

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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FOOTBRIDGE OVER MANTAM LAKE OPENS FOR PUBLIC

MANGAN, 25 SEPT: The construction of the bridge over Mantam Lake which is made using bamboo and 25% iron bending wire has completed and opened for the people of Upper Dzongu in North Sikkim today. The bridge is an initiative of the local people of Upper Dzongu, Sub Divisional Magistrate-Dzongu, TD Bhutia, Dzongu BAC staff, Panchayats and Mantam.

Sikkim's Singhi Kalden Bhutia conferred Breed Conservation Award 2017

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

Breed Conservation Award 2017 was conferred on Sikkim's Singhi Kalden Bhutia on 21 Sept by ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetics Resources (NBAGR) on the occasion of its foundation day at Karnal, Haryana. He was accompanied by Principal Research Officer-Forest Environment and Wildlife Management Department [Government of Sikkim], Usha Lachungpa.

Mr Bhutia won the award in the individual



category of small ruminant breed for the Tibetan sheep. A resident of Thangu, North Sikkim he is the only Dokpa in

Sikkim who still rears the Tibetan breed of sheep. Green Circle, an environmental NGO, has congratulated Mr Bhutia for

being conferred with the award.

A press release from the organisation states, "Kalden Singhi is the only one in India to be awarded for his Sheep breed, the other four being for cattle breeds in Maharashtra, Haryana, a Nicobar Pig and Nicobar Fowl. On behalf of all the Dokpas of Sikkim and indeed on all our behalf, we congratulate Kalden Singhi for his perseverance and thank the ICAR's National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, and

turn to pg03

Health Department meeting discusses Dengue and Scrub Typhus outbreak in Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

A meeting was held in the chamber of Directorate General of Health Services cum Health Secretary today to discuss the current situation of Dengue fever and Scrub Typhus in Sikkim and to formulate the plan of activities in the state for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the same, a press release issued by Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, informs.

The meeting was chaired by DG cum Health Secretary and attended by Principal Director I & II, Director Health Services I & II, Director Accounts, Mission Di-

rector-National Health Mission, State Programme Officer-National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, State Surveillance Officer-Integrated Disease Surveillance Project, Nodal Officer-NHM and Deputy Secretary I & II.

During the meeting, directions have been given to inform the Chief Medical Officers of the hospitals of all four districts of the state regarding the outbreak of Scrub Typhus and increase in number of Dengue fever cases.

Further, it has been decided that all the suspected fever cases for Dengue fever/Scrub Typhus will be screened while conducting Intensive IEC activities on prevention of the diseases.

Also, Entomological Surveillance will be enhanced to identify the vectors of Scrub Typhus/Dengue and fever surveillance will continue and treated accordingly.

It was informed during the meeting that adequate diagnostic kits ELISA based/RD kits for Scrub Typhus are available at State/District surveillance hospitals.

In order to co-ordinate with the concerned department, Rural Management & Development Department, Urban Development & Housing Department, District Administration, Police, Panchayats & Nagar Panchayats and local NGOs have been requested for help as and when required.

SBI lowers min balance to Rs 3,000; exempts pensioners, minors

MUMBAI, SEP 25 (PTI): Country's largest lender State Bank of India today lowered the minimum average monthly balance (MAB) requirement in a savings account to Rs 3,000 from Rs 5,000 and also revised downwards penalties for non-adherence.

The revised MAB requirement and charges will become applicable from October, the bank said in a statement.

The public sector lender also decided to exempt pensioners, beneficiaries of social benefits from government and minors from the requirement of minimum balance in savings account.

In April, the bank had re-introduced MAB and charges for non-maintenance of balance after a gap of five years.

In metropolitan areas the minimum balance requirement was Rs 5,000. For urban and semi-urban branches, it was fixed at Rs 3,000

and Rs 2,000, respectively, and for rural branches it was Rs 1,000.

"We have decided to treat the metro and urban centres in the same category and the requirement of MAB in metro centres stands reduced to Rs 3,000," the bank said.

Last week, managing director for national banking group, Rajnish Kumar, had said the lender was reviewing the average monthly balance requirement.

The lender also revised downwards the penalty for non-maintenance of MAB.

"For non-maintenance of MAB, the charges have also been revised downwards ranging from 20-50 per cent across all population groups and categories," the bank said.

Now, the charges at semi-urban and rural centres range from Rs 20 to Rs 40 and at urban and metro centres from Rs 30 to Rs 50, the

bank said.

Earlier, in the metros, the bank was charging Rs 100 plus GST if the balance fell below 75 per cent of the MAB of Rs 5,000. If the shortfall was 50 per cent or less, the penalty charge was Rs 50 plus GST.

Any shortfall in maintaining minimum average balance in rural areas was attracting a penalty in the range of Rs 20 to Rs 50 plus GST.

The bank reiterated that basic savings bank deposit and PM's Jan-Dhan accounts are not required to maintain the minimum balance. The lender has 42 crore savings bank accounts of which 13 crore belong to this category.

"It has now been decided to exempt the pensioners, beneficiaries of social benefits from government and accounts of minors. The revision is likely to benefit another 5 crore account holders," the bank said.

UP Govt registers FIR against 1000 BHU students!

VARANASI, SEP 25 (PTI): An FIR has been registered against over 1,000 students in connection with the violence in the Banaras Hindu University here and also against policemen involved in the baton-charge on protestors.

Separate FIRs have been registered at the Lanka Police Station in

connection with the violence on the campus, the police said today.

Besides the students, an FIR has been filed against unidentified policemen involved in the baton-charge.

A number of students, including women, and two journalists were injured in a lathicharge by the police in the Banaras

Hindu University (BHU) where a protest on Saturday night against an alleged eve-teasing incident turned violent.

The violence erupted after some students, protesting against the incident on Thursday, wanted to meet the varsity's vice chancellor at his residence.

The baton-charge on

protesting students today triggered protests in the city with Samajwadi Party workers holding a dharna.

Over 200 Samajwadi Party activists were detained while they were going to meet the injured students as well as protesting students

Samajwadi Party's turn to pg02

THANK you!



The Assangthang Secondary School fraternity would like to thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister,

Dr Pawan Chamling,

and the concerned Minister, Human Resource Development Department and the Department Heads for the relaxation of DLEd course for senior teachers, and would also like to congratulate the HCM on being conferred with the One World Award.

We would also like to thank the Sikkim United Teachers' Welfare Association.



THE ASSANGTHANG
SECONDARY SCHOOL
FRATERNITY

One booked under SADA

GANGTOK, 25 SEPT: During routine checking of incoming vehicles at Melli check-post on 24 Sept, one 42-year-old male hailing from Kazitar in Namchi was found in possession of 12 files of Spasmoproxyvon capsules and 29 bottles of Elturex, Phencyrex and Bolirex cough syrup. The accused has been booked under SADA.

SAATHI offsite training camp held in West Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 25 SEPT: Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India [SAATHI] conducted their 10th offsite training camp for the year 2016-17 with the participation of 119 students from Government Senior Secondary Schools of Dentam, Darap, Khechoepalri, and HeeYangthang from 22-24 Sept.

A SAATHI press release informs that it conducts these residential camps at the Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism [IHCAE] in Chemchey, South Sikkim as an ongoing endeavor to curb drug abuse is-



sues amongst school age children. The students are accompanied by the Teacher Coordinators of the respective schools along with the SAATHI Project Team.

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

dents. The session on the medical aspects of drugs was taken by SAATHI Teacher Coordinator from Rangpo SSS, Pranit Mangar, while the inspirational and life skills session was

facilitated by Gyalshen Sherpa followed by an experience sharing session by Prashant Sharma from HepCos.

The newly launched SAATHI App was also presented and demonstrated to the students by the SAATHI Project Team. The other activities included team building sessions, planning sessions, meditation, nature walk/physical training and talent hunt.

The camp saw a positive response from the students as most of them pledged to be peer educators and help the greater cause of fighting against drugs in the State, the release adds.



District level Kala Utsav competition held for West Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT GYALSHING, 25 SEPT:

District level Kala Utsav competition for West district under the theme 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat', organised by Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan [RMSA] and Human Resource Development Department-Gyalshing, was held here at the auditorium hall of Government Girls' School Kyongsa in Gyalshing today.

District Collector-West, Kapil Meena, attended the event as chief guest along with Joint Director-HRDD, Eden Bhutia, officials of HRDD, Principals, teachers and students of various secondary and se-

nior secondary schools of West district.

It may be mentioned here, Kala Utsav is organised at block, district, state and national level annually in all secondary and senior secondary schools under the provisions of RMSA. This event has competitions in categories of drama, dance and music wherein the best entries get to participate at the national level competition. Guidelines have been prescribed by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, wherein quality fine arts events are to be showcased by schools on common themes of national importance.

ITBP Regional Response Centre team prepares



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

The Regional Response Centre team of 11th Battalion, Indo Tibetan Border Police, Chungthang started their practice under the supervision of Commandant Rajesh Kumar Tomar today, a press release informs.

