

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Mohun Bagan lifts Governor's Gold Cup for record tenth time

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 15 OCT:

Kolkata giants, Mohun Bagan AC, lifted the 37th All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament 2017 here at Paljor Stadium today. Mohun Bagan has now clinched the prestigious trophy for a record tenth time.

In a neck-to-neck final match played on Sunday, Mohun Bagan defeated Calcutta Customs by a solitary goal.

Mohun Bagan striker Ghanefo Anshumana Kramah scored the winning goal in the seventh minute itself.

The finals had Chief Minister Pawan Chamling present as the chief guest accompanied by Public Works Minister GM Gurung and Lok Sabha MP, PD Rai as guests of honour.

The final match was played to an almost sold-out stadium and Mohun Bagan supporters cheered lustily till the end of the match. Both teams played

their own attacking games from the start but the only conversion was in the seventh minute.

Calcutta Customs played an outstanding game throughout the final match but were not able to net any goals. Mohun Bagan also got a few more opportunities to extend their lead but the Calcutta Customs goal-keeper and defence line up did their job very well.

With the final whistle by the referee, Mohun Bagan

lifted the champions' trophy for the tenth time with a very hard-fought 1-0 win.

Interestingly, Mohun Bagan was playing in the tournament after a gap of 14 years.

Ghanefo Anshumana Kramah was adjudged the Best Player of the final match while Tibetan NSA goalkeeper, Tenzing Samdup was awarded as the Most Promising Goalkeeper of the Tournament.

The tournament was organised by Sikkim Football As-

sociation. Twelve teams from different parts of India and Nepal had participated in the prestigious tournament.

Also on the occasion today, SFA felicitated the CM on his recent One World Award.

SFA also presented a post-humous felicitation to the late Crown Prince of Sikkim Tenzing Namgyal and Late DB Chettri with a Certificate of Appreciation for their love of football and contributions towards the sport.

SDF occupies over 50% panchayat wards unopposed

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 OCT:

The Sikkim Democratic Front has already secured slightly more than 50% of the panchayat wards even before the election campaign has begun in earnest. The Opposition parties and independents have left the field wide open for the ruling party at the ward level and are making a play, to some extent, at the Zilla level. The two tier Panchayat elections will be held on 03 November next month.

As per the data available, out of the 1,038 Gram Panchayat wards in Sikkim, SDF candidates have been elected unopposed to 530 seats while the remaining 506 wards

will see a contest. The detailed breakup has not yet been evaluated.

For the Zilla Territorial Constituencies, SDF has managed to get only a quarter of the total seats unopposed. The ruling party has secured 29 seats unopposed from 113 Territorial Zilla Panchayats across the state.

The figures for this year are markedly better than the statistics from the last Panchayat elections held in 2012 when 80 percent of total gram and Zilla Panchayats were elected unopposed in favour of SDF. After the final count for the seats that did go to poll, only 6 percent of the seats went to Independents.

Fire at Patlebas, houses of Gurung loyalists destroyed

KOLKATA/DARJEELING, OCT 15 (PTI): A major fire broke out this morning in fugitive GJM chief Bimal Gurung's village at Patlebas in the restive Darjeeling hills, destroying several houses, many of which belonged to his loyalists, police said.

The cause of the fire or casualties due to it are yet to be ascertained and investigations are on.

Of the houses that were gutted, one belonged to Dinesh Theeng, believed to be a close associate of Gurung.

The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) chief's house escaped the fire but was vandalised, locals said.

The police claimed that the houses were set ablaze by Gurung's supporters to wipe out evidence.

The Gurung supporters, on the other hand, claimed it was the handiwork of the GJM faction loyal to Binay Tamang.

Restrictions have been imposed on entry to the village, a Gurung stronghold, and police are conducting raids in

the area.

Gurung has been on the run since August after the West Bengal government lodged cases against him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for his alleged involvement in several bomb blasts in Darjeeling and adjoining areas.

Additional Director General of Police Siddh Nath Gupta said the state police had asked its Sikkim counterpart to intimate them about anyone entering the north-eastern state from Bengal with injuries.

A West Bengal police sub-inspector was shot dead and four policemen were injured in a gun battle between the police and Gurung's supporters near Patlebas on Friday. A few GJM supporters too received injuries in the firing.

The police had gone to the area looking for Gurung, following specific information that the GJM supremo and those loyal to him were hiding there.

Gorkha impasse: Tamang urges WB gov to initiate tripartite talks

KOLKATA, OCT 15 (PTI): Expelled GJM leader and chairman of Board of Administrators (BoA) for Darjeeling, Binay Tamang today met West Bengal Governor K N Tripathi, and requested him to talk to the Centre to initiate tripartite talks to solve the impasse.

He also apprised the governor of recovery of a large cache of arms and ammunition on Friday.

"We apprised the governor about the situation in Darjeeling, recovery of arms and the slow restoration of peace there," Tamang told newsmen after the meeting at the Rajbhavan.



He said today's meeting with Tripathi was a "courtesy call" after he was made the chairman of the BoA by the West Bengal government.

Tamang said he had urged the governor to

apprise the situation to the Centre.

"We have told him that we are willing to talk to the Centre on the Darjeeling issue. The Centre must intervene as soon as possible and

call us for talks on all the pending issues, including Gorkhaland.

"We have also apprised the governor that since 2015 there had been no tripartite talks involving the GTA," he

added.

Describing the location of Darjeeling as "strategic" owing to its international borders with Nepal and Bhutan, Tamang said discussions should be held quickly keeping in mind the sensitivity of the place.

On the fire incident at Patlebas village in the early hours of the day, he demanded the police conduct a proper investigation and that no innocent persons be arrested.

Tamang along with party colleague and BoA vice chairman Anit Thapa had met Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on

Friday.

The leaders along with three GJM MLAs will meet her again at the state secretariat tomorrow.

"On Friday, we had met her (Banerjee) as representatives of GTA, not on behalf of the party (GJM). Tomorrow we will go and meet the CM as representatives of the GJM," he said.

The Mamata Banerjee government had last month formed a nine-member board of administrators instead of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) to look into the development works in the Darjeeling and Kalimpong hills.

Maya Megh enthralls theatre lovers in Gangtok



NITESH PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 15 OCT:

National School of Drama, Sikkim, staged a Nepali play, 'Maya Megh', directed by Tripurari Sharma at Manan Kendra here on 14 and 15 Oct.

Performed by the repertory artistes of Sikkim Theater Training Center (National School of Drama) the play was well received by the theater enthusiasts. The music has been composed by the critically-acclaimed theater and movie actor, Raghubir Yadav.

The play features many talents from Sikkim, including students of NSD, Sikkim Theatre Training Centre.

Having a touch of myth with an amalgamation of a slice of life story, the play revolves around the life of an ordinary couple who bicker incessantly but that changes following a surprise encounter with messengers of the God of death, Yama who inform her that she now has just twenty four hours of life left.

After the husband learns about the truth, he gradually realizes how precious his wife is to him.

The National School of Drama has since its arrival in Sikkim, produced many noteworthy and acclaimed plays

which have not only garnered critical acclaim but has also been successfully staged across the world.

"We always enjoy play by NSD which has brought creativity in the art of storytelling," said a member in the audience, Ranjana Khatri.

With haunting music and a master class director at the helm, the play was a delightful watch.

