Jesus wasn't white: he was a brown-skinned, Middle Eastern Jew. Here's why that matters

**contd from pg4**  
to Christians being some of the worst perpetrators of anti-Semitism and it continues to manifest in the "othering" of non-Anglo Saxon Australians. This Easter, I can't help but wonder, what would our church and society look like if we just remembered that Jesus was brown? If we were confronted with the reality that the body hung on the cross was a brown body: one broken, tortured, and publicly executed by an oppressive regime. How might it change our attitudes if we could see that the unjust imprisonment, abuse, and execution of the historical Jesus has more in common with the experience of Indigenous Australians or asylum seekers than it does with those who hold power in the church and usually represent Christ? Perhaps most radical of all, I can't help but wonder what might change if we were more mindful that the person Christians celebrate as God in the flesh and saviour of the entire world was not a white man, but a Middle Eastern Jew. [the writer is Bromby Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies, Trinity College, University of Divinity]



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# Sindhu hopes to be fit in time to lead India's medal rush

AMIT KUMAR DAS

NEW DELHI, APR 1 (PTI):

Struck by an ankle sprain prior to the Commonwealth Games, Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu hoped to regain peak fitness before the start of individual events and assured India will return with multiple medals.

Sindhu had suffered a sprain on her right ankle while practicing at the Gopichand Academy on Tuesday but scans showed no injury to the bone or ligament, much to the relief of Indian contingent and fans.

"Preparation wise everything has been going on well for me. Of course, unfortunately, I sprained my ankle a bit but I think I should be fine by the time the Games starts, I hope I will be completely fit by then," the 22-year-old Indian told PTI.

Four years ago, Sindhu had hoped of retaining the women's singles gold that Saina Nehwal won for India for the first time in the Delhi edition.

However, the yellow medal eluded her and she settled for a bronze after losing in the semi-finals to Canada's Michelle Li.

A lot has changed since then and Sindhu is currently India's top shuttler and a prime contender for the gold medal at CWG, given the field which is nothing compared to the Super Series tournaments that she



plays throughout the year.

"Last time I had a bronze and this time I want to do well and give my best. I can't tell a particular number but definitely we will get a lot of medals this time," she said.

At Glasgow CWG, Sindhu had entered the tournament as a 18-year-old who had become the first Indian woman to win a medal at the World Championship. Though she settled for

bronze in the event, she went on to add another bronze at the 2014 Copenhagen World Championship.

The following year, Sindhu reached the finals at Denmark Open and then clinched her third successive title at Macau Open. However, those were mere trailers of what was to come next.

Sindhu simply exploded in 2016 when she clinched India's

first silver medal in badminton at Olympics and became the toast of the country with her title at the China Open. She also won the Malaysia Masters early in that year.

Catapulted to the top echelon of sports, Sindhu continued her run as she clinched the Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold, India Open and Korea Open in a highly-successful 2017.

However, the memory that

stayed in the minds of badminton aficionados was the epic 110-minute battle with Japan's Nozomi Okuhara at the Glasgow World Championship final which ended with a loss for the Indian, though her grit and fitness and appreciated by all.

While she won these titles, there were disappointments in store in Hong Kong and Dubai Super Series Final where, despite playing her heart out, she couldn't win titles, losing in the final hurdle by a whisker.

The jinx continued at India Open this year where she lost in the final to USA's Beiwen Zhang and then suffered yet another heartbreaking loss in the finals of All England Championship early in March.

Being the top sports person from the country, Sindhu is aware that expectations will be at an all-time high at Gold Coast but the shuttler, like always, just wants to stay fit and give her best without losing sleep over the results.

"The responsibilities are high, everyone wants me to win and I have to give my best and play my game and automatically you will do well," was her brief answer to her prospect at CWG.

If Sindhu can win the gold medal it would be yet another jewel in her crown.

## Jamshedpur FC have tough task against Minerva Punjab

BHUBANESWAR, APR 1 (PTI): ISL outfit Jamshedpur FC will have their task cut out as they take on reigning I-League champions Minerva Punjab FC in what is expected to be an intense Super Cup match here tomorrow.

Jamshedpur FC had already played a match at the Kalinga Stadium.