During emergency situations like flashflood,

earthquake, etc, RRC team need to be ready at short notice to provide help to local public, rescue the victims and also provide medical aid.

Commandant Tomar gave suitable direction to the team on how to prepare at short notice and also to continue their practice as per situation.

It may be mentioned

here, the RRC team of ITBP, Chungthang, has provided help in many places in Sikkim, rescued victims and provided medical aid to locals under the guidance of Commandant Tomar.

The local public of Chungthang extended gratitude to Commandant Tomar and the RRC team for their contributions.



Cleanliness drive at Yuksam SDO

SUMMIT REPORT YUKSAM, 25 SEPT:

Continuing the observation of cleanliness fortnight 'Swacchta Hi Sewa' and 'Shram Daan', a massive cleanliness drive was recently organized at Yuksam Sub-Divisional Office premises and

its surrounding areas. The cleanliness drive was led by Head Surveyor-Land Revenue Department, Bimal K Gurung, along with Land Revenue Surveyor, Sonam Tshering Bhutia, and the staff of Yuksam Sub Divisional Magistrate's Office.

CCCT Chisopani organizes annual cultural fest X-Static

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

The 10th edition of 'X-Static', an annual cultural fest, which was held from 21- 23 Sept marked the 18 years of Centre for Computers and Communication Technology's establishment and 11 years in campus at Chisopani, South Sikkim.

A press release received from CCCT informs that the first leg of the event involved students from their different departments competing in various events like Face Painting and Junkyard Salvage. These competitions were held to bring out the creative and innovative facets of the young engineering aspirants.

The penultimate day of the annual celebrations started with a Par-



ent-Teacher Meet followed by a short cultural event held at the college hall.

Special Secretary cum Director-Higher & Technical Education, Human Resource Development Department, DK Pradhan, who attended the programme as chief guest, felicitated the contribution of faculty and

staff for their pursuit of excellence in the field of not just engineering sciences but also the overall development of the students. Meritorious students were also encouraged with a token of recognition for their efforts.

In the presence of the Director, the special edition of the annual bul-

active session between the filmmaker, PT Lama, and the students.

X-Static 2017 concluded on 23 Sept with an enterprising fete organised by the students.

As the event coincided with the Alumni Meet, a meet-and-greet was also organised in the presence of the Training and Placement Officer as well as staff members.

The alumni expressed their gratitude and gave their valuable inputs on the industry needs.

The events culminated with a 'Prom Night' wherein the students, alumni as well as the faculty danced to the beats of a local disk jockey, DJ Rig.

The CCCT family, in the release, has extended greetings of Dasain and Tihar to all fellow Sikkimese.

UP Govt registers FIR against 1000...

Contd from pg01

state spokesperson Manoj Rai Dhoopchandi said a special committee comprising senior party leaders was heading to BHU to meet the injured students and also enquire about the incident from protesting students when the police detained them.

"Unfortunately, the police stopped us from going to BHU, so we sat on

dharna at the Singhdwar (in front of BHU main gate)," the SP leader said.

Police dispersed the SP workers staging dharna and detained over 100 SP workers and sent them to police lines.

The SP leaders raised slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Also social activist Teesta Setalvad was detained by police when she arrived in the city to attend a program.



SU hosts seminar on State Politics in North East India

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

Two-day seminar on State Politics in North East India was organized by the Department of Political Science, Sikkim University, in collaboration with the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library [NMML], New Delhi, and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies [MAKAIAS], Kolkata from 22-23 Sept at Cauvery Hall of SU in Gangtok.

A press release received from SU informs that the inaugural session of the seminar had the presence of Director-NMML, New Delhi,

Shakti Sinha, who is also a Distinguished Fellow of the Institute for National Security Studies, Sri Lanka, Chairperson-Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi, Professor BB Kumar, along with Prof Himanshu Roy from Delhi University and Vice Chancellor-SU, Prof TB Subba.

Resource persons from JNU, Gauhati University, NEHU, Baroda University, Tezpur University, Jamia Milia Islamia University, North Bengal University and Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, along with faculty members, staff and students of SU attended the

seminar. The keynote address was delivered by Mr Sinha while the inaugural address was presented by Prof Kumar.

The seminar also featured the release of the book, 'India's Act East Policy through North East: Opportunities and Challenges', which has been co-edited by Assistant Professors from the Department of Political Science of SU, Dr Om Prakash Gadde and Dr Amit Kumar Gupta, the release adds.

The Vice Chancellor of SU has expressed happiness and pleasure in welcoming the resource persons to the seminar.


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Gangtok on Tuesday, 26 Sept
Temp: 28°C / 15°C
Forecast: Periods of sun and clouds with a shower or thunderstorm in spots.
Sunrise: 05:25 AM
Sunset: 05:28 PM

Sikkim’s Singhi Kalden Bhutia conferred Breed...

Contd from pg01

in particular Dr Brijesh Kumar, for conferring upon him the Breed Conservation Award-2017.” The release further adds, “The last of the Dokpas survive under the harshest conditions known to mankind in the Cold Desert of North Sikkim. True nomads, they herd the last of the great Yaks and the indigenous breed of Tibetan Highland Sheep, helped by their Tibetan Ponies and now some motorized vehicles. Facing the enormous hurdles of border security issues and the gauntlet to be run southwards, coupled with the new pressures imposed by tourism in this vulnerable habitat, these noble and gentle nomads forge ahead maintaining the last bits of their unique culture and traditions. They have lost their loyal livestock guardians, their Dokhyis or Tibetan Mastiffs to the growing menace of mongrels now roaming their once-pristine grazing lands.

Donkung Nyima and Chingya were the oldest who took with them much of the vast wisdom of survival using age old scientific traditional knowledge. Their children now struggle to follow in their fathers’ footsteps. One in particular stands out. Kalden Singhi today is the only nomad, indeed the only person in whole of Sikkim who braving all odds, still maintains a herd of the famous ‘Luk’ or Bhyanglung, the Tibetan Highland Sheep found only in this unique habitat in the highest reaches of North Sikkim. Sikkimese recognize the vast medicinal properties associated with this sheep, which grazes on a host of medicinal plants in the rarified air of our Cold Desert.” Governor Shrinivas Patil today felicitated Mr Bhutia for being conferred with the award in a small function at Raj Bhawan.

The Governor congratulated him on getting recognition at the national level and hailed his passion to keep local traditions alive. He also assured to convey his concerns to the respective State and Central agencies so that his tradition and the breed of sheep is preserved in Sikkim, a press communiqué from Raj Bhawan informs.

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Late Ralli Maya Limboo Open Football Tournament

SUMMIT REPORT MANGAN, 25 SEPT: On the fourth day of the Late Ralli Maya Limboo Open Football Tournament being held at Tibuk Junior High

School in North Sikkim, a match was played between Wenchabo FC and Mangshila Degree College wherein Wenchabo FC emerged victorious by 4-0.

In the second match played today, Manul FC defeated Tibuk JHS in a tie breaker. The finals of the tournament will be held on 15 Oct on the occasion

of World Students’ Day. The winner of the tournament will be awarded with cash prize of Rs 50,000 and Rs 30,000 for the runner-up along with trophies.



Cleanliness drive at Bojoghari

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 25 SEPT: The local public of Bojoghari, under Penlong Block, along with Councillor, Panchayats and members of Joint Action Commit-

tee conducted a cleanliness drive at the Bojoghari crematorium area in Gangtok on 24 Sept. Phengla Taxi Drivers’ Association volunteered to cater refreshments and lunch to all the members

and public participating in the drive. Further, it has been decided that the members and the public will observe a plantation drive in the same area in the month of June next year.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
WATER SECURITY & P.H.E DEPARTMENT
NIRMAN BHAWAN
GANGTOK
TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Engineer, Water Security & Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Sikkim, Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok on behalf of Social Justice Empowerment & Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, in the name of Governor of Sikkim, invites e-Procurement Bids on two bid system (i.e. technical & Financial bid) in percentage Rate basis for the work as detailed below:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate tendered cost	Completion time
1	2	3	4
1.	Construction of Eklavya Model Residential School at Melli-Suntaley under Melli Constituency in South Sikkim	Rs.10,06,19,382.61	24 months.

Contractors of Class IA category enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department, Government of Sikkim who have experience in the construction works of Building structures and consider themselves capable to undertake execution of the project mentioned above may visit the Government of Sikkim tender portal, <https://sikkimtender.gov.in> w.e.f 23rd September, 2017. The work is to be completed within 24 months period under ideal conditions.

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER
WATER SECURITY & PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
NIRMAN BHAWAN, GANGTOK.

R.O. No. 341/ipr/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 25.9.2017.

Manilakhang at Theng inaugurated



WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 25 SEPT: The Manilakhang at Theng, under Chungthang GPU, was inaugurated by Minister of Forest cum MLA-Mangan, TW Lepcha, who attended the programme as chief guest, today. It has been funded by Teesta Urja Ltd and implemented by Bhavishya Bharat.