In the director's note, Professor Tripurari Sharma said, "It was a rare opportunity to explore the tale with the actors of the Repertory Company of Sikkim. Each moment was full of spirit

and delight."

The wide appreciation of the play by the audience reflects a slow change in the perception of theatre lovers in the State.

"With each passing day, more talents emerge from this institution. Having watched those performances few years ago and now when I see them, I can only see growth," said Sushmita Tamang, media personnel.

Center Director, Bipin Kumar informed that the artistes from Sikkim NSD are performing plays all across the country.

Election officials to brief panchayat candidates on poll processes

GYALSHING, 15 OCT [IPR]: Office of the Returning Officer, West under the State Election Commission has announced that the election officials of the district will be conducting briefing meetings with the contesting candidates of different Wards from 16 Oct.

The meeting will be handled by the four Sub Divisional Magistrates of the District and the candidates will be briefed on the Model Code of Conduct, Electronic Voting Machines Commissioning dates, security, polling stations and other necessary arrangements regarding the elections.

The contact details of the observer, sector magistrates and others will also be handed out for convenience. The same meeting will be conducted for Soreng at the Sub Divisional Administrative Center on 16 Oct and for Dentam at the Conference Hall of Orange Tree Resort on 17 Oct.

The training for the presiding and First Polling Officers has been scheduled on 16 Oct for all the appointed personnel at Gyalshing Community Hall where they will be trained about the polling day procedure and other events related to elections. The same training will be held at Soreng College on 17 Oct.

The second round of training will be conducted in the last week of October comprising of all polling parties. The polling personnel are also directed to submit their postal ballot form to the District Collector by Tuesday.

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RBI refuses to share details on clean India mission logo on new currency notes

NEW DELHI, OCT 15 (PTI): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has refused to share details of a decision to put the logo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet project 'clean India mission' on the new Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 currency notes, citing security concerns among other reasons.

Replying to an RTI query, the central bank also did not give a copy of the guidelines on printing of advertisement -- including promotion of central government-run initiatives -- on the notes.

"The information on form, material, design and security features of bank notes, other than available in public domain, is exempt from disclosure in terms of Section 8 (1) (a) of the Right to Information (RTI) Act,

2005," the RBI said in response to the RTI application filed by a PTI correspondent.

The Section bars "information, disclosure of which would prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the state, relation with foreign State or lead to incitement of an offence".

The central bank was asked to give a copy of the order, communication, letter or note sheet in which a decision regarding printing of Swachh Bharat or clean India mission's logo (spectacle frame) and message of 'Ek Kadam Swachhata Ki Aur' (a step towards cleanliness) on Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 currency notes was taken.

Upset with confusion in panchayat poll process, SKM threatens to take SEC to Court

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 OCT:

The Sikkim Krantikari Morcha today slammed the State Election Commission, alleging that the SEC was not conducting the ongoing panchayat election processes in a free, transparent and fair manner. The party has alleged that confusion in the SEC and its directions to the Returning Officers was playing out in favour of the ruling party.

The party today announced that it will take the State Election Commission to Court for what the SKM sees as unfair

conduct with a view to debar opposition and independent candidates from contesting the elections.

SKM has also demanded the removal of Returning Officers of West and South districts along with the sector magistrates of west district - SDM Dentam and BDO Soreng - for allegedly not adhering to the Commission's directives at the time of scrutiny.

Jacob Khaling and LN Nepal of SKM, while addressing a press conference here today, contended that despite the State Election Commission issuing directives for consid-

eration during scrutiny of certain documents not submitted during the time of filing of nomination papers, the officers in question denied this opportunity to candidates.

The document in question was the Sanitation Certificate which is a mandatory requirement, but due to confusion of this requirement, many candidates had not included it with their nomination papers.

When the confusion was resolved, the SEC "requested" the Returning Officers to consider "such cases where the candidates had already having (sic) sanitation certi-

ates and were in the queue at the time of scrutiny".

This confusion, SKM has alleged, was created by the SEC, which, on 06 Oct said that Sanitation Certificates were not mandatory since Sikkim had already achieved total Open Defecation Free status, but had changed its stand later by deciding that these certificates were now mandatory.

SKM contends that the later decision was not widely circulated, leading to a situation where many Opposition and Independent candidates had not included the same

with their nomination papers.

When SKM approached the State Election Commission with this complaint, SEC, through its letter dated 12 October, directed the Returning Officers of the South and West to accept the nomination papers of those who already had sanitation certificates but had not submitted them.

The ROs, however, did not consider such cases as requested by the SEC and more than fifty nominations in South and West districts were rejected as a result, SKM claims.

The party is also alleging

carelessness in the preparation of the electoral rolls.

When contacted, the West District Returning Officer, DC-West Kapil Meena rejected the allegations and said that his office has replied to the SEC on these allegations and provided all details of the scrutiny process.

He said that all rejections were on standard prescribed rules and no external pressures was applied on his office.

He also said that rejections are very low in West district and were for different political groups not only SKM.

Dzongu farmer represents Sikkim at NITI Aayog meet

WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 15 OCT:

National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog on 10 Oct convened a high level consultation meeting with farmer representatives from all over the country at the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare in New Delhi.

The meeting, chaired by NITI Aayog vice chairperson, Dr Rajiv Kumar, was also attended by Junior Agriculture Minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. Sikkim was represented by Tshering Gyatso Lepcha who is a progressive farmer from Dzongu, North Sikkim.

Mr Lepcha spoke



about organic farming in Sikkim and the effort it took to make Sikkim the

first organic State in the country.

"Our State Govern-

ment has already spelt out the vision of doubling farm incomes by 2019

and we will work hard towards achieving that goal," he said.

West DAC to have BSNL wifi internet service soon

GYALSHING, 15 OCT [IPR]: West District Administrative Center here at Rabdentse is scheduled to get a WiFi internet system installed for the public by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited [BSNL].

Users will be able to get 100 MB free data once the system is in place. The Wi-Fi can be accessed from any network and will be able to use high speed connectivity according to their subscribed data plans.

Due to the connectivity issues at the DAC with most of the mobile networks not working here properly, the Wi-Fi System will allow 4G data connectivity around 100 meters radius of the DAC campus providing



essential communication for the masses.

The Wi-Fi system at the DAC premises is like-

ly to be functional within two days.

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Nawa Yuva Sangha felicitates Dr DK Gurung

PRITAM LAMA YUKSOM, 15 OCT:

Noted social worker from Rinchenpong, Dr DK Gurung, was felicitated on 13 Oct by the newly registered youth club, Nawa Yuva Sangha of Tingling from Khechuperi, West Sikkim.

Dr Gurung was presented with a shawl, a memento and a citation letter by Nawa Yuva Sangha at a function held at Khechuperi.

The function was organized to mark the first foundation day of the club and was attended by executive members of two other youth clubs of the area, Self Help Group members and the local residents.

On the occasion, Dr Gurung handed over the registration certificate and other documents to the youth club members registered under the guidance of Dr Gurung.

The Nawa Yuva Sangha Youth Club president, Bhaihang Limbu, expressed gratitude towards Dr Gurung for his

support during the registration process.

40-year-old Dr Gurung is a well known social worker from Rinchenpong, West Sikkim. He is also associated with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan as a master trainer. He is also associated with many other Non-Governmental Organizations and is currently the president and one of the founding members of West District NGOs Federation.

Dr Gurung was awarded with a doctorate degree (honoris causa) by the New International Christian University of USA in 2013.