Jamshedpur coach Steve Coppell said, "We are taking tomorrow's match very seriously. We want to go as far as we can in the tournament."

"When twenty professional teams are fighting against each other to prove themselves, it's going to be fierce and intense."

Nonetheless, he showed immense respect for his counterparts who are on a high having won the Hero I-League.

"We have great respect for the team. I watched a few I-League games on television and realised how competitive and tough the league is. Moreover, Minerva Punjab FC are the champions and it is going to be very tough for us."

Sumit Passi who had a tough time owing to his injury is back in shape after a long injury lay off and he's determined to

prove his worth.

"It was very tough time for me. But now I've recovered and ready to give it a shot. I have played a couple of matches in the ISL also. If our coach throws me in, I'll grab the opportunity with both hands," Passi said.

On how a knock-out tournament differs from a league competition, the coach responded, "A cup competition is always different from the league. You play one bad game and you're out of the tournament."

Minerva Punjab FC have grown from strength to strength to lift their maiden I-League trophy one month back.

"The first match of any tournament is always important. It's going to be our first competitive match after winning the league. We have worked on our mental strength to win the league eventually," Khogen said.

"We believe that we can win tomorrow as well. We are looking positively to go further in the tournament. You know, the game of football is very unpredictable and we have to keep our heads down and continue the job on the field," he added.

# Bonucci scores but Juve beat Milan 3-1 to go 4 clear

MILAN, APR 1 (AP): Leonardo Bonucci's goal on his return to former team Juventus ultimately counted for nothing as the Bianconeri beat AC Milan 3-1 to move four points clear in Serie A.

"It was pre-written," Juventus manager Massimiliano Allegri said.

"He scored on his return but Juventus won, no one could have imagined a better night." Bonucci cancelled out Paulo Dybala's opener in the first half and Hakan Calhanoglu rattled the crossbar as Milan surprisingly outplayed the six-time defending champion.

But Juan Cuadrado and Sami Khedira struck late for Juventus.

Second-placed Napoli slipped further behind after drawing at Sassuolo 1-1.

Juventus drew at lowly Spal 0-0 last time out, and this will boost it ahead of the Champions League quarterfinal against Real Madrid on Tuesday.

All 10 matches were played on Saturday because of Easter.

### JUVE JUMP AHEAD

Juventus got off to the perfect start when Dybala fired it in front with a powerful shot from outside the area in the eighth minute.

Andre Silva headed wide from six yards and Milan leveled in the 28th minute when Bonucci got between



his former teammates Andrea Barzagli and Giorgio Chiellini to head in.

It was Bonucci's first match at Juventus since his surprise exit in July after seven years at the club, and his every touch was met by jeers and insults. The Italy defender celebrated with a wash-your-mouth action.

It was the first league goal Juventus conceded this year.

Milan almost took the lead 10 minutes after the break as Calhan-

oglu's effort crashed off the crossbar and Gianluigi Buffon turned Suso's follow-up round the post.

Cuadrado was brought on for his first appearance of 2018 on the hour and he marked his return from injury with a goal 19 minutes later, heading in Khedira's cross.

Khedira got on the scoresheet himself three minutes from time following a low cross from Dybala.

It was a blow for Milan, which

slipped eight points off fourth place and the final Champions League qualifying berth -- occupied by Inter Milan, which it faces in the derby on Wednesday.

"This result hurts ... we played really well," Milan manager Gennaro Gattuso said. "It wasn't so long ago that the Champions League was an unattainable fantasy."

### COSTLY POLITANO

Matteo Politano almost joined Na-

poli in January. He could have just cost the southern-based club the Serie A title.

Napoli was desperate to sign Politano in the January transfer window but failed to get the paperwork completed in time.

He showed Napoli what it missed when he volleyed in a rebound in the 22nd minute after Federico Peluso headed Stefano Sensi's free kick off the right post.

Napoli leveled 10 minutes from time when Jose Callejon turned in Mario Rui's low cross to the back post.

Napoli threw everyone forward and substitute Arkadiusz Milik hit the crossbar with an overhead kick.

"It's two points lost, we're disappointed," Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri said. "We created a lot but we're in a period where we're struggling to convert chances."

### SCORING RACE

The race to be Serie A top goalscorer is heating up with leading candidates Ciro Immobile and Mauro Icardi both scoring twice.