Rikzing Choeling Gumpa and Dzumsa-Lachung and Lachen. The programme featured the handing over of Theng Manilakhang to committee members by State Programme Manager of Bhavishya Bharat who informed that the Manilakhang has been constructed at a cost of Rs 11,50,000.

The chief guest, in his address, assured to fulfill the demands placed by the public of Chungthang GPU and urged them to prepare DPR so that it can be sanctioned after Panchayat elections. He also stated that the affected land owners and educated youth should submit their demands so that he can take the matter forward with Teesta Urja Ltd and Giri Ganga officials under the supervision of the state government. He further added that Teesta Stage IV has received green signal from

the state government and all other HEP development works has to be completed soon. He also informed the representatives of Lachen and Lachen Dzumsa that he has discussed with the state government the setting up of State Bank of Sikkim branches as per public demand and it has already been sanctioned. Highlighting the upcoming Panchayat election, he said, “People should follow party policies and guidelines for nominating Panchayat candidates. All should maintain a peaceful environment for the successful conduct of Panchayat election. Positive suggestions are invited.” The children of Theng also displayed a cultural programme. The event concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Tshering Lepcha.

Shooting for film on Swachha Bharat concludes at Singtam

YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 25 SEPT: The shooting of the film titled ‘Auta Kura’ on Swachha Bharat Mission concluded today. The film is directed and produced by Praja Pradhan. The film has MLA Gopal Barailly playing the role of a doctor along with Chunnal Ghimiray as the pres-

ident of an NGO and Kishore Dungmali Rai as Principal. They are accompanied and supported by local artists namely Aruna Tamang, Sarita Limboo, Kalpana Khatiwara, Manan, Limboop Ruban Rai, Kamlesh Prasad and Yamima Shanker. The film crew has Sahid Hussain as camera-

man, Manan Limboo for still photography, Robin Gurung for lights and Jasmin Chettri as the make-up artist. The 25-minute film has been shot at Singtam Senior Secondary School, auditorium hall of Singtam Nagar Panchayat and the office of the Block Development Officer in Namthang.

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SummitTIMES

Allow Students to Think

Open doors, don't spoon-feed

What Sikkim requires its schools to create are sensible citizens who can think for themselves, weigh options and make practical decisions. In these times of fake news and manufactured consent, an open mind willing to learn and analyse will be required to side-step the shackles of time-serving mediocrity. And we would all wish that for the next generation, won't we? The one place where clear thought can be honed into an instinct is the classroom – allow the education system to adopt genuinely learning-friendly practices and future generations will dazzle with their confidence and carry Sikkim forward. Don't do so, and a majority will remain hesitant and unsure, seeking out charlatans to form their beliefs, ideologies and pursuits.

If education was approached with the aim to open minds, not suppress inquisitiveness, the quality that everyone seeks to infuse into the system will become a reality. What the present system delivers, and this is a national malaise, is infectious indecisiveness. Students are not encouraged to enquire or seek clarifications and every effort is made to drill them into an army of monotony, their uniqueness and differences brushed over by soul-sapping rigour and mind-numbing routine. It is rare to find students with wide-ranging interests any more. In fact, the syllabus and pattern of education does not even allow children the space to develop any meaningful interests any more. Even when these interests are displayed at annual day functions they are mostly hobbies decided for them by the teachers or “talents” singled out by them for display. Student projects for interschool competitions are prepared by teachers and every intonation of a poetry recital for competition dictated to them. We just won't allow them to make their mistakes and learn from them or stand by the side in case assistance is required; we believe that we are serving them by hand-holding them through their years in school, college, university, and if we have the “contact”, even their employment.

More and more teachers are so scared that students will “fail” them that they end up spoon-feeding them. At the other extreme are teachers who see no hope in their students so they don't get involved at all. In both scenarios, the student meets the same fate – a confidence stamped down even before it could develop. A good way to start delivering Sikkim a more confident generation would be to allow students to discover more things by themselves and in doing so, they will also discover the confidence required to think and decide for themselves later in life.

The thin line between electoral credibility and political stability in Kenya

FAITH KIBORO
theconversation.com

After a Supreme Court ruling that invalidated Kenya's August 8 presidential election, the country now finds itself in a moral predicament between political stability and electoral credibility.

On one hand, the ruling that ordered a fresh presidential election was a win for the democratic process the world over. The court found that Kenya's Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission was in violation of constitutional procedure. It also found that the commission had violated election law and in so doing impugned the credibility of the election.

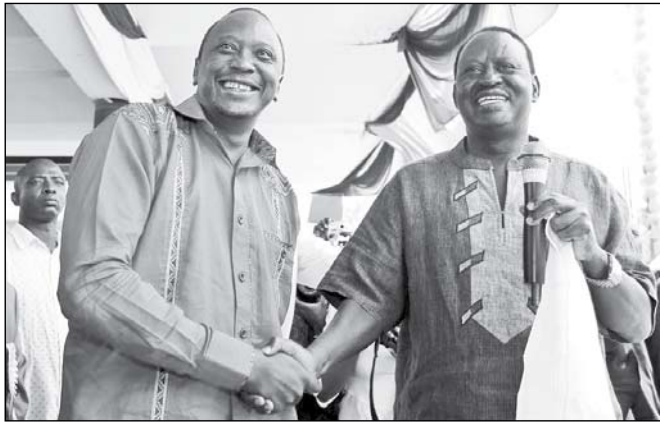
On the other hand, the court's decision has ushered the country into a period of political instability. Where it would have closed the chapter on the 2017 election cycle, it is now gearing up for a repeat poll slated for October 26.

Kenyans now find themselves in a tight spot made even more uncomfortable by demands being made by Raila Odinga and his National Super Alliance. The opposition is insisting that certain conditions, including re-constituting the election commission and reprinting key election documents, must be met before the October 26 election can be held.

The opposition's hard stance could result in a delayed election. This could also happen if OT-Morpho, the French biometrics firm which supplied the electoral commission with its electronic voting system fails to have a new system ready in time. It's indicated that it won't.

If indeed the key issue with the last election was that the voting system was not “simple and verifiable” as demanded by law, then any delays could be interpreted as being in the interests of a free, fair, credible and transparent election.

But for those who argue that no electoral process can be perfect, and that the August 8th poll was merely dogged by minor and inadvertent errors, then it begs the question: what is more important, electoral credibil-



President Uhuru Kenyatta and contender Raila Odinga in happier times. The two are now embroiled in a bitter political contest

ty or political stability?

ELECTORAL CREDIBILITY

The Supreme Court prioritised electoral credibility by invalidating the presidential election result on grounds that the election commission had committed illegalities and irregularities.

In doing so, it broke ranks with foreign election observer missions which had concluded that the presidential election was credible. By and large the Supreme Court ruling was a win for Kenyans and the rule of law. The court took the opportunity to audit the electoral process for transparency and to define the parameters of a credible election.

But its ruling raised questions of its own. For instance, the court ruled that the electoral commission didn't strictly adhere to election procedure as set out in law. It also held that there had been tampering with the commission's electronic voter management system. But it mandated the same commission to carry out a fresh election within 60 days.

Because the court gave no direction on the reconstitution of the commission, the petitioner Odinga and the respondent President Uhuru Kenyatta are now at an impasse over who should remain at the commission.

POLITICAL STABILITY

Those who disagree with the Supreme Court ruling see the court's decision as a subversion of the will of the Kenyan people. For them, the ruling was a destabilising force which didn't reflect the people's decision.

Giving credence to this argument is the fact that Kenya is viewed as the economic hub of East Africa. If the country does not return to normalcy as quickly as possible there will be a ripple effects, including economic, across the region.

On top of this, Kenya finds itself in a precarious situation because the executive is at odds with the judiciary. Kenyatta's Jubilee Party has the majority in both houses of Parliament. It is therefore within its capacity to limit the independence of the judiciary should it continue to feel aggrieved by the Supreme Court decision.

This could happen through a parliamentary referendum as per Article 256 of the Constitution and would involve members of parliament deciding to amend the constitution without a popular vote.

But by far the most pressing threat to Kenya's continued political stability is the possibility that the Supreme Court may have created a situation in which Kenya could remain in election mode ad infinitum. Nothing

stops a new petition from being filed should one of the candidates contest the next poll results.

If we look at Kenya's neighbour Rwanda we see an example of a head of state that's arguably prioritised a semblance of political stability over election credibility. Paul Kagame was recently reelected for the third time. Some argue that his rule has benefited Rwandans because the country has shown better socio-economic outcomes than most African countries.

But there tensions simmer and in the absence of electoral credibility, Rwanda's political stability may be skin deep.

RETHINKING KENYA'S ELECTION SYSTEM

The Kenya case raises questions about elections in Africa and whether they are a force for political stability or instability. I would posit that Kenya has made great strides to improve electoral credibility since its catastrophic 2007 election.