Speaking at the function, he congratulated all the members and executive members of the youth club on their organization getting registered and also spoke about the various schemes implemented by the Central and State Governments focusing on the youth and their development.

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64 yr old charged under POCSO Act

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 OCT:

A 64-year-old man from Middle Payong in South Sikkim has been accused of raping an 11-year-old minor girl on multiple occasions. An official complaint was registered against the accused at Ravangla Police Station on 14 Oct reporting that the victim had been raped on multiple occasions by the accused. The accused was then taken into custody and booked under Protection Of Children Against Sexual Offences Act, 2012. The victim meanwhile has been sent to a nearby medical center for proper examination and counselling. The case is currently under investigation.



Hem Kumari kick-boxes her way to Hungary

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 15 OCT:

“WAKO WORLD KICKBOXING Championship is my second international championship,” shares Hem Kumari Rai.

Hem Kumari, along with three other kickboxers and a coach from Sikkim, will represent India at the WAKO World Kickboxing Championship 2017 to be held at Budapest, Hungary from 03 Nov.

The selection was based on results of the national kickboxing championship held at Raipur, Chhattisgarh last month.

She has won several medals at international, national and state level championships and has remained consistently outstanding over the years.

Recently, she grabbed two gold medals in WAKO India National Kickboxing Championship 2017 held at Chattisgarh. She had won two gold medals in WAKO India Senior National Kickboxing Championship 2015 at Visakhapatnam.

She is also a national coach certificate holder.

Presently, she trains students at Namchi as she is working with Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Namchi, where she was officially appointed as a coach on August, 2017. She had also worked as a sports teacher for almost six years at Paching Junior School.

At 26 she is very dedicated towards her profession and trains her students with dedication and enthusiasm.



GANGTOK, 15 OCT: Commandant, 11th Battalion Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Rajesh Kumar Tomar, along with the battalion jawans joined the nationwide ‘Swachhata Hi Seva’ campaign today at Pengong in North Sikkim, a press release informs. The jawans were also joined by the Pipons and residents of the area. Mr Tomar, in his message, urged the locals to keep the locality neat and clean. He talked about the importance of cleanliness and how it contributes to a healthy life.

Aarushi case: HC castigates CBI on theory on Hemraj’s murder

ALLAHABAD, OCT 15 (PTI): The Allahabad High Court has castigated the CBI for its theory on the murder of domestic help Hemraj in the Aarushi murder case, saying it is an “impossible hypothesis” and “patently absurd”.

In its 273-page verdict acquitting dentists Nupur and Rajesh Talwar in the murder of their daughter Aarushi and Hemraj, it also said the prosecution “miserably failed” to prove

that the Talwars had destroyed material evidence and added that the finding recorded to the contrary by the trial court could not be maintained.

Analysing the prosecution case, a division bench of justices B K Narayana and A K Mishra refused to agree with the submission of CBI lawyer Anurag Khanna that the conduct of the dentist couple on finding their only daughter murdered, as noticed by the witnesses, was another circumstance which indicated their complicity.

The court said it was unable to agree with the contention of the probe agency as “different persons react differently in a given situation”.

Justices Narayana and Mishra made the observations last week while allowing the appeals of Nupur and Rajesh Talwar against a Ghaziabad CBI court verdict sentencing them life term for the murder of 14-year-old Aarushi and Hemraj.

“The prosecution theory that the appellants had hidden the dead body of Hemraj on the terrace of their flat is patently absurd and improbable...,” the court said. It said this theory contemplated an “impossible hypothesis” that the body was hidden by the Talwars on their terrace with the intention of disposing it of on getting a suitable opportunity.

The court said the theory was based on the hypothesis that the Noida Police would not be able to find the body on the terrace on May 16, 2008 when Aarushi was found dead in her room in the Talwar res-

idence by her parents with her throat slit.

Coming down heavily on the prosecution, the court said on careful evaluation of the evidence of four police personnel, it transpired that the prosecution witnesses made material improvements in their evidence tendered during the trial.

Their testimonies during the trial were “conspicuous by their absence in their previous statements recorded under Section 161 Cr.P.C. (by the police),” it said.

The witnesses were the Superintendent of Police, Mahesh Kumar Mishra, Inspector Data Ram Naunaria and Sub Inspector Bachchoo Singh, the judges said, adding that contrary to his previous statement, Mishra had stated in court that Rajesh Talwar was reluctant to identify the body of 45-year-old Hemraj.

Similar was the case with Naunaria and Bachchoo Singh, they said.

They said as the prosecution failed to pick up fingerprints of the persons who had put the cooler panel on the body of Hemraj, the court did not consider it proper to presume that the panel was put on the body by the Talwars in the absence of cogent evidence.

“In fact, the CBI has miserably failed to lead any evidence which may even remotely suggest that Hemraj was murdered in the bedroom of Aarushi and then his dead body was wrapped in a bed sheet and dragged from Aarushi’s bedroom upto the terrace,” the judges said.

Share FC plays friendlies with Rangpo FA



SAURABH RAI

KALIMPONG, 15 OCT:

In a bid to give that much-needed boost in the region to grassroots football, Share Football Club of Kalimpong and Future of Rangpo Football Academy played two friendly matches in the Under-12 and Under-14 level at Rangpo (West Bengal) on Sunday.

These matches were facilitated by World Vision India, an agency which works for the betterment of underprivileged children.

“We have been work-

ing with World Vision India for quite some time now and our focus area is the span from Rangpo, Lolay, Gitabling, Sangsey to Tarkhola. We are aiming to use football as a social tool to help children in these places work towards a better future,” explains Ryan Karthak, General Manager, Share FC.

The matches were played at the Rangpo Football Ground and in the first game, the Share FC Under-12 team defeated Future of Rangpo FA 2-0.

However, in the Un-

der-14 level, Future of Rangpo Football Academy got the better of Share FC 3-2.

“We are thankful to the members of Future of Rangpo Football Academy especially to the Coach Mr Sukraj Rai and Assistant Coach Mr Ruben Chettri for their support in organizing these matches,” added Ryan Karthak.

Now, Share FC is planning to take such matches to other centers like Lolay, Gitabling, Sangsey and Tarkhola with the support of World Vision India.



Mahila Kisan Diwas at Namthang

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 OCT:

Krishni Vigyan Kendra, Namthang, South Sikkim observed Mahila Kisan Diwas today for the women farmers in the area with a special programme, a press release reports.

Dr Carl Halford from Melbourne, Australia, presently working as a volunteer at Sikkim Anti-Rabies and Animal

Health programme attended the function as the chief guest accompanied by Namthang Block Development Officer, AB Gurung as the guest of honour.

Namthang Primary Health Care Centre Medical Officer, Dr Jhalaka Subba made a power-point presentation on health issues while Namthang Veterinary

Officer, Dr Deepika Pradhan briefed the gathering on livestock farming.

A quiz competition was also held among the attendees and winners were awarded with prizes. Two women farmers, Chungki Lepcha of Kabrey and Chitrawal Barailey from Nagi, were felicitated for their contribution towards agriculture.

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

The Devil is in the Details

So seek out nuance before settling into camps

The ease with which opinions can be projected nowadays is frightening. The proliferation of smart-phones and their video-recording facilities and the sweep of social media, while welcome for the speed at which information can now be shared, are also worrying for the facility with which episodes can be robbed of context and a lazy audience led to believe whatever the presenter wants conveyed. The lack of nuance and an aversion for details are burdens which will sit heavy on the current generation.