Icardi's goals helped Inter Milan reaffirm its return to form with a 3-0 win over Hellas Verona, while Immobile helped Lazio beat 10-man Benevento 6-2.

Immobile leads with 26 goals, two more than Icardi.

Icardi scored four in Inter's 5-0

win at Sampdoria before the international break and he resumed where he left off, firing his side in front after just 38 seconds and doubling his tally early in the second half.

Inter, which faces AC Milan in the derby on Wednesday, remained in fourth spot. It leads Lazio by one point after the capital side survived a scare when bottom side Benevento took a 2-1 lead in the second half despite playing from the seventh minute with 10 men after goalkeeper Christian Puggioni was sent off for handling the ball outside his area.

### OTHER MATCHES

Last year's top goalscorer, Edin Dzeko, came off the bench to help Roma draw at Bologna 1-1.

Midfielder Radja Nainggolan limped off after just 16 minutes, and is a serious doubt to face Barcelona in the first leg of the Champions League quarterfinals on Wednesday.

Genoa missed a penalty but netted another in a controversial 1-1 draw against Spal, which moved two points above the relegation zone after 10-man Crotone lost at Fiorentina 2-0.

Chievo Verona moved four points clear after beating Sampdoria 2-1. Torino won at Cagliari 4-0, and Atalanta beat Udinese 2-0.

# Angela Saini's new book to deal with how science created the idea of race

NEW DELHI, APR 1 (PTI): Award-winning investigative science journalist and author Angela Saini's next book will deal with a controversial topic - "how science created the idea of race and fanned the flames of racism".

"What Are You? The Mad Science of Race - and Its Fatal Return" brings the topic of race and science together as London-based Saini talks of race which is no more functioning on a meta level but is becoming one that's touching lives of people.

HarperCollins India has acquired the Indian subcontinent rights for the book which will be published in the summer of 2019.

"What Are You?" looks at how modern genetics, medicine, psychology and anthropology are failing to destroy these old ideas and sometimes even perpetuating them, the publisher said.

"As someone who has both known and understands the struggle for identity, Angela Saini, in 'What Are You?' will take readers on a journey to explore how racial identity was created. As she investigates, first-hand, how and why scientists are still getting race wrong, she will also examine, among other things, migration, environmental factors, personalised medicine (how more drugs will be shunted along racial lines), and paid services that analyse genetic ancestry," it said.

While the scientific ridiculousness of race may mean little in a world in which race has been made tangibly real through politics, culture and violence, it is important, now more than ever, to remind people just how our identities were invented, and that's a task that this book will accomplish.

Speaking about the forthcoming publication, Saini said, "This

is the book I have wanted to write my whole life. I'm so grateful that HarperCollins India will be releasing it, and I look forward to debating the issues once it comes out."

Diya Kar, the publisher who acquired the book, said, "Angela is brilliant. And she's particularly good at questioning traditional beliefs and raising crucial, uncomfortable questions. Racism and prejudice are very real problems today. In 'What Are You?' Angela examines the dangerous lines that are being crossed in science - out of both ignorance and hatred."

Saini is the author of the best-selling "Geek Nation: How Indian Science is Taking Over the World", an Independent book of the year, and the critically acclaimed, multiple prize-winning "Inferior: How Science Got Women Wrong and the New Research That's Rewriting the Story".

## 'Indian laws inadequate to deal with data theft'

KISHOR DWIVEDI

NEW DELHI, APR 1 (PTI): At 462.12 million, India has the second highest number of internet users in the world after China but lacks the legal framework to ensure data protection and privacy with current laws inadequate for the rapidly-evolving sector, say cyber security experts.

As data theft becomes the political buzzword pitching the ruling BJP against the opposition Congress, recent revelations on the issue have forced people to re-examine their everyday social media browsing habits, particularly on Facebook.

It started mid March with international media reports claiming that the profiles of 50 million Facebook users were harvested by UK-based analytics firm Cambridge Analytica (CA) to influence the US presidential election and the pro-Brexit campaign as well as polls in other countries.

The resulting storm engulfed India too, with former CA employ-

ee-turned-whistleblower Christopher Wylie claiming the firm extensively operated in the country and had served political parties, including the Congress and the Janata Dal (United).