In conclusion, election credibility and political stability aren't mutually exclusive.

There should be a positive correlation between democracy and the improved well being of a state and its people. But in a country like Kenya with 40-plus tribes, the more populous tribes will always take advantage of their voting might, while the less populous ones struggle to compete. The system just does not work in their favour. It would seem therefore that they are locked out – not by choice but by circumstance.

So, does a majoritarian, “winner-takes-all” system suit an ethnically diverse society like Kenya's?

Perhaps, not. I'm persuaded that there needs to be a re-imagination of electoral democratic practices in Africa. Kenya should take recent events as an opportunity to clean up its institutions and electoral system. If it doesn't, future polls will continue to offer up a point of diversion between electoral credibility and a tenuous political stability.

[the writer is PhD Candidate in Political Economy, SMC University]

How Winnie the Pooh teaches us the importance of play

ELEANOR BYRNE
theconversation.com

He is famous for his love of honey, and being a bear of “little brain”. So Winnie the Pooh might be a little surprised to find himself the subject of a major new museum exhibition.

Winnie the Pooh: Exploring a Classic will explore the creative partnership of writer A.A. Milne and illustrator E.H. Shepard. Together they produced the much-loved whimsical stories featured in Winnie the Pooh (1926) and The House at Pooh Corner (1928).

The decision by the Victoria and Albert museum in London to hold the exhibition proves that the bear and his friends have become establishment figures. As children's literature expert Peter Hunt notes, they are “part of British culture, passing from generation to generation”.

One element of the incredible success of the Pooh books is that they reflect ideas about childhood that emerged in what is widely known as the “golden age” of children's literature, spanning from the mid-19th century to World War I.

The golden age view of a child's world was one that was close to nature – the child an innocent before the imposed horrors of school and education, and a figure of loss and nostalgia for the adult. This was very much the landscape of Winnie's home in Hundred Acre Wood.

As cultural theorist Stefan Herbrechter said: “Children are supposed to live in a world of their own, which is clearly defined and marked out as the space and time for play and in which toys are the main objects and controlling devices of socialisation.”

However, Milne's books are more poignant and have a slightly different flavour, than other examples, such as Wind in the Willows (of which Milne was a great fan, writing a stage adaptation). They came after World War I, when many illusions about innocence, the upper class, Englishness and patriotism had reached breaking point.

They contain traces of the experiences in the trenches that marked both Milne and Shepard, whose



illustrations of carnage at the Somme and Paschendaele were the subject of a separate recent exhibition.

The pastoral paradise of Hundred Acre Wood was one that Milne, who wrote passionately in favour of pacifism, conjured from his own childhood memories – back to a time before the terrifying intrusion and destruction of the war.

As such, Milne's invented world is also saturated with loss, poignantly embodied in the depressed donkey character of Eeyore, who sees no reasons to be cheerful. It is also haunted by the threat of leaving the safe space of the wood for places over the horizon that can't yet be seen. When Christopher Robin and Pooh organise an “expedition” to the North Pole, they find a

large pole in the woods and label it accordingly.

Toys, argues Herbrechter, are intimately concerned with storytelling. They are “like little story machines, narrative catalysts, objects that help make sense of the world”.

This idea is addressed with humour and complexity in Milne's writing, and beautifully rendered in Shepard's illustrations that always emphasise the “toyness” of the animals. It explains much about why these books have remained so loved.

POOH THE SATIRIST

Milne shows his real life son Christopher (whom Christopher Robin was named after) how playing

with his toys is a kind of writing, just as the playwright makes scenes for his characters. Before he wrote the Pooh stories, Milne worked as a playwright and as a satirist at Punch magazine.

We can detect the specific pleasures of introducing the craft of storytelling to his son from a man who made a living from writing. Milne's stories gently teach the young credulous reader, who reads literally, that they may be other more rewarding ways of interpreting the world, and what the difference is between what people say and what they mean.

Milne offers the pleasures of word play. The narrator explains that “Winnie the Pooh lived in the forest all by himself under the name of Sanders”, which meant “he had the name over the door in gold letters and lived under it”.

The non-literal reader is invited to find this funny. Similarly, if Piglet says anything “carelessly” he is probably concealing a very important wish. He will say he isn't afraid when he wants to appear brave.

Although the Pooh books were famously dismissed by fellow satirist Dorothy Parker, who wrote a dismayed and withering review of Winnie-the-Pooh, the success of Milne's works suggests that he managed to translate his love of making stories into a form that beguiled the child reader. Stories which showed how they too might make an imaginative life for themselves in the world of storytelling and understand how to master words and meanings.

In one notable scene Pooh finds himself stuck on the doorway to Rabbit's house, and must wait for a week until he is thin enough to be pulled free. Christopher Robin sits down with him and reads him a “sustaining book”, such as would help and comfort a Wedged Bear in Great Tightness.

The comforting presence and companionship of a good book is something all readers of Pooh take away with them. And it is perhaps this which explains the enduring popularity of these stories, which taught us how to read and write in our own way.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in English, Manchester Metropolitan University]

State level consultation meeting on decentralized planning

GANGTOK, 25 SEPT [IPR]: The state level consultation meeting to deliberate on the structures and systems to support decentralized planning and the way forward was held at Janta Bhawan today. The meeting was jointly organized by NITI Aayog, Government of India, in consonance with the Rural Management & Development Department Sikkim and PRIA [Participatory Research in Asia], New Delhi.

Additional Secretary, Rural Management & Development Department, Cheden Ladingpa, in her welcome address, gave a brief overview of the expectations from the meeting. She informed that the meeting was an attempt to deepen democracy and local self-governance by strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institution in the State. She put on record the role of PRIA as a crucial partner for development of PRI and capacity building of functionaries at all levels.

Director-PRIA, New Delhi, Manoj Rai, presented the findings from the Action Research carried out in the last one year in the State to understand the status of progress of local self governance in the State, along with the issues, challenges and recommendations. He explained why the research was carried out in Sikkim, the methodologies used and the findings.

Chairperson-Sikkim Co-operative Union, Ganesh Rai, in his brief address, maintained that the Panchayat in Sikkim is empowered to the core through a steady progress in the devolution of power. He added that with the initiation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan, the Panchayat is well aware of the resource envelope allocated for development of PRI. He however suggested that there is still room for improvement through strengthening of the District Planning Committees by encouraging participation of public and stakeholders in the planning processes.

President-PRIA, New Delhi, Dr Rajesh Tandon, facilitated an open discussion on the issues and ways forward, and particularly convergence of all line departments for integrated development of local self government. Officers of the State RM&DD and from line departments placed wide range of suggestions based on their experiences at the implementation level. They also referred to pertinent issues and points which could be incorporated in the Action Research document prepared by PRIA.

Mayor-Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Shakti Singh Choudhary, in his address, called for active convergence between the Panchayati Raj Institution and the Urban Local Self Government right from the planning process. He added that stringency in the allocation of 14th Finance Commission and the 4th FC has restricted the development process in the urban areas. He also pointed out

that the socio-economic and demographic burden of the urban areas is slowly shifting to the peri urban areas, which calls for streamlining the planning process. The floating population has to be considered while planning and the guidelines of the Finance Commissions should be made flexible and state specific to ease out the implementation process.

Secretary-RM&DD Sikkim, DR Nepal, in his address, thanked the officers from PRIA New Delhi for organizing and participating in this state level consultancy meeting and for their valued suggestions to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institution and Urban Local Self Government in Sikkim. He called for active participation, ownership and convergence from all line departments to ensure that their programmes are carried through participation of the PRIs and the urban local bodies. He stressed that PRIs and ULBs should not be looked at as entities confined to the RM&DD and the UD&HD and should be viewed as a collective responsibility of all the line departments.

Mr Nepal shed light on the development of PRI in the last five years

through capacity building and empowerment at various levels. He attributed the progress made by the PRI to the strong political will to devolve and decentralize power right upto the village level. He cited the numerous awards and accolades received by the PRI in Sikkim for aspects like transparency and accountability and overall performance. He added that the Directorate of Panchayati Raj is taking concrete steps to guide and train the Panchayats on documentation.

The Secretary welcomed the suggestion made by PRIA to have one nodal department, preferably the Planning & Development Department, to head the Decentralized Planning of the PRI & ULB.

In conclusion, he requested the PRIA to revisit the Action Research Document with the inputs and suggestions made in today's meeting and come out with a revised document and submit the same to NITI Aayog. The document would be vital and would have the potential to bring about a paradigm shift in local self governance in the State, he stated.

Dr Tandon, in his closing remarks, hailed

the coming together of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the officials of RM&DD on a common platform to discuss decentralized planning as something very unique to Sikkim and something exemplary. He observed that the process of local self governance in Sikkim is far more progressive and effective compared to other states. He stressed that participative planning can become a very important vehicle for development. He suggested creating a culture of planning the activities and subsequent review to assess the progress. Planning and review should go hand in hand to achieve the desired results, he explained. He called for making the planning process more participatory by involving all the stakeholders.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks address by Gautam Mazumdar from PRIA, Sikkim.