Recently, a video of a passerby trying to help a lady trapped in the horrifying stampede at a Mumbai local train station went viral as “evidence” of a pervert molesting a dying victim. Yes, pictures and videos, bereft of context, can also be misleading, and, in the hands of naïveté, also end up being damaging. The Mumbai incident was even posted by a reputed national daily on its website accompanied by a lacerating commentary by a journalist. Later, as the complete footage arrived and established that the alleged “molester” was actually a person trying desperately to help a trapped victim and comfort her, the post was taken down and an apology extended. But substantial damage had already been done by then, not just to the accused but also to humanity’s faith in strangers during times of crisis. It is true that there are many among us who will steal from the dying and rob victims - in fact, such thefts have also been witnessed in Sikkim - but the Mumbai episode in question was not one of them. And yet it was painted as such.

It is also not wrong to hold an opinion and lace it with vitriol, but strong opinions also demand strong evidence for them to be able to stand up to scrutiny. But why are we fooling ourselves by holding such expectations in a Sikkim which remains unfailing in its refusal to ask follow-up questions and appears satisfied being spoon-fed? That was a rhetorical question, but since it has been thought out loud, let’s attempt an answer as well. Social media here is currently aflutter over the Yangang PHC incident where a showdown played out between a doctor and a resident. At one level, it could be seen as a conflict between the establishment and the janta, a tussle between the public servants and unsatisfactorily served public, a miscommunication between specialists who know and busy-bodies who think they know better. It could be all of these things and then some more, but at the root of it, it was about a child in need of medical attention who was brought to the hospital. Forget about seeking nuance or the back-story let alone the complete story, opinions being thrown around online have not even bothered to wonder what happened to the child. Did she recover well enough? Was she in serious medical distress? It became easier for those who engaged in the discussion to get easily scandalized and vent instead of being convinced after due deliberation.

Both sides of the argument have revealed a disdain for what the other side might have to say and a deep divide separates them. While such blacks and whites are expected in online shouting matches, what is noticeably missing is the grey zone, that space where those who have not made up their minds about who is right and which side the wronged party in this entire drama. Everyone will agree that this undecided segment is a necessary constituent which needs to be addressed with more attention because the already convinced or the easily convinced already have their echo chambers and venting boards. But neither has this segment spoken up, nor has anyone made any real attempt to reach out to them. Those who occupy the discussion are belting out tunes which their respective “sides” find familiar and reassuring and, as a result, one more important issue which could benefit from some serious discussion is being allowed to slip into resentful digressions crackle and snap for a while and then slip into a slow simmer which everyone will the ignore and allow unresolved issues to simmer.

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It takes guts and hard work to expose a scandal like that of Harvey Weinstein – but it’s just the start

LINDSEY BLUMELL
theconversation.com

Two questions are typically asked of sexual abuse survivors after they publicly come forward: Why didn’t you speak up sooner, and what is your motive for coming forward now? When asked the same questions, the women who have just come out against Harvey Weinstein, the Hollywood mogul who is accused of multiple unwanted sexual advances and assaults, said they feared for their careers and reputations for many years. They have now been empowered enough by recent media attention of other accused powerful men who have faced allegations of sexual impropriety, including Bill Cosby, Roger Ailes, Donald Trump, Bill O’Reilly, to risk the potential negative consequences.

Since the story broke several celebrities have denounced Weinstein, while others have reported that they have also endured his harassment. So does this mean that survivors of powerful men’s sexual abuse now have adequate media and system support?

Survivors often choose to stay silent because they feel powerless. Part of the exposé on Weinstein – following investigations by the New Yorker and the New York Times – unveiled allegations of the use of coercion, threats and money to successfully silence people for decades. That included journalists.

When survivors are brave enough to go to the police, their work organisation, or school they attend, their grievances are often given lip service without real action being taken. Research shows these same patterns are repeated in media coverage of sexual abuse. Most media coverage in the past two years included some kind of condemnation, and was also quick to move on or allow other stories to overshadow the coverage.

Many survivors wait or don’t come forward because it is also common for them to be accused of lying. Some celebrities called the women who came forward against Cosby “unrapeable” or attention seekers. Until comedian Hannibal Buress famously called out Cosby, accusers were mostly ignored altogether. Trump dismissed one his accusers as not being attractive enough for him to assault – to a cheering crowd of supporters.

O’Reilly, who left his primetime TV show over allegations of sexual harassment, successfully peddled the myth that any successful man will be the target of several false accusations.

FACING THE RISK AND PUBLISHING

Standing up to powerful men, particularly those who control media organisations and Hollywood, is not a straight path for journalists either. Ronan Farrow’s New Yorker piece was said to be orig-



inally intended for NBC. He had recorded several taped interviews of women coming forward and had carefully researched this story since 2013. Yet, ultimately NBC passed. There are reports that The New York Times intended to uncover this story a decade ago but decided to pass until now.

Weinstein’s response was an anticipated and real threat for journalists. In addition to allegations of bullying, Weinstein had also threatened to sue those who wanted to expose him. For many years this worked for Weinstein and others because of the power they hold. As a presidential hopeful, Trump once said, “I could shoot somebody and I wouldn’t lose any voters”. This brazen attitude in male entitlement is now being challenged more and more (but not enough). Although media coverage hasn’t been perfect in handling sexual assault and generally power abuse stories, it’s the media that’s provided the forum for these stories to come out – not the company, and certainly not the industry (where jokes were openly made about Weinstein).

AGE OLD REACTION

Coverage often repeatedly emphasises the accomplishments of accused powerful men as a way of minimising (sometimes unintentionally) their sexual abuse allegations and justifying their continued access to power. Jerry Seinfeld still esteems Cosby as “the biggest comedian of all time”. Most Republicans, who initially denounced Trump’s Access Hollywood tape, quickly reinstated their support for him to ensure a presidential win. The film director Roman Polanski fled to France in the 1970s to avoid being charged with the rape of a 13-year-old, but has still managed to direct award-winning films. Even now O’Reilly is re-positioning himself as a credible conservative and US history critic after being awarded a multi-million dollar severance deal.

Media coverage led to Weinstein being fired. But it is fair to say that while public sentiment and media coverage condemns sexual abuse more than it did before, being accused of sexual abuse is still not a deal breaker for powerful men. Trump was voted in as president, Ailes went from Fox News to working on the Trump campaign, O’Reilly continues to work in the industry, and though several of his media deals were cancelled, Cosby successfully went on tour after the story broke against him in 2015. Cosby did go to trial in summer 2017, ending in a mistrial. He will return to court in 2018. However, no convictions have been made in any of these high profile cases, allowing all the accused to continue with their lives, even if they have been disrupted.

And there are some who are already politicising the story, diverting attention away from Weinstein and the seriousness of sexual assault. Critics have sought to capitalise on Weinstein’s support for the Democrats, rather than point to the systemic issue of misogyny that spans all parts of public and personal life. Some have highlighted sexist decisions made by the Democratic party, such as backing candidates that don’t support women’s reproductive rights, or choosing to take cheap shots at Hillary Clinton.

It’s powerful to see more and more women come forward to speak out against Weinstein, but media coverage too often does not treat sexual assault accusations seriously until several or at least more than one survivor has come forward. This may be because media organisations fear retribution or want to be extremely careful before laying charges against someone (which of course they should), but it also points to a high acceptance of abuse by men in power. It ultimately reinforces the claims made by people like Trump, that they can do what they want and get away with it.