Beyond the global impact of the biggest-ever data breaches and the social media behemoth Facebook, the scandal brought to the fore the shortcoming of India's laws to deal with ever advancing issues of online privacy and data theft in the country, say experts.

"India has the second highest number of internet users globally. However India's Information Technology Act, 2000 and its amendments -- 2008 and 2011 -- are not well suited to deal with social media and internet related cyber-crimes," said Jaspreet Singh, partner, Cyber Security, Ernst & Young.

According to figures by Internet World Stats, a website featuring data on global internet usage, China had highest number of internet users at 738.5 million till

December 31, 2017. India was second and the US third with 286.94 million users. India does not have a dedicated law on data protection and privacy, said Singh.

"Consequently, the third party transfers and cross border movement of personal data, the entire sharing ecosystem, is not adequately dealt with under the Indian IT Act. If any organisation is disclosing the personal information to third parties in India for data profiling or other such marketing and business purposes, there is no effective legal solution that is available," he added.

Supreme Court lawyer Pavan Duggal said it would be a mistake to expect the IT Act to be a holistic one-point legal framework for cyber security as it was enacted 10 years ago.

"... there have been dramatic advances in cyber security and also cyber security breaches, but the law has stood frozen in point of time in history," the cyber law specialist told PTI.



# Catholics celebrate Easter in ancient Jerusalem church



**JERUSALEM, APR 1 (AP):** Hundreds of Christians are marking Easter by flocking to Jerusalem’s Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built on the site where they believe Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected. Worshippers prayed and sang hymns Sunday in the church in Jerusalem’s Old City as they lined up

to admire the edicule, the chamber that tradition says marks Jesus’ tomb. A historic Greek restoration was completed last year, aimed at reversing the effects of years of exposure to water, humidity and candle smoke. The limestone and marble structure stands at the center of the church - a

12th-century building standing on 4th-century remains. The Roman Catholic services were happening as eastern Orthodox Christians celebrated Palm Sunday. The denominations, which jealously guard different sections of the church, held separate services one after another.

# Defunct space lab to re-enter earth tomorrow: China

**KJM VARMA**  
**BEIJING, APR 1 (PTI):** A defunct uncontrolled Chinese space laboratory is set to re-enter the earth’s atmosphere tomorrow and expected to fall anywhere from Australia to the US, Chinese officials said today. China’s Tiangong-1 space station, which is falling towards earth, was reported to have been 179 km outside the earth’s atmosphere by Sunday noon (local time), China Manned Space Agency was quoted as saying by the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post. The agency, however, did not provide an exact arrival time or likely landing site for abandoned eight-tonne Tiangong, a Chinese

name for Heavenly Palace. The European Space Agency forecast the space laboratory’s re-entry for about 7.25 am on Monday (local time). Based on its current trajectory, scientists have said the space station could land anywhere from Australia to the US with the southern part of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula included in the strip of the US from northern California to Pennsylvania where it might crash down, the report said. Authorities in the US state of Michigan were taking no chances, however, and had put emergency teams on standby in preparation for the possibility of it landing on

their patch, it said. Chinese officials said the falling debris will not cause much damage as small amounts of the space lab’s fuel will be burnt together with other parts on its re-entry into the earth’s atmosphere. “It will not cause damage to objects on earth nor produce toxic substances,” Chinese military officials said earlier. On Thursday, Chinese Defence spokesman Col Ren Gougong said China has briefed all relevant international agencies, including the UN, about the re-entry of the spacelab. Launched in September 2011, Tiangong-1 was an experimental space lab with designed life of two years.

# ‘Final evacuation deal’ reached for Syria’s embattled Ghouta

**DOUMA (SYRIA), APR 1 (AFP):** A final deal has been reached for fighters and civilians to leave the last opposition-held pocket of Eastern Ghouta, a monitor said today, paving the way for Syria’s regime to retake the onetime rebel enclave near Damascus.

The deal brokered by regime ally Russia would see fighters with the Jaish al-Islam rebel faction leave Ghouta’s main town of Douma for opposition-held territory in northern Syria, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

There was no immediate confirmation from the rebels, but pro-regime newspaper Al-Watan quoted “diplomatic sources” as saying the agreement would see fighters give up heavy weapons and leave Douma for northern Syria.