The event had the participation of Deputy Mayor-GMC, Lassey Doma Bhutia, senior officers of RM&DD, senior officers of Human Resource Development Department and Animal Husbandry Department, Professor of Political Science from Sikkim University, and officers from PRIA, New Delhi.



HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM GANGTOK

No.6594/Estt./HCS Dated : 25.09.2017 EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

- Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up 1(one) post of Court Manager on temporary basis in the Establishment of the High Court of Sikkim, on a consolidated monthly remuneration of Rs.20,000/-(Rupees Twenty Thousand) only.
2. A candidate for appointment to the above must be:-
- (a) a citizen of India;
- (b) not less than 18 years of age and not more than 30 years of age as on 26.10.2017. However, in the case of candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes, the upper age-limit relaxation shall be the same as prescribed by the State Government for entry into similar services for such candidates.
3. Candidates applying for the above post should possess a Degree or Advanced Diploma in General Management.
4. Candidates fulfilling the above conditions may apply for the post along with supporting documents, duly attested by a Gazetted Officer and 3(three) recent passport size photographs, to the undersigned. Applications received without supporting documents and photographs will be summarily rejected. **Candidates are also required to mention their proper address and mobile/contact number in their applications.**
5. The last date for receipt of applications is 26.10.2017.
6. Applications received after the last date shall not be entertained on any ground.
7. Candidates found eligible on preliminary scrutiny of the applications shall be issued admit cards for appearing in the interview. **The list of candidates found eligible to appear in the interview will be displayed on the Notice Board of the High Court of Sikkim and /or will be intimated through sms in their mobile numbers.**
8. Date(s) of issuance of Admit Cards to the eligible candidates will be intimated later on through s.m.s. and in the local dailies.
9. The Registry of the High Court of Sikkim reserves the right to accept or reject any application, with or without assigning any reason.
10. No separate calling letters will be issued to the eligible candidates for the interview.

Sd/- REGISTRAR GENERAL HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM GANGTOK.

INFORMATION

SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

Rededicating to ensure equal opportunities and equal justice to all for Legal Aid Services through the State, District and Taluk Legal Services Authority Committees.

Persons eligible to receive free legal services u/s 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1983	What is the nature of Legal services provided?	In what case legal aid cannot be availed?
Any person who is either:- ➤ A member of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe or ➤ A victim of trafficking in human beings or 'begger' as referred to in Article 23 or the Constitution; or ➤ A women or child;or ➤ A person with disability as defined in clause (i) of selection 2 of the persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995; or ➤ A victim of mass disaster, ethnic violence, Caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake, or industrial disaster or earthquake, or industrial workman; or ➤ In custody, including that of a protective home, juvenile home psychiatric hospital, psychiatric nursing home; or ➤ Having annual income upto Rs.1,00,000/-per annum only are entitled to free legal aid.	Legal Services include the rendering of service in the conducting of a case of legal proceeding before any Court/Authority/Tribunal and the giving of advice on a legal matter. These are provided as under:- ➤ Providing Advocates at State expenses; ➤ Paying Court fee on behalf of the eligible persons; ➤ Bearing expense regarding preparation of documents; ➤ Paying expenses for the summoning of witness; ➤ Drafting of legal documents, special leave petition etc. ➤ Paying other incidentals expenses connected with litigation.	➤ Defamation; ➤ Malicious prosecution; ➤ A person charged with contempt of court proceedings or perjury; ➤ Proceedings relating to any election; ➤ Proceedings in respect or economic offences and offences against Social laws, such as Protection of Civil Rights, 1955, and the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) ACT 1956; ➤ Where a person seeking legal aid:- (a) Is concerned with the proceeding only in a respect of official capacity or (b) Is concerned with a proceeding jointly with some other person or persons whose interests are identical with his and such person or any such persons is adequately represented in the proceedings or (c) Is a formal party to the proceedings, not materially concerned in the outcome of proceedings and his interest are not likely to be prejudiced on account of the absence of proper representation.

WHEN CAN LEGAL SERVICES BE WITHDRAWN?

- here aided person is possessed of sufficient means.
- Where the aided person obtains legal services by misrepresentation or fraud.
- Where the aided person does not cooperate with the Legal Services Authority/ Committee or with the Legal Services Advocate.
- Where the person engages a legal practitioner other than the one assigned by the Legal Services Authority/ Committee.
- In the event of death of a aided person except in the case of civil proceedings where the right or liability survives. Where the application for the legal services of the matter in question is found to be an abuse of the process of law or of legal service.

WHOM TO CONTACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES

For obtaining free legal services, a person may contact:

1)Office of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No: 03592 207752/207753. Email: Sikkim_slsa@live.com	2)District Legal Services Authority (East) District Courts Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 284462. Email: y.christopher@nic.in	3) District Legal Services Authority (North) Court of Civil Judge-cum Judicial Magistrate (North), Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 234501. Email:- dlsan-orth66@gmail.com	3)District Legal Services Authority (South) District Courts Complex, Namchi, South Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 264356. Email: dsc_namchi@gmail.com
1)Taluk Legal Services Committee (East) District Courts Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 284231. Email: y.christopher@nic.in	2)Taluk Legal Services Committee (North), Court of Civil Judge cum Judicial Magistrate (North), Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 234383/234524 Email: dlsan-orth66@gmail.com	4) Taluk Legal Services Committee (South), Court of Civil Judge cum Judicial Magistrate (South), Namchi South Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 263145 Email: dsc_namchi@gmail.com	5) Taluk Legal Services Committee (west), Court of Civil Judge cum Judicial Magistrate (west), Gyalshing, West Sikkim: Phone No. 03595 250779. Email: cj.jm.west@gmail.com
(5) Taluk Legal Services Committee Soreng, Sub Division West Sikkim cj.jmsorengofficial@gmail.com	Taluk Legal Services Committee Chungthang Sub Division, North Sikkim Email: dlsan-orth66@gmail.com		

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BENGALURU, SEP 25 (PTI): Newly-appointed hockey coach Sjoerd Marijne says the upcoming Asia Cup will be a fresh start for him as well as for the senior Indian men's team.

Marijne, who replaced legendary Roelant Oltmans recently, feels next month's Asia Cup, to be held in Dhaka, will give him a fair bit of idea about what needs to be done in the next 15 months, which will witness some high-profile tournaments like the Hockey World League Final, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and the World Cup.

"The Hero Asia Cup 2017 is a fresh start not just for me but also for the team who are mentally prepared to return home with the title," Marijne said.

"There is a difference between training sessions and playing tournament matches. While I am convinced with the efforts the team puts in training, the Hero Asia Cup is where I will get to see how the team reacts in match sit-



uations and where we are lacking and need immediate improvement," he added.

At the national camp that is underway in Sports Authority of India centre, it is usual

sight for the senior players like Sardar Singh, SV Sunil and skipper Manpreet Singh to stay back after every training session to give their feedback to Marijen, who has never

coached a senior men's international team prior to his current assignment.

Goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who is back in the camp, too is often seen having long an-

imated conversations with the coach about areas that require improvement ahead of the major event.

This exercise is a part of the team's new mantra -- "player-driven and coach-assisted process" where seniors are expected to give their critical analysis on specific areas of the game.

For the 43-year-old Dutchman, this process is of huge significance as the team enters an important cycle with major tournaments coming up in the next 15 months.

"I believe this process initiated by the Hockey India and the High Performance Director David John will help bring a better understanding on how the team wants to play.

"My first few days with the team has been about understanding each one of them. Of course, I already know all of them by name and I was aware of the immense talent and energy they bring as players," Marijne said.

"I am now focusing on

understanding how the team wants to play so I can set goals for the training sessions on where they want to improve," the coach said after officially taking charge of the team last week.

Under Marijne, there will be a lot of emphasis on the development of junior players.

"It takes time for the junior players to get to the level of the seniors and that requires good match exposure to reach that level. But what I like is the internal competition.

"The junior players are pushing the seniors for a spot in the team and I believe it will work for the best," said the Dutchman, who was the coach of the Indian women's team before taking up his current role.

India have been placed in Pool A in the Asia Cup and will open their campaign against Japan on October 11 before taking on hosts Bangladesh on October 13 followed mouth-watering clash against arch-rivals Pakistan on October 15.

Sports Ministry recommends shuttler Sindhu for Padma Bhushan

NEW DELHI, SEP 25 (PTI): Olympic silver medalist shuttler P V Sindhu has been recommended for the prestigious Padma Bhushan, country's third highest civilian award, by the Sports Ministry here on Monday.

"Yes, we have recommended Sindhu for Padma Bhushan," a Sports Ministry official told PTI.

A two-time bronze medalist at World Championship, Sindhu has been simply unstoppable ever since becoming the first Indian to win a silver at Rio Games last year.