Most sexual assaults happen when a predator isolates their target. There are no witnesses, and the survivor has no idea of any other survivors out there. Often credibility of witnesses is based on how many there are, so the gravity of sexual abuse allegations are dismissed until enough survivors coming forward and it can no longer be ignored. The momentum garnered by major cases like Weinstein, and scrutiny of their companies and organisations, is crucial in shifting public opinion and giving a platform to survivors. However, focus must be maintained if this issue is not to fade away from view, and for more people who are abused to taken more seriously from the start.

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Sent to Haiti to keep the peace, departing UN troops leave a damaged nation in their wake

SIOBHÁN WILLS; CAHAL MCLAUGHLIN & ILIONOR LOUIS

theconversation.com

On Oct. 15, 2017, the United Nations will withdraw its peacekeeping troops from Haiti, ending its 13-year mission there.

One might expect mixed feelings about the soldiers’ departure. After all, since the arrival of the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in June 2004, after former President Jean-Bertrande Aristide was forced out by a coup, the island has seen neither war nor armed conflict.

Crime and violence levels also remain high in Haiti, particularly in the capital of Port-au-Prince, and until January 2017 the country was leaderless due to repeated delays in holding its presidential election. Haiti is also still recovering from Hurricane Matthew, which caused famine in some hard-hit areas in 2016.

Despite these challenges, reports from the island suggest that most Haitians are ready to see the mission depart. That’s because, beyond stabilizing the country during a period of political tumult, the U.N.’s troops have also done harm in Haiti.

The international organization has admitted that its peacekeepers introduced cholera to the island after the devastating 2010 earthquake and sexually abused women who lived near U.N. camps.

What it has not yet acknowledged is that during early efforts to take out gangs in crime-riddled neighborhoods, U.N. troops also unintentionally killed more than 25 of the same citizens they were deployed to protect.

KEEPING THE PEACE?

This lethal violence, which has garnered little international press, is the subject of our new film, “It Stays With You: Use of Force by U.N. Peacekeepers in Haiti,” a 50-minute documentary released in Port-au-Prince in June 2017 and set for its U.S. release on Oct. 30.

Between 2004 and 2007, MINUSTAH carried out at least 15 heavily militarized operations against criminal gangs living in Cité Soleil, a seaside shantytown of 300,000 to 400,000 people. In these crowded neighborhoods, where most homes are made of scavenged sheets of corrugated metal and other scrap materials, the U.N. troops battled local organized crime groups using heavy weaponry, including automatic rifles and grenades.

During Operation Iron First, for example, which took place in the Bois Neuf section of Cité Soleil on July 6, 2005, the U.N. reports that it used 22,700 bullets, 78 grenades and five mortars and killed

seven gang members.

But, according to some residents interviewed in “It Stays With You,” unarmed civilians also died in this raid. Douglas Griffiths, then deputy U.S. ambassador to Haiti, has also confirmed that “credible sources” have accused U.N. peacekeepers of killing “more than 20 women and children” in the operation.

Some were shot inside their homes by U.N. soldiers in helicopters, whose bullets easily penetrated their metal rooftops. These accounts have been substantiated by witnesses and international aid workers interviewed for our film, including by one American doctor who saw bullet holes in the roof of a home that he visited while treating a young girl for gunshot wounds.

Other Cité Soleil residents were killed by machine gun fire by U.N. troops from armored personnel carriers, shooting from guns mounted on the vehicles’ roofs. Witnesses state that during Operation Iron Fist, sustained firing over several hours destroyed entire homes, killing some of the people inside them.

In 2005, Jean-Marie Guehenno, who was then the U.N.’s undersecretary general for peacekeeping, essentially confirmed these reports. At a press briefing at the U.N. headquarters in New York, he said, “A number of operations have been conducted by MINUSTAH... I have to be honest with you, there may have been some civilian casualties.”

The following December, just before Christmas in 2006, the U.N.’s Operation New Forest went through some 10,000 bullets over two days. Numerous people with no connection to gangs, including children, were killed or injured in this raid.

The exact number is unclear, however, since the U.N. has carried out no investigations involving a visit to the neighborhood into this raid or others in Cité Soleil. The Haitian police have conducted no investigations, either.

NO ACCOUNTABILITY

These accusations are not the first to damage the reputation of the U.N.’s vast peacekeeping operation, which currently has soldiers stationed in 15 countries around the world. Rape and other forms of sexual abuse are an endemic problem in multiple missions.

Even so, MINUSTAH has a bad record. In Haiti, 134 Sri Lankan soldiers set up a child sex ring, exploiting boys and girls as young as 12 years of age. There is little accountability for such violations. The Sri Lankan troops were sent home, but none have been jailed; the U.N. was criticized

for its inadequate response. It also took five years for the U.N. leadership to take responsibility for the cholera epidemic.

It is not surprising, then, that the international organization’s response to the killings in Cité Soleil has been lackluster. The end of the Haiti mission this month offers an opportunity for an independent investigation into the unintended harms of U.N. operations in Cité Soleil, particularly in Bois Neuf.

Based on our on-the-ground research, we believe a full accounting would find that the repeated military raids not only killed innocent bystanders but also exacerbated the precariousness of residents’ already marginal existence. Poor families lost their breadwinners; homes were destroyed; children were made orphans and had to be taken in by neighbors.

After a pot-maker, Nelson Ti Lari, was inadvertently killed in his workshop in 2005, his wife, Veronique, told us that she repeatedly visited the U.N. base at Camp Delta with a photograph of her dead husband, seeking acknowledgment that the breadwinner of her family had been killed. But, she says, the staff there sent her away every time. Eventually, she gave up.

Failing U.N. support – such as medical assistance to those injured in raids or financial support to people who lost their homes or livelihoods in the crossfire – people were compelled to seek help from the cohort of international NGOs that have provided the bulk of citizen services in Haiti since the 2010 earthquake.

There is a growing body of international literature, including research by Dr. Ilionor Louis, co-author of this article, demonstrating that such forced dependency is itself a form of indirect violence. And in a country like Haiti, where post-disaster aid is big business and oversight of NGOs is almost nil, this will be another lasting legacy of the U.N. mission.

In making our documentary, we found that Cité Soleil residents aren’t just sad for their losses – they’re also angry that the U.N. hasn’t taken responsibility for its actions. MINUSTAH may be pulling out of Haiti on Oct. 15, but the agency’s misdeeds will live on in Cité Soleil long after the last peacekeeper departs.

[Siobhán Wills is Professor of Law, University of Ulster; Cahal McLaughlin is Professor of Film Studies, Queen’s University Belfast; Ilionor Louis is Sociologist, Ethnology Department, Université d’Etat d’Haiti]

MHA orders withdrawal of 1000 paramilitary personnel from Darjeeling

NEW DELHI, OCT 15 (PTI): The home ministry has ordered withdrawal of as many as 1,000 paramilitary personnel, including 300 women, deployed in Darjeeling to maintain law and order during the agitation for a separate Gorkhaland state.

In a communication, the ministry said seven companies of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), including three women companies, and three companies of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) personnel would be withdrawn from Darjeeling from tomorrow.

One company of paramilitary comprises 100 personnel.

The paramilitary personnel were in deployment in the hill districts of Darjeeling and Kalimpong, an official said.