The retaking of Eastern Ghouta would mark a major milestone in President Bashar al-Assad’s efforts to regain control of territory seized by rebel factions during Syria’s seven-year civil war.

Backed by Russia, Assad’s forces have scored a series of victories over rebel forces in recent years, often through campaigns of siege, aerial bombardment and ground offensives that have drawn widespread international condemnation.

The Observatory, a Britain-based monitoring group, said Sunday’s deal provides for Jaish al-Islam fighters and their families, as well as civilians who want, to be evacuated to rebel-held areas in the northern province of Aleppo.

It will also see Russian military police enter the town and government institutions return to the area, the monitor said.

Regime forces had already retaken more than 95 per cent of Eastern Ghouta in a six-week air and ground blitz that forced tens of thousands from their homes.

Successive evacuation deals were reached with rebel forces in parts of the enclave, with more than 45,000 fighters and civilians bussed out in recent weeks. Tens of thousands of other civilians have fled to regime-held territory.

More than 4,000 people left the devastated town of Harasta last week under a deal with the Ahrar al-Sham rebel group.

And more than 41,000 evacuated a southern pocket including the town of Arbin this week under another deal with the Faylaq al-Rahman opposition faction. Earlier today an agreement had been reached with civil authorities in Douma for hundreds of civilians to leave for Idlib, a northwestern province still largely outside regime control, the Observatory said.



A civilian committee taking part in the negotiations with Russia said a deal had been reached “to evacuate humanitarian cases to northern Syria”. It gave no further details nor did it say when the planned evacuations would start.

The Observatory said evacuations were underway under that deal with civilians -- including of the sick or wounded, or family members of the Faylaq al-Rahman rebel group -- to head towards Idlib.

Talks with Jaish al-Islam for the evacuation of Douma had dragged on for several days, with residents growing nervous.

“Of course I would rather leave. There are no more homes here, not a single place to settle,” said Abu Rateb, 30.

“But I won’t go to regime-held areas to join ranks with the Syrian army,” he said, adding he

would prefer to go to Idlib. Haitham, 38, a media activist who did not give his surname, said he would rather stay in his hometown. “To abandon your home is to abandon your soul,” he said. “But if they give us the choice of dying or leaving, it will be another matter.” Syria’s army had yesterday vowed to finish off rebels in Douma. A statement said the military would press on with “fighting in the area of Douma to rid it of terrorism”, in reference to the rebels. The regime assault since February 18 has killed more than 1,600 civilians, the Observatory says, and devastated entire neighbourhoods.

## H-1B application process to begin Monday

**WASHINGTON, APR 1 (PTI):** The process of filing petitions for H-1B, considered as the most sought-after work visa among highly skilled Indian professionals, begins tomorrow amidst unprecedented scrutiny by the Trump Administration.

A strong indication is coming from US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the federal agency which is responsible to process all H-1B visas, that there will be zero tolerance by it for even minor errors. Chatter at various social media platforms and groups indicate that immigration attorneys this time expect a much high rate of rejection.

The H1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

The H1-B visa has an annual numerical limit cap of 65,000 visas each fiscal year as mandated by the Congress. The first 20,000 petitions filed on behalf of beneficiaries with a US master’s degree or higher are exempt from the cap. Days ahead of the start of the H-1B visa application process for the fiscal year 2019, beginning October 1 this year; USCIS warned that all duplicate applications would be subject to rejection.

# Political decisions should be taken in polling booths, not courts: Pak PM

**ISLAMABAD, APR 1 (PTI):** Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said that political decisions should be taken in polling booths, not courts, in an apparent reference to ouster of his predecessor Nawaz Sharif by the Supreme Court.

Sharif, 68, was disqualified as the prime minister by the apex court in the Panama Papers case in July last year under Article 62 for failing to declare a receivable salary as an asset.

“Let the voters make political decisions,” Abbasi said while addressing a crowd in Dera Ghazi Khan yesterday.

“Political decisions are taken in polling booths, not courts,” he was quoted as saying by Dawn News.

Abbasi’s remarks came days after his meet-



ing with Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar.