The 22-year-old from Hyderabad clinched the 2016 China Open Super Series Premier, India Open Super Series, bagged a historic silver at the Glasgow World Championship last month before laying claim to her third Super Series title at Korea Open this month.

A three-time Macau Open champion, Sindhu also won the Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold in Lucknow this year.

Riding on a series of good performances, Sindhu achieved a career-best world ranking of number two in April for a brief period. Last week, she climbed back to her number two position, following a good week at Seoul.

In 2014, Sindhu won four bronze medals at the Commonwealth Games, Incheon Asian Games, Uber Cup and Asia Championship.

In March 2015, Sindhu was awarded India's fourth highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri.



SHSC and Sikkim Aakraman clinch victories in last match for premier league

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 25 SEPT:

Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club outplayed Pakyong United Football Club in its last match in the Play247 Sikkim Premier League 2017 here at Paljor Stadium today. Sikkim Himalayan SC registered a 3-0 win to secure three points.

Theo scored an early lead for Sikkim Himalayan SC in the 4th minute and immediately his teammate, Sudesh Subba, extended the lead to 2-0 in the

6th minute. The first half ended with the score-line of 2-0 in favour of Sikkim Himalayan SC.

In the second half, Ong Tshering Lepcha took the lead of Sikkim Himalayan SC to 3-0 in the 67th minute. With no further goals in the match, Sikkim Himalayan SC secured three points from this 3-0 win. Sikkim Himalayan SC has finished the league as runners-up with 16 points from 5 wins, 1 loss and 1 draw.

Playing its last match in the

league today, Sikkim Aakraman Football Club humbled Dzongri Football Club 5-2.

In the 13th minute, Devashish Rai scored the lead for Sikkim Aakraman FC and his teammate, Ashish Chettri, took the lead of the team to 2-0 in the 32nd minute. In return, Bikash Lama scored a goal for Dzongri FC in the 39th minute to finish the first half with 2-1 score-line.

In the 71st minute, Devashish Rai completed his brace and

another goal for Sikkim Aakraman FC by Tenzing Tshelpe in the 75th minute took the lead of the team to 4-1. Dzongri FC tried to return in the match with the help of a goal by C John in the 79th minute but a goal by Shahensha Ansari in the 81st minute sealed the 5-2 victory for Sikkim Aakraman FC. The defending champion, Sikkim Aakraman FC has managed to secure only 10 points from 3 wins, 3 losses and 1 draw in the league.



FC Pune City appoints Ranko Popovic as new head coach

PUNE, SEP 25 (PTI): Indian Super League (ISL) side FC Pune City today roped in Ranko Popovic as their new head coach for the 2017-18 season.

Popovic began his managerial career in 2001 with Austrian club TuS FC Arnfels followed by a stint with another Austrian club FC Pachern from 2004-2006.

In 2006, he took the reins of Sanfrecce Hiroshima in the J1 league for a year before going back to his homeland, coaching FC Spartak Subotica in the Serbian SuperLiga until 2009.

Popovic returned to Japan managing Oita Trinita, FC Machida Zelvia, FC Tokyo eventually climbing the progress ladder to manage Cerezo Osaka, one of the strongest teams in Japanese league football.

It was during his managerial stint when the club signed Uruguayan star Diego Forlan. During his time in Japan,

he promoted several young players who went on to receive debut call-ups for the national team.

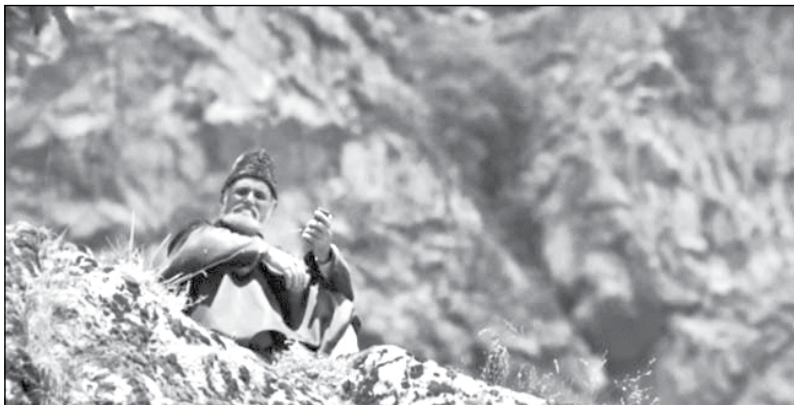
In 2014-15, he went to Spain to coach Segunda Division club Real Zaragoza where he led the team to finals of the La Liga play-offs.

A season later, he joined Thai Premier League Champions Buriram United FC where he won the Thai League Cup and Mekong Club Championship.

Commenting on the appointment, CEO of FC Pune City, Gaurav Modwel said: "In Ranko, we have a manager with distinguished coaching career spanning 15 years.

"His successful stints in different leagues vastly differing in cultural environment and football ecosystem, especially in Asia, makes him very relevant for a club like ours. Ranko is multilingual and believes strongly in developing youth players.

Tourism dept's short film on Kashmir takes social media by storm



SRINAGAR, SEP 25 (PTI): Within a few hours of its release, a promotional film by Tourism Department in Kashmir, to counter the negative perception about the Valley, has taken the social media by a storm.

The film has drawn over 1.6 million views in less than 48 hours after its release.

The five-minute film titled 'Warmest Place on Earth' has also been shared by Bollywood celebrities like Karan Johar, Imtiaz Ali and Alia Bhatt.

The lyrics of the background song in the film have been written by 2009 UPSC topper Shah Faesal.

The video, released by Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Satur-

day, has drawn more than 1.6 million views on the official page of the state's tourism department alone in less than 48 hours.

It has also been watched by about 40,000 people on YouTube, while also shared widely on Twitter and Instagram.

Interestingly, Mufti also took to Twitter to share the short film in her first tweet ever.

The new campaign is drawing huge response from people across various social media platforms.

"It was much needed, should have come before but better late than never," Director Tourism Kashmir, Mehmood Shah told PTI, adding there has been an enormous response to

the short film ever since its release.

Let us hope it helps in attracting tourists to the Valley, he said.

Many celebrities have joined the tourism department in promoting the destination on social media.

Filmmaker Karan Johar shared the film on Twitter writing "The beauty and warmth of Kashmir"

Actress Alia Bhatt said the film truly captures the essence of Kashmir. "This short film truly captures the essence of Kashmir!!! The warmest place on earth! Please watch!" she tweeted.

Netizens appreciated the short film, with several of them narrating their own experiences of visiting Kashmir.

Seventh man arrested over terror attack on London Tube

LONDON, SEP 25 [PTI]: A seventh man was today arrested by British Police's counter-terrorism officers in connection with the bomb attack on a London underground train that injured 30 people earlier this month.

The 20-year old man was arrested at an address in Cardiff, Wales, early this morning under Section 41 of the UK s Terrorism Act.

He has been taken to a south London police station where he remains in custody, Scotland Yard said in a statement.

The arrests were carried out by officers from the Metropolitan Police's Counter-Terrorism Command, supported by colleagues from the Welsh Extremism and Counter Terrorism Unit [WECTU] and South Wales Police.

It was Britain's fifth major militant attack so far this year.

"So far, seven people have been arrested as part of the investigation being carried out by the Met s Counter-Terrorism Command; one person has been charged in relation to the attack, three people remain in police custody and three people have been released with no further action, the Met Police said.

Ahmed Hassan, believed to be of Middle Eastern origin, was the first suspect to be formally named by Scotland Yard last week as officers produced him before Westminster Magistrates Court in London on Friday.

The 18-year-old, arrested a day after the London Tube bombing on September 15, was remanded in custody and is due to appear at the Old Bailey court in London on October 13.

The police had also revealed the explosive used by the prime suspect in the terror attack as triacetone triperoxide [TATP], similar to ingredients used in some of the previous terror attacks in Europe such Paris in November 2015.

Myanmar looks for more Hindu corpses as mass grave unearthed

YANGON [MYANMAR], SEP 25 [AFP]: Myanmar troops today searched for dozens of missing Hindu villagers feared dead after the discovery of a nearby mass grave of 28 corpses in Rakhine state, evidence of what the army says is a massacre by Rohingya Muslim militants.

Northern Rakhine was plunged into crisis after Rohingya militants raided police posts last month, unleashing an army crackdown that has displaced hundreds of thousands of civilians.

The vast majority -- more than 430,000 -- are Rohingya Muslims who fled across the border to Bangladesh from a military campaign the UN says likely amounts to ethnic cleansing.

But tens of thousands of ethnic Rakhine Buddhists, and the region's small population of Hin-



dus, have also been internally displaced, saying they were attacked by Rohingya militants.

Yesterday, Myanmar's army said it had discovered two mud pits filled with 28 Hindu corpses, including women and children, outside a vil-

lage in northern Rakhine.

Hindu villagers from the area told AFP last week Rohingya militants stormed into their communities on August 25, killing many and taking others into the forest.