However, five additional companies of the CRPF will be in the hills to assist the state police force.

The situation in Darjeeling has improved in the past few weeks.

The Mamata Banerjee government had last month formed a nine-member board of administrators, headed by Binay Tamang, instead of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) to look into the development works in Darjeeling and Kalimpong.

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In its 100th year, Patna University to set up archives cell

KUNAL DUTT
PATNA, OCT 15 (PTI): When did Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India, visit the Patna University and who designed the aesthetic buildings on its campus?

These are some of the questions on the Patna University's history and heritage that its administration is struggling to answer.

As a course correction, the country's seventh oldest university has decided to set up an "archive cell" so that it faces no such problem in the future.

The Patna University (PU), established on October 1, 1917, may have completed 100 glorious years but its historical documents and photographs "have not been properly archived over several decades".

On its centenary, however, the administration has decided to set up an "archive cell" to give the historical records on the varsity a permanent home.

"While doing research for our centenary souvenir and a book on its journey of 100 years, we realised the old records and photographs have not been properly documented," Vice Chancellor Rash Bihari Prasad Singh said

"We wanted to know which eminent personalities have visited the PU campus since its inception, and



which famous events have been hosted here and any other important milestones. But, we had to look into scattered sources," he said.

The centenary souvenir committee found records about the visits of Sarojini Naidu, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and other personalities to the university but it could not access the archives related to the visit of Lord Mountbatten in late 1940s.

"We looked into the Silver Jubilee Souvenir published in mid 1940s and old college magazines and per-

sonal collections too. Now, we have realised the need for a proper 'University Archive Cell', which we wish to set up this year coinciding with its centenary," Singh told PTI.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially kicked off Patna University's grand centenary celebrations yesterday at a function held on the grounds of the prestigious Patna Science College, which incidentally turns 90 next month.

The iconic buildings of the Science College, a premier institution under the Patna University, was inaugurated in 1928 by the then Viceroy Lord Irwin.

The university celebrated its architectural heritage and the colonial-era buildings of Science College, the PU office, the Wheeler Senate House, the over 150-year-old Patna College, by beautifully lighting them up to mark the occasion.

The university is steeped in history. In 1936, Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore was given a grand public reception at the Wheeler Senate Hall.

The elegant building having Doric columns in its facade, was inaugurated by then Lt Governor of Bihar and Orissa Sir Henry Wheeler in 1926.

However, while putting together its centenary publications, the university faced with the problem of poor record-keeping of historical documents and pictures, and has not been able to trace any pictures related to many such landmark events, officials said.

"We are still searching for the old layout plan of the Patna University building and the Senate Hall, and details about the architect(s) who designed them," a senior faculty and a member of the core centenary committee said.

The university in its initial days was functioning out of a wing of the

Patna High Court building, which was inaugurated in February 1916 by then Viceroy Lord Hardinge, said Jayshree Mishra, professor of the history department, Patna University.

"It later also had its office, housed in a colonial-era bungalow, which is currently in the premises of Magadh Mahila College, a part of the university," she said.

Mishra and two other authors have written a book on 100 years of Patna University which would be launched along with the souvenir during this period of centenary celebrations which culminates in January.

The administration was able to access the copy of the Patna University Act from the records kept at the Bihar State Archives. Some of the documents related to the PU are in fragile condition and in need of restoration.

"We have also rummaged through our collections on the central library for old documents and photographs. Many alumni members, teachers, retired professors have also contributed whatever they could trace," the Vice Chancellor said.

"We have planned at 'Centenary Building' on the banks of Ganga near the PU campus. Maybe the archives cell can be housed there once the modalities are complete for its creation," he said.



Death toll from blast in Somalia's capital rises to 189

MOGADISHU, OCT 15 (AP): The death toll from the most powerful bomb blast witnessed in Somalia's capital rose to 189 with more than 200 injured, making it the deadliest single attack ever in the Horn of Africa nation, police and hospital sources said today.

Doctors struggled to assist horrifically wounded victims, many burnt beyond recognition. Officials feared the toll would continue to climb from yesterday's truck bomb that targeted a busy street near key ministries.

Sources for the death toll spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to reporters.

Ambulance sirens still echoed across the city as bewildered families wandered in the rubble of buildings, looking for missing relatives.

"In our 10 year experience as the first responder in #Mogadishu, we haven't seen anything

like this," the Aamin Ambulance service tweeted.

Grief overwhelmed many.

"There's nothing I can say. We have lost everything," wept Zainab Sharif, a mother of four who lost her husband. She sat outside a hospital where he was pronounced dead after hours of efforts by doctors to save him from an arterial injury.

President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed declared three days of mourning and joined thousands of people who responded to a desperate plea by hospitals to donate blood for the wounded victims. "I am appealing all Somali people to come forward and donate," he said.

"The hospital is overwhelmed by both dead and wounded. We also received people whose limbs were cut away by the bomb. This is really horrendous, unlike any other time in the past," said Dr Mohamed Yusuf, the director of

Medina hospital.

Overnight, rescue workers with flashlights searched for survivors trapped under the rubble of the largely destroyed Safari Hotel, which is close to Somalia's foreign ministry.

The explosion blew off metal gates and blast walls erected outside the hotel.

Somalia's government has blamed the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group for the attack it called a "national disaster." However, al-Shabab, which often targets high-profile areas of the capital with bombings, had yet to comment.

"They don't care about the lives of Somali people, mothers, fathers and children," Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khairre said. "They have targeted the most populated area in Mogadishu, killing only civilians."

Somalia's information minister, Abdurahman Omar, said the

blast was the largest the city had ever seen. "It's a sad day.

This how merciless and brutal they are, and we have to unite against them," he said, speaking to the state-run radio station.

The United States joined the condemnation, saying "such cowardly attacks reinvigorate the commitment of the United States to assist our Somali and African Union partners to combat the scourge of terrorism."

The US military has stepped up drone strikes and other efforts this year against al-Shabab, which is also fighting the Somali military and over 20,000 African Union forces in the country.

Yesterday's blast occurred two days after the head of the US Africa Command was in Mogadishu to meet with Somalia's president, and two days after the country's defense minister and army chief resigned for undisclosed reasons.

Mutual Fund assets in North East rise 66%

MUMBAI, OCT 15 (PTI): Mutual fund players' total assets under management (AUM) from the North East have grown 65.76 per cent in a year to Rs 14,454 crore as of August this year, spurred by aggressive marketing and awareness campaigns by the industry.

Markets regulator Sebi mandates mutual funds (MFs) to set apart 2 basis points of their AUM for investor education.

Half of this amount has to be shared with the industry body AMFI for better fund utilisation.

The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) kick-started a new media campaign in March to position MFs as a preferred investment option for potential investors.

The cumulative AUM from the seven NE states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and the Himalayan state of Sikkim rose to Rs 14,454 crore, according to the Amfi data.

Among the Seven Sisters, as the NE states are popularly known, the largest state Assam has emerged at top with the highest AUM of Rs 8,960 crore up from Rs 5,025 crore a year ago. It is followed by Meghalaya (Rs 1,700 crore), Tripura (Rs 1,007 crore) and Sikkim (Rs 984 crore).

The fifth largest AMC SBI Mutual Fund has emerged as the largest player in the region in the AUM sweepstake with an

AUM of Rs 4,664 crore, followed by Reliance MF - Rs 1,455 crore, according to the Amfi data.