The meeting, and Justice Nisar’s subsequent referring of the prime minister as a supplicant, had irked Sharif, who later publicly asked Abbasi to explain his position on the meeting.

“It is a strange tradition that whosoever solves the country’s problems is dragged into the courts, removed from posts and attempts are made to push (him)

away from the people,” Abbasi said.

This tradition is not Pakistan’s tradition. This tradition will not give respect to politics in Pakistan,” he warned.

The prime minister said the decisions of the people always prevail over court’s verdicts some of which, he claimed, are controversial or not accepted by history.

“We continued to work despite severe opposition and gave respect

to your vote,” Abbasi told the gathering, outlining PML-N’s achievements since it reclaimed power in 2013.

“You made a decision in 2008 and you got Asif Ali Zardari, and what he did to Pakistan, you all know. But in 2013 you sent him back home; this was the people’s decision,” he said.

“The people then chose Nawaz Sharif, whose era saw unprecedented development. “I have complete faith that the enlightened people of Pakistan will respond to the conspiracies and overthrow of governments at the polling stations (in upcoming general elections),” he added.

Sharif has held several rallies in different parts of Pakistan since his ouster. He has targeted the judiciary for removing him from the office of the prime minister and also come up with ‘give respect to the ballot’ slogan.

The political future of Sharif, who leads the country’s most powerful political family, has been hanging in balance since his disqualification. If convicted, Sharif could be jailed.

Sharif’s family alleges that the cases are politically motivated.

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ALL SMILES! Singer Justin Bieber is seen with a grin from ear to ear while out and about in L.A.

## S Korea pop stars to perform in rare N Korea concert

Top South Korean musical acts including a K-pop girlband are set to hold a rare concert in North Korea today in the latest reconciliatory gesture before a rare inter-Korean summit.

Sunday's event -- which will be the first concert by South Korean artists in the North for more than a decade -- comes as a diplomatic thaw quickens on the peninsula after months of military tensions.

The 120-member group -- 11 musical acts as well as dancers and technicians -- flew to Pyongyang on Saturday to perform concerts on Sunday as well as on Tuesday.

South Korean singers held a rehearsal Sunday afternoon at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre where the concert is set to begin at 0830 GMT, according to South Korean pool photos.

The rapprochement was triggered by the South's Winter Olympics, to which the North's leader Kim Jong Un sent athletes, cheerleaders and his powerful sister as an envoy.

Kim followed up by agreeing to summits with US President Donald Trump and the South's President Moon Jae-in. The young leader also met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing last week during his first overseas trip.

The inter-Korean summit, the third after meetings in 2000 and 2007, will be held on April 27. No date has been set for the US-North Korean summit although it is expected before the end of May.

The most closely-watched group set to perform Sunday is Red Velvet, part of the South's

hugely popular K-pop phenomenon that has taken audiences in Asia and beyond by storm in recent decades.

The five-member girlband is known for a mix of upbeat electronic music, stylish fashion and high-voltage choreography.

Joy, one of the five members, would miss the trip to Pyongyang due to her TV drama shooting schedule, their agency has said.

Despite the North's isolation and strict curbs on unauthorised foreign culture, backed up by prison terms, K-pop has become increasingly popular there thanks to flash drives smuggled across the border with its neighbour China.

Other Seoul stars to join the concerts include Cho Yong-pil, a singer who held a solo sell-out concert in Pyongyang in 2005.

Kim's late father and longtime ruler, Kim Jong Il, was known to be a fan of the 68-year-old singer.

Another famed singer, Choi Jin-hee, is set to perform for the fourth time in the North and to sing "Maze of Love" -- a pan-peninsula hit and one of the late Kim's favourites.

It was unclear whether Kim Jong Un would make an appearance at the concerts. President Moon attended a concert by visiting North Korean singers in Seoul to celebrate the opening of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in February.

"I hope that something similar will happen during this concert held in response (to the North's Seoul concert)," Do Jong-hwan, Seoul's culture chief leading the delegation, told reporters in Pyongyang.

## Dwayne Johnson's Fast & Furious spinoff to film in Hawaii & UK

It looks like Dwayne Johnson's Fast and Furious spinoff -- frequently referred to as Hobbs & Shaw -- has taken some important steps towards production. A new report suggests that David Leitch (Deadpool 2) is tapped to direct, a precise date has been set for the first day of shooting, and that three destinations have already been locked in for filming locations.