"The security troops continue searching for

remaining Hindu people around the places of the pits," said a statement posted on army chief Min Aung Hlaing's Facebook page.

Displaced Hindus from the area have shown AFP a list of 102 people from two villages

who relatives and community leaders fear are dead.

A police officer in northern Rakhine said authorities are trying to verify that figure as they look for more bodies.

"We will continue searching together with

villagers," the officer told AFP, requesting anonymity.

With the government blocking access to the conflict zone, it is difficult to verify the maelstrom of accusations.

But the army has steadfastly blamed the Rohingya -- a stateless Muslim minority it has been trying to eject from Myanmar for years.

The focal point of the unrest, northern Rakhine's Maungdaw district, was once home to a fragile mosaic of ethnic groups, dominated by the Rohingya.

Vast swathes of the border region are now completely emptied of Muslims residents, with nearly 40 percent of Rohingya villages abandoned in under a month.

Yesterday the UN's High Commissioner for Refugees called the influx of Rohingya into Bangladesh the "fastest

and most urgent refugee emergency in the world".

The vast needs of the hungry, wounded and traumatised Rohingya swarming into Bangladesh have created a separate humanitarian crisis on that side of the border.

But there is little sympathy for the Muslim minority inside Myanmar, where many in the Buddhist majority loathe the group and insist they are foreign invaders.

The Rohingya has faced decades of persecution from a Buddhist nationalist army and discrimination under laws that stripped them of citizenship and restrict their movements.

Analysts say that matrix of repression helped give rise to the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army [ARSA], the rag-tag group who plunged the region into crisis with its August 25 attacks.

Japan's Abe triggers snap election amid N Korea crisis

TOKYO, SEP 25 [AFP]: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe today called a snap election, seeking a fresh term at the helm of the world's third-largest economy as tensions with nearby North Korea reach fever-pitch.

Abe hopes to capitalise on a weak and fractured opposition to sweep back into power, as polls show him regaining ground after a series of scandals.

"I will dissolve the House of Representatives on the 28th" of September, Abe told reporters, a precursor to a general election.

The prime minister did not give a date for the election but it will reportedly be on October 22.

Surveys suggest voters approve of the hardline stance taken by the nationalist Abe on North Korea, which fired two missiles over the country in the space of a month and has threatened to "sink" Japan.

According to a weekend poll in business daily Nikkei, 44 per cent of voters plan to vote for Abe's conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), while only eight per cent favoured the main opposition Democratic Party.

Nevertheless, one fifth of those polled said they were still undecided, potentially opening the door for gains by a new party formed by allies of the popular mayor of Tokyo Yuriko Koike, which will field dozens of candidates.

Koike's Tomin First no Kai (Tokyo Residents First) party humiliated Abe and the LDP in local elections in July, but analysts say the new grouping has not had time to lay a national foundation to mount a serious challenge to the prime minister.

In an apparent bid to steal Abe's limelight, Koike went before the cameras just



hours before his announcement to announce she was creating a national political party called "Kibo no To" (Party of Hope).

"Japan is facing a difficult time considering the situation in North Korea. Economically, the world is making a big move while Japan's presence is gradually declining," said Koike.

"Can we continue letting (the existing lawmakers) handle politics?"

But Jeff Kingston, director of Asian Studies at Temple University in Japan, said there was "no opposition worthy of the name in Japan".

"The LDP is a giant among dwarves. It would take a major scandal to derail the Abe express," said the analyst.

The winner of the expected snap election

faces a daunting in-tray of challenges ranging from an unprecedented crisis with North Korea to reviving the once world-beating Japanese economy.

In addition to threats to destroy Japan, Pyongyang has fired two missiles over the northern island of Hokkaido in the space of less than a month.

However, the North Korea crisis appears to have given the hawkish Abe a welcome boost in the polls following a series of scandals, including allegations he improperly favoured a friend in a business deal.

Despite a recent run of growth, the election winner will also have to contend with a sluggish economy, as the heavily indebted country grapples with a low birth rate and a shrinking labour force.



Obama personally warned Zuckerberg over fake news report

WASHINGTON, SEPT 25 [AFP]: Former US President Barack Obama personally urged Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg to counter the rise of fake news on the social network during a meeting held shortly after last year's election, the Washington Post reported.

The encounter reportedly took place on the sidelines of a meeting of global leaders in Lima, Peru on November 19, two months before Trump's inauguration and days after Zuckerberg had dismissed as "crazy" the idea that misleading stories driven by Russian operatives had made a major impact on

the outcome of the vote.

"Zuckerberg acknowledged the problem posed by fake news.

But he told Obama that those messages weren't widespread on Facebook and that there was no easy remedy," the newspaper said, quoting people it said had knowledge of the exchange.

The report comes days after Facebook announced it would be handing over to Congress advertisements it discovered were bought by Russia-linked fake accounts, aimed at inflaming political tensions ahead of and following the election.

The Kremlin has denied any involvement.

Evacuation plan put in place for border residents in JK

JAMMU, SEPT 25 [PTI]: An evacuation plan has been put in place to ensure safety of border inhabitants in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir in view of frequent shelling and firing by Pakistan.

The district administration has kept ready relief camps at identified locations where families would be provided safe accommodation and basic amenities.

The arrangements have been made in the backdrop of recent shelling incidents in R S Pura, Samba and Hiranagar sectors.

"An emergency response center has been established by the district administration where representatives of various departments have been deputed for immediate response, Deputy Commissioner Kathua Ramesh Kumar said.

Kumar, who visited border villages Bobiya, Londi, Chandra Chack,



Pansar and took stock of preparedness for dealing with migration of residents in view of recent cross border shelling incidents, said that an evacuation plan has been put in place to ensure safety of border inhabitants.

He assured border residents that the district administration would provide transportation, shelter, food and other amenities if the need arises.

Camp commanders and camp officers have been appointed for overseeing arrangements.

A group of over 150 people had recently stayed for a day in one of the camps due to shelling incidents but returned to their home as the shelling stopped.

LAND FOR SALE:
A land at Devidanga in Siliguri, measuring 04 khattas (2,880 square feet), with fenced boundaries and carpeted road, suitable for construction is up for sale. Expected price: 28 lakh (negotiable). Interested parties please contact: **9800681840** or **9609027839**.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR FLAMINGO EVENING
Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards
Draw No:9 DrawDate on:25/09/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 99J 53286
(Including Super Prize Amt)
2nd Prize Rs.9494/- 53286 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-
00206 18561 30927 31334 42811
48711 52325 53669 62418 96637
4th Prize Rs.500/- 2045 2781 4498 6129 6157 8557 8602 8876 9114 9859
5th Prize Rs.250/- 0562 2094 2968 3629 4296 4503 4689 4873 6153 7136
6th Prize Rs.120/-
0004 0061 0069 0090 0301 0307 0351 0395 0433 0570
0809 1051 1052 1302 1557 1583 1606 1643 1808 1831
1949 1965 2011 2101 2315 2450 2451 2535 2671 2707
2827 2872 2975 3291 3396 3469 3578 3640 3766 3782
3809 3849 3883 4069 4205 4221 4337 4481 4596 4645
4676 4726 4796 5011 5104 5154 5241 5278 5308 5339
5476 5587 5628 5749 6311 6536 6585 6683 6745 7116
7133 7261 7295 7319 7335 7363 7368 7705 7782 8047
8084 8126 8155 8243 8358 8371 8455 8464 8494 8556
8858 8884 8924 9062 9115 9175 9199 9263 9732 9796

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SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR PRECIOUS MORNING
Draw No:4 DrawDate on:25/09/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 87J 69550
(Including Super Prize Amt)
2nd Prize Rs.9494/- 69550 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-
12228 21334 34179 67327 78805
82478 88898 95999 98196 99531
4th Prize Rs.500/- 0352 0900 2320 3483 4856 5171 5276 6903 7264 7948
5th Prize Rs.250/- 0327 1049 2121 2845 3121 3988 5809 5946 7172 9269
6th Prize Rs.120/-
0191 0200 0203 0219 0296 0486 0741 0845 1059 1266
1480 1497 1564 1693 1829 1835 1919 2020 2021 2060
2265 2343 2870 2890 3049 3756 3794 3797 3829 3902
4164 4190 4405 4678 4713 4799 4936 5027 5214 5323
5452 5552 5564 5610 5636 5652 5732 5781 5834 5983
6144 6178 6416 6443 6462 6525 6526 6687 6708 6755
6851 6863 6912 6958 6970 7020 7096 7202 7295 7381
7455 7471 7511 7550 7560 7717 7724 7953 7988 8086
8113 8276 8408 8515 8679 8826 8906 8984 9005 9020
9068 9125 9283 9476 9681 9746 9758 9775 9813 9845

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THE A-LIST GLAM! Shah Rukh Khan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan attend the Vogue Women of the Year Awards 2017 at Grand Hyatt Hotel. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan was honoured with the Vogue Influencer of The Decade award while SRK was presented with the Vogue Entertainer of the Decade award.