SBI MF attributed the tremendous trust that its parent State Bank enjoys in the region for this huge growth.

"People have got lots of trust in brand SBI and we are lucky to have penetrated the NE market," SBI AMC executive director DP Singh told PTI.

"We'll continue to have our focus on the NE state and other similar markets," he added.

Reliance MF chief executive Sundeeep Sikka attributed the growth to the concerted effort that the company had in the region with more focus on marketing and making people aware of the benefits of MF investments.

"We held many investor awareness campaigns in the North Eastern region and now we can confidently say that though at a very nascent stage, our efforts have started bearing fruit," he added. The other AMCs that have made it big in the region include Birla Sunlife (Rs 924 crore), ICICI Prudential (Rs 907 crore) and HDFC (Rs 766 crore).

The data for August showed that Maharashtra contributes more than 40 per cent or close to Rs 9 trillion (Rs 9 lakh crore) of the total industry AUM of over Rs 20.8 trillion, which shows the tremendous growth potential for the sector.

CAG report raps Arunachal for sloppy implementation of RTE

ITANAGAR, OCT 15 (PTI): Arunachal has failed to achieve the target of providing free and compulsory education to every child even after six years of implementation of Right to Education (RTE) Act, the CAG said in a recent report.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report, which was tabled in the state Assembly on Saturday by Finance Minister Chowna Mein, showed several lapses while implementing the Act in the state.

The report alleged that school mapping and household survey for identification of children eligible for elementary education was not carried out.

Moreover, at the end of March 2016,

the number of out of school children stood at 57,032 which included 26,009 who were not enrolled and 31,023 drop out children, which constituted 18 per cent of 3,12,255 eligible children during 2015-16.

The RTE Act came into being in 2010 in the state.

The findings revealed that altogether 232 primary school buildings and 130 upper primary schools were constructed by the state government during the period 2014 to 2016 but the schools were yet to be handed over to the school authorities.

The report also highlighted 42 per cent shortfall in Science and Mathematics teachers till March 2016.

"Despite excess procurement of text

books by the director of elementary education during 2010-11 to 2012-13, there was a shortfall in receipt of text books in test checked schools in the sampled districts," the report alleged adding, work books worth 123.02 lakh were not received from state Project Director of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the main vehicle for implementing the provision of the RTE Act.

Text books worth 10.88 lakh were not delivered to the SSA project director by the suppliers, the report said.

It added there was also shortfall in supply of uniform in the test checked schools to the extent of 30.98 lakh.

2,760 number of boys uniform amount-

ing to Rs 11.04 lakh and 13,700 number of girls uniform amounting to Rs 54.80 lakh were not delivered by the suppliers, the report pointed out.

The RTE Act 2009 provides for free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of 6-14 years, by ensuring compulsory admission and completion of elementary education by every eligible child.

The programme also provides for creating infrastructure, adequate classrooms, playground, library and learning equipment and kitchen shed for mid-day meal.

The government under the programme also laid emphasis on ensuring

favourable student-teacher ratio, availability of qualified teachers and providing uniforms and text books to students enrolled in primary and upper primary schools.

The CAG report suggested the state government to conduct household survey and school mapping for identification of eligible children and ensure providing compulsory education to them.

It also suggested the need to ensure timely release of fund to the implementing agencies for smooth implementation of the scheme, besides streamlining the procurement of text books and uniforms and to distribute to the targeted schools and students.

Suarez earns Barca point at Atletico, Ronaldo rescues Real

MADRID, OCT 15 (AFP): Luis Suarez saved Barcelona's unbeaten La Liga record this season by salvaging a 1-1 draw at Atletico Madrid in a match laced with political tension amid Catalonia's drive for independence.

Saul Niguez's spectacular strike had given Atletico an early advantage.

However, Barca's dominance for large spells paid off when Suarez finally got the better of the outstanding Jan Oblak to level nine minutes from time.

"Everyone knows Atletico defend very well and have a great goalkeeper, but we did enough to believe we deserved more in the second half," said Suarez yesterday.

A share of the points allows Real Madrid to move up to second, five points behind Barca, as Cristiano Ronaldo struck an 85th-minute winner -- his first league goal of the season -- to grind out a hard-fought 2-1 win for the European champions at Getafe.

Atletico move up to third but remain six points behind the leaders.

"It was a great game between two teams with very different characteristics," said Atletico boss Diego Simeone.



A backdrop of Spanish flags and chants of "Viva Espana" (long live Spain) met Barca on their first visit to the Spanish capital since a Catalan independence referendum marred by violence and deemed illegal by the Spanish government on October 1.

However, both managers lauded the atmosphere.

"The stadium was marvellous,"

added Simeone.

"I loved the stadium, the fans, (jeers for the opposition) are normal, but it was a great night of football for everyone," said Barca boss Ernesto Valverde.

The 68,000 crowd at Atletico's new Wanda Metropolitano were nearly silenced inside 30 seconds by Lionel Messi.

The five-time world player of

the year rescued Argentina's floundering World Cup qualifying campaign with a stunning hat-trick in the altitude of Quito, Ecuador on Tuesday to ensure his presence at next year's showpiece in Russia.

And Messi nearly had another brilliant solo effort to add to his 17 goals for club and country this season as he weaved past a series of Atletico challenges before firing

into the side-netting.

"Messi was extraordinary. Every time the ball went through him there was danger," added Simeone.

Barca defender Gerard Pique, an outspoken supporter of Catalonia's right to self-determination, was loudly jeered every time he touched the ball.

However, Antoine Griezmann was also driving Pique to distraction as he nutmegged the Spanish international to bear down on goal only to be denied by a stunning stop from Ter Stegen.

The German stopper was helpless on 21 minutes when Saul cut inside onto his supposedly weaker right foot before unleashing a drive into the bottom corner from 20 yards.

Barca went onto dominate possession, but had to wait until 10 minutes into the second half to force Oblak into a save when Suarez stung the Slovenian's palms from outside the box.

Seconds later Messi sent a curling free-kick off the outside of the post and then fired his best chance of the match wastefully wide 19 minutes from time.

However, after another outstanding Oblak save to deny Su-

arez, Barca's pressure was rewarded when Sergi Roberto picked out an unmarked Suarez at the back post and his downward header had too much power for Oblak.

And Suarez should have won the game two minutes from time when he failed to connect with Andre Gomes's teasing cross.

Earlier, Ronaldo rode to Real's rescue and made amends for his earlier profligacy with a late winner.

"The game is 90 minutes long and we know that we can score at any moment," said Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane.

Madrid looked on course for a comfortable three points when Karim Benzema fired the visitors into a deserved half-time lead.

However, Jorge Molina controversially equalised 11 minutes into the second half as he appeared to be offside as he bundled home from close range.

Ronaldo then missed an incredible chance as he skewed wide with the goal at his mercy before grabbing the winner.

Sevilla slip down to fourth thanks to a 1-0 defeat at Athletic Bilbao with Mikel Vesga scoring the only goal of the game.



Our stunning show will unite people back home: Iraq coach

KOLKATA, OCT 15 (PTI): Chief coach Qatnan Chitheer feels his team's stunning show to earn a maiden knockout berth in the FIFA Under-17 World Cup will unite people back home in strife-torn Iraq.

Continuing the dream run in their second U-17 World Cup appearance, the Lions of Mesopotamia finished second behind England from a 'group of death' to set up a round-of-16 clash against Mali.