With Johnson's law enforcement agent Luke Hobbs instantly becoming a fan favorite when he first appeared in Fast Five, it was no surprise that his role was expanded upon in all future entries in the action-packed franchise. This was especially obvious in the most recent entry, The Fate of the Furious. There was plenty of noise regarding the spinoff potential of the character, focusing on Hobbs working away from the team headed up by Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel). With Jason Statham's Deckard Shaw becoming part of that family, after making up for his bad-guy duties on Furious 7, the pairing of the two action-stars in a separate movie seemed like a no-brainer. Leitch was linked with the project and a start date for filming was reportedly set for sometime in September of this year.

According to the latest report produc-



tion start date has now been specifically narrowed down to September 4th. Not only that, but three locations have also been locked-in for the scheduled shooting. Cameras will reportedly be rolling in Atlanta, GA, with other sequences set to take place in undisclosed locations in Hawaii and the United Kingdom.

The continual reports of Leitch's involvement with the film has led to speculation that Charlize Theron's Cipher will play the villain in the spinoff, due to their work together on Atomic Blonde.

But plot specifics and further casting details have yet to be confirmed. The easy chemistry displayed between Johnson and Statham -- both action franchise veterans who never take their movie roles too seriously -- should make for entertaining viewing, and maybe move away from the emphasis on family and high-speed vehicles that have marked the films so far. Hopefully, the reports are accurate and audiences can expect to see Hobbs and Shaw crash onto screens in 2019 as anticipated.

## DOCTOR STRANGE WRITER CONFIRMS SEQUEL VILLAIN & STORY DETAILS



Stephen Strange will be battling Nightmare in Doctor Strange 2, according to the first film's writer. Marvel Studios opened up a new corner to the Marvel Cinematic Universe when Benedict Cumberbatch finally brought the future Sorcerer Supreme onto the big screen in 2016. Directed by Scott Derrickson, Doctor Strange was a moderate success at the box office, which presumably would garner a sequel, but Marvel is being cagey on confirming anything involving Doctor Strange 2.

Cumberbatch is going to be heavily featured in both Avengers: Infinity War and Avengers 4 either way, so a sequel's chances are based on the assumptions that he makes it out alive. Derrickson and Robert C. Cargill, who wrote the first movie, have recently been teasing that they're still working together, and now Cargill's confirmed where their sequel will go should they be fortunate enough to make one.

MovieWeb shared quotes from a Q&A Cargill recently did at a movie screening, where he confirmed that Nightmare -- the ruler of the Nightmare Realm and Dream Dimension -- is going to be the villain for Doctor Strange 2.

This is something that Derrickson's has long expressed interest in, but now we know for certain that they intend to follow through. That decision does mean that Baron Mordo's (Chiwetel Ejiofor) antagonistic turn at the end of the first movie won't be the focus, but he's still going to be very much involved.

"Me and Scott have not laid the groundwork for it but what I can say is that I have a feeling that whatever Nightmare is involved with, Baron Mordo, being somebody who considers himself the defender of natural law will have something to do with it."

Cargill's explanation for Mordo's presence in the sequel could lead to a number of different outcomes. First off, it could mean that Mordo will be involved in helping Nightmare torment the regular world and come after Doctor Strange. But, there's also the possibility that it could force Strange and Mordo, former friends turned enemies, to make an uneasy alliance to defeat him. Cargill actually elaborated on Mordo's future, teasing that Marvel has major plans for Ejiofor.

"For those of you who have ever read the comics, you know that Baron Mordo

has a very particular arc, and that's something we discussed with Chiwetel while working on the first movie. And part of the reason Chiwetel wanted to play Mordo was because he has a definitive ending as a character and it's such a fascinating ending. And I do know that whether we're attached or not, that Marvel plans on working towards that ending and fully realizing Mordo as more than just a cardboard cutout villain, but actually taking him to kind of Loki levels of awesomeness. That's the goal with him."