VOGUE WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS!

This year it's Vogue India's 10th anniversary and the leading magazine celebrated the event by holding the Women of The Year Awards. This is the first Women of The Year Awards. Needless to say, it has the creme de la creme of the entertainment and social circuit in attendance. Right from Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Gauri Khan, Karan Johar, Kriti Sanon, Shweta Bachchan Nanda, Sonam Kapoor, Anushka Sharma, Anil Kapoor, Arjun Kapoor, Nita Ambani and Isha Ambani to Kiran Rao were present at the event.

While Aishwarya Rai Bachchan was honoured with the Vogue Influencer of The Decade award, Shah Rukh Khan was presented the Vogue Entertainer of the Decade award. 'Twinkle Khanna won the Vogue Opinion Maker of the Year award and filmmaker Karan Johar received the Vogue Man of the Year award.

Anushka Sharma was a big winner of the night as she got Vogue and BMW Game Changer of The Year award. Sonam Kapoor once again walked away with an award for her fashion sense. As Sonam received the Vogue and IWC Fashion Icon of The Year award, she shared her happiness on her Instagram account. She also thanked her sister Rhea Kapoor, who often turns stylist for Sonam. The actor walked along with the image of the trophy, "Thank you @rheakapoor every fashion award I win is because you dress



me with such selflessness and love! I love you.. thank you @vogueindia ! Happy 10 years!."

The award was also special as father Anil Kapoor presented her the award. "Thanks daddy for presenting the award to me!

You inspire me everyday to be the best possible version of myself. @anilskapoor you're the best! @vogueindia," wrote Sonam.

MAKE WAY FOR WARRIOR

KING SHAHID KAPOOR AS MAHARAWAL RATAN SINGH!

Last week, Sanjay Leela Bhansali revealed the first look of Deepika Padukone as Rani Padmavati on the first day of Navratri. He admitted that he couldn't have found a better day to reveal her look. She plays the central character. The actress looked effortlessly regal in her exquisite attire. Next up was the wait to see how Shahid Kapoor and

Ranveer Singh's look would turn out to be. Honestly, after watching Deepika, we were dying to see the avatars of the two men in the film. And finally, we have one of them revealing their look. Shahid Kapoor as Maharawal Ratan Singh is simply majestic.

This is the first Shahid is working in a period drama and he looks so fetching as a King. Rawal Ratan Singh was Padmavati's dotting husband who fought the vicious Alauddin Khilji to save his wife's vanity. Shahid looks so beseeching as the King that we can't take our eyes off him.

'F--- YOU!': GEORGE CLOONEY HITS BACK AT TRUMP'S CRITICISM OF 'HOLLYWOOD ELITES'



what's TRENDING

The US actor dismissed President Trump's frequent rants about Hollywood stars, including Meryl Streep, who criticised his presidency and election campaign.

In an interview promoting new movie Suburbicon, with the Daily Beast, he said: "I grew up in Kentucky. I sold insurance door-to-door. I sold ladies' shoes. I worked at an all-night liquor store.

"So this idea that I'm somehow the "Hollywood elite" and this guy who takes a s*** in a gold toilet is somehow the man of the people is laughable."

Taking a further swipe at the former businessman's lavish lifestyle, the 56-year-old added: "Who lives in a bigger bubble? He lives in a gold tower.

"I just look at it and I laugh when I see him say 'Hollywood elite'."

"Hollywood elite? I don't have a star on Hollywood Boulevard, Donald Trump has a star on Hollywood Boulevard! F*** you!"

The Tomorrowland star also hit out at Trump's handling of riots in Charlottesville.

He said: "If I was President of the United States and David Duke is praising me and the white nationalists were talking about how I was on their side, the first thing I would do is I would come out and say 'f*** these guys. Anyone who believes this is not in my camp, I don't believe it, and I completely reject it'."

"It's the simplest thing in

the world in politics: 'Nazis bad.' It really doesn't get any easier than that."

The comments came as Trump called on fans to

boycott NFL games amid claims players who kneel during the national anthem "disrespecting our flag and country."



26TH SEPTEMBER WORLD HISTORY

1777: The British army launched a major offensive during the American Revolution, capturing Philadelphia.

1815: Russia, Prussia and Austria signed a Holy Alliance. "Justice, charity and peace" were to be the precepts that guided the Holy Alliance as envisioned by Czar Alexander I of Russia.

1887: Barnes Wallis, British aeronautical engineer, was born. He invented the "Bouncing Bombs" that destroyed German dams during World War II.

1938: Hitler issued his ultimatum to Czech government, demanding

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

Sudetenland.

1950: Indonesia was admitted to the UN.

INDIAN HISTORY

1767: Battle between Hyder Ali and British troops at Trinomali.

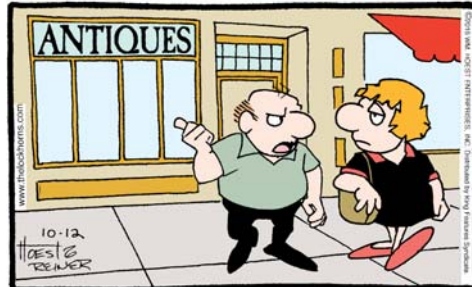
1820: Ishwar Chandra Vidhyasagar was born into a middle class Bengali family in Midnapore district of Bengal.

1919: Rotary Club's first Indian meeting was held.

1932: Mahatma Gandhi broke his fast after 6 days and 5 hours after the approval of British Government for a compromise plan on the privileges of Indian Dalits in legislative elections.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



ARIES: You're often preoccupied by other people's lives. Your devotion to others will be appreciated today, Aries. For example, in the family circle, you may have to bandage everyone's little physical or psychological wounds. Don't neglect your energy needs. As you're aware, you need all the strength you can muster.

TAURUS: You may have some trouble getting out of bed today due to a desire to let the world carry on without your help for a while. Taurus, you can yield to that lazy urge today, for the aspects are likely to assist you in fulfilling your goals. Take advantage of some time off to rest or perhaps tidy your nest. You

might want to make that bed, too. **GEMINI:** The day ahead should be excellent, Gemini. You tend to work with an energy unparalleled by the other signs, and today you reap some rewards for your diligence. These days it's rare to find someone as conscientious as you, and you deserve recognition. Nevertheless, you still have many hills left to climb, as you well know! **CANCER:** You've been lucky for the last two months, there's no doubt about it. Lately it seems like your luck is changing. It's hard to pinpoint, but something isn't quite right in your daily life. At the moment, the planets are imparting some lessons that could be difficult

to bear, Cancer. Get through this transition with as little pain as possible. The lessons you learn will prove worthwhile. **LEO:** This is going to be a good time to get a global view of things, Leo. Take full advantage of the current planetary aspects by reading some books on spirituality or travel. If you desire to go on a long voyage, don't be surprised if your job sends you on an adventure, even if it isn't part of your job routine. Don't hesitate! Go breathe in some fresh air in a new place! **VIRGO:** It's true that having to earn a living isn't always the most agreeable thing in life, Virgo. However, we all know that it's

necessary. Have you thought about adding more balance to your life? All work and no play makes anyone a dull person. This would be a good day to examine your daily life and add some new elements. Yes, Virgo, it's time for you to choose a hobby. **LIBRA:** If you've had some problems in your sentimental life during the last few months, Libra, they're probably behind you now. It's a sure bet that you've learned something. You've been served the same dish for years and now it seems you've finally had enough! Know that from now on you'll be better about not falling into the same old traps.

SCORPIO: If you aren't the most self-assured person in the world, Scorpio, take a look around and see all that you've done. True, you still have many unattained dreams, but look at how many you've already realized. A lack of confidence in your abilities is holding you back. There's a moment for everyone when a leap of faith is required. It's time for you to jump. **SAGITTARIUS:** You may meet some new people in the next few days, Sagittarius. Someone in your professional life may help you launch some unusual experiments that have never been done before. Or someone may want to create a new service or get into a complete-

ly new market. You will be the one they seek to explore these exciting new avenues! **CAPRICORN:** It seems as though you're trying to live down some criticism, Capricorn. For weeks you've taken special care to look over your work to catch any mistakes. Perhaps the number of errors you found surprised you. Criticism from others stung even more as a result, because you could see that it had some merit. Today you'll get some relief. In fact, you may receive some compliments. **AQUARIUS:** Smile, Aquarius, because the forecast is bright today. You'll be in a curious mood,

just right for new encounters. Perhaps this will add a little spice and enjoyment to your love life. There's a wide spectrum of experiences awaiting you, ready to offer fulfillment. A spirit of adventure prevails. You should take advantage of it! **PISCES:** The Rolling Stones said it best, "I can't get no satisfaction," and that's how you've been feeling lately, Pisces. Indeed, looking back on your recent activities, you may feel a bit like a character in Wonderland - running as fast as you can just to stay in the same place. The day ahead will provide some relief and open up new, more fulfilling opportunities.