This is great news for anyone who liked what Ejiofor brought to the MCU in Doctor Strange. Even though Cargill admits here that there's not a guarantee that he and Derrickson will be the people to see this arc through, it once again shows Marvel's planning when it comes to their growing cinematic universe. Plus, if Loki (Tom Hiddleston) dies in Infinity War as many expect, then the MCU could use another complicated villain to seed through various films. However it plays out for Cargill and Derrickson, they've clearly got plans for Doctor Strange 2 that continue to build out the mystical side of this universe.

THE DAY AHEAD

**ARIES:** You might experience some mental distractions that pull you in different directions today, Aries. There could be a stubborn internal/external battle brewing. Realize that being in the middle is to your advantage. Look at the situation as a way to learn something about yourself and others. Understanding your opposition's viewpoint will help you. Incorporate the old and the new into your way of thinking.

**TAURUS:** It could be difficult for you to think straight today, Taurus. Your brain is probably working in short, erratic bursts that keep you guessing about which way to proceed. Avoid confusion during the day by periodically centering and separating yourself and

your feelings from the drama around you. Don't pretend you understand something if you don't. If a situation doesn't make sense, go ahead and question it. **GEMINI:** Freedom is a key aspect of life today, Gemini. You might find that your brain wants to break free and pursue more independent ways of thinking. Don't worry if such ways of thinking lead you into unknown territory. This is a sign that this is probably where you need to be. Your witty banter could take a sudden twist that surprises both you and the people you're talking to. **CANCER:** People are apt to be as stubborn as you in their thinking today, Cancer. This could be a recipe for disaster if you aren't careful. Open the

floodgates a bit wider and take in more of the opinions of others. Don't automatically assume that other people have to conform to your viewpoint to resolve an issue. More than likely, there needs to be some give and take from all involved. **LEO:** You could find yourself staring at a stranger for just one extra second as you pass on the street today, Leo. Your tendency toward the new and bizarre is stronger than usual, and you're being pulled into different mental directions. Go ahead and introduce yourself to that stranger. Perhaps he or she will become a business partner or new best friend. You never know until you ask. **VIRGO:** As you work slowly and steadily toward your goals,

realize that there are apt to be unexpected obstacles along the way, Virgo. You can't possibly plan for everything, so don't get discouraged today when some crazy variable pops out of nowhere. Your mental process may be thrown for a loop, and you might find that you go into a frenzy. **LIBRA:** It's generally quite clear that you aren't afraid to tell people what you think, Libra. Maybe it's time to be more expressive about how you feel. It could be that your mental process is a bit off today, jolted by an unexpected situation or person. Make sure you incorporate some of your instincts and emotions into your reaction to the situation. Don't rely on your brain alone

to have all the answers. **SCORPIO:** Today could be filled with unexpected twists, turns, and bends in the road that you may not be prepared for, Scorpio. Apparently someone forgot to install the sign that warns of sharp curves ahead. Be on the lookout for unexpected forks in the road. When you get to them, take them, to coin a phrase. Your brain could receive a jolt from an outside source that reminds you to keep things real. **SAGITTARIUS:** You could be thinking some bizarre thoughts today, Sagittarius. They might lead you in a direction that doesn't quite pertain to your current situation. Don't be afraid to explore these strange realms, because they could

give you some important insight that you wouldn't have realized otherwise. Wisdom can be found in the unlikelyst of places, so don't discount something because it seems a bit off the wall at first. **CAPRICORN:** Your thinking is solid and clear today, Capricorn, but other people could challenge your mental power. Don't let others put seeds of doubt in your head about the way you approach a problem. Keep your mind open to alternative solutions, but don't beat yourself up for your current mental track. You might need to modify your strategy, but don't sacrifice your principles or values. **AQUARIUS:** You could get the feeling that something is wrong

today when it isn't, Aquarius. It's probably just your perspective that needs some adjusting. Pull out your binoculars and focus a bit more so you can stand back yet have the power to examine the details closely. Don't automatically assume there's a clear distinction between right and wrong. **PISCES:** Your sensitive nature is likely to pick up a disturbance in your thinking today, Pisces. Suddenly, a blast of unexpected information could come your way and throw a monkey wrench in your mental process. Try not to get thrown off balance by the sudden jolt. You'll find that you can incorporate some of this new knowledge in a way that gives you a greater advantage.