"Nobody expected us to qualify. This was a tough group but we succeeded to be second with teams like Mexico and Chile," Chitheer said after losing 0-4 to England in their last round group F fixture on Saturday.

Iraq shift base to the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Margao, a year after they had won a historic AFC U-16 Championship last year with a thrilling penalty-shootout win over bitter foes Iran.

"This will surely unite our people. We will forget today's result and start afresh. We will study the team of Mali and do our best to go further," the coach said.

Iraq will be without their star striker Mohammed Dawood who has three

goals from two matches because of a double booking yesterday.

In his absence regular captain Saif Khalid is likely to start after missing their group stage matches because of a niggles.

"We played the first match without him (Saif) because he had a little injury and then tried to stick with the same side. Maybe, we will need him next match," Chitheer said.

On risking Dawood by bringing him in the second-half despite a booking, Chitheer said they asked him to be careful and play without any misconduct.

"This is football. We will prepare our best. We will do the recovery and correct our mistakes of this match."

Hailing England's strong show, the Iraq coach said they lost to a better team. "England were very strong opponents and well organised.

We tried to change our tactics and played with five in defence but after that we went back to 4-2-3-1.

"England were better prepared than us, and deserved to win. Our players were exhausted with the high humidity," he concluded.

Germany, Colombia face off in first pre-quarterfinal clash

NEW DELHI, OCT 15 (PTI): The quest to enhance their reputation in football's biggest talent-hunt competition will face a stern examination when Germany and Colombia face off in the first FIFA U-17 World Cup pre-quarterfinal here tomorrow.

To use the cliché, the match-up will again pit Latino flair against Europe's workmanlike approach.

Guardian the citadel could prove to be key as both the teams are expected to enter the game with a mindset to outdo each other in attack.

An intense battle is on the cards at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium as Colombia and Germany have the level of quality, experience and know-how.

A strong and reliable defence will allow the forward line to adopt an offensive strategy right from the outset and put pressure on the opponents.

It is a contest between a well-oiled European side and a South American team that has gotten better with every match in this tournament.



A four-time world champion and a force to reckon with in international football for long, Germany's record in this tournament is not as awe-inspiring.

They have made it to the semi-finals of the tournament four times and have played more matches (44) than any other European side.

Their best performance came in 1985 when they were runners-up. For a nation appearing in its 10th finals, Germany would certainly want to win the silverware.

Colombia are undoubtedly one of the bigger footballing nations in

South America to have never won a world title.

This is their sixth finals appearance and their best performance till date came in 2009 when they finished third after losing to Spain 0-1 in the semi-finals. Looking at the way they improved with each outing, the Colombians seem determined to break the title drought this time around.

The Germans bounced back in style after their defeat to Iran - the biggest upset of the tournament so far - and will surely fancy their chances in the Round of 16 clash.

Both recorded two

wins in the round robin stage, lost one each and scored five times in the three first round matches, clearly showing that there is little to differentiate between the two sides.

Their only previous encounter at this level came at the 2007 edition in Korea Republic, which ended in a thrilling 3-3 draw.

The stakes are much higher this time around, though, as the winner will keep their dream alive while the loser head home.

Hamburger SV forward Jann-Fiete Arp, who scored in the side's win in the last game, will

certainly be the man to watch out for upfront.

According to coach Christian Wuck, who has been associated with the German Football Association since 2012 working with various junior sides, this team has the best lot of young players he has managed and he expects them to go all the way in the finals.

Even though they posted a 3-1 victory over Guinea, Germany were not able to win the possession battle against an opponent that is inferior to them, and they must have worked on it heading into the big-ticket game.

As far as Colombia are concerned, the focus will be on Juan Penalzo, who contributed immensely to his side's progress to the pre-quarterfinals with goals as well as assists.

Colombia had lost to Ghana 0-1 in their opening encounter before getting full points against India with a narrow 2-1 win, and then came the drubbing of USA, which has boosted their confidence.

Diwali deliveries: those who shoulder the festive burden

TRISHA MUKHERJEE

NEW DELHI, OCT 15 (PTI): Nibesh Yadav must hit the road by 8 am sharp. He checks his motorcycle for fuel, loads the day's orders on his outsized backpack and off he goes... to make "khushiyan ki home delivery".

With Diwali only days away, this is the high season for online shopping and for delivery boys who traverse from one end of the city to the other dropping off everything, from eye pencils and evening dresses to mixer-grinders and mobile phones.

Nibesh is among the thousands of delivery boys, who deliver up to 200 packages a day during peak shopping seasons, often for less than Rs 20 each. All the packages must be delivered by 8 pm.

They are a familiar sight young men, in their 20's or early 30's, with huge overloaded backpacks, climbing up and down floors, stepping into creaky lifts and wiping the sweat from their brows at red lights.

With online portals offering irresistible Diwali sales, the delivery boys are on their toes -- toiling for over 12 hours a day just to ensure that the package you've been waiting for reaches on time.

"It can be tough but this is what it is," said Nibesh with a philosophical shrug.

Many are not directly employed by



companies like Amazon, Flipkart and Myntra, but are 'outsourced partners', who come in handy during the festive season when the pressure to deliver is immense.

Amazon, for instance, has 350 service partner nodes and 1,75,000 'I Have Space' store partners across the country, in addition to those directly employed at their operational centres.

A Myntra insider added that the com-

pany makes 1,000 temporary deployments during their festive sales and also has a MENSA (Myntra Extended Network Through Store Activation) network of close to 2,000 stores across India to enable deliveries.

While both Amazon and Myntra offer their benefits -- hospitalization and accident insurance, night shift allowance, fuel reimbursement, and provident fund -- to their

directly employed delivery personnel, these don't apply to 'store owners' like Nibesh. Responses to Flipkart went unanswered.

The hours are long, the money less. Nibesh said he has to pay for the vehicle and the fuel, and also bear the cost of any damage or loss of package.

"Amazon pays Rs 18 for the delivery of each packet, and Myntra and Jabong pay Rs 14," said Nibesh, who also delivers for Myntra and Jabong.

He has employed another boy, and the two move around the city delivering over 100 packages on a regular day. This goes up to 200 packets during the festive rush.

The packets are stuffed inside a big backpack, which itself weighs 1 kg.

"The bag ends up weighing something around 35-40 kg. We travel on our bikes and the backpacks on our shoulders makes it difficult to balance, especially over speed-breakers. It increases the risk of accidents. There is also the danger of losing or damaging the packages," he said.

In older residential colonies in the city, which do not have elevators, he has to carry the weight all the way up, sometimes five floors, and back.

Praveen Kumar, another 'store' owner who has been delivering in Delhi-NCR for over two years now, added that he makes

two trips to and from his store every day, carrying 45- 50 packets every time.

"Sometimes the packets are too heavy, especially if there are shoes. So, I have to make two trips," he said.

Managing time is crucial, because a delayed package can land delivery boys like Nibesh and Praveen in trouble.

"We must deliver all the packets for the day before 8 in the evening," Praveen said.

Any delay in delivery, and the customer immediately shoots an email to the company.

"They do not understand that the delay is not on purpose.

Sometimes it is the weather, other times it could be an accident or a tyre puncture," Nibesh said.

Both lament the humiliating treatment meted out to them by customers.

Sometimes, for instance, card machines provided by the companies don't function due to poor network. Some customers are kind enough to go to the ATM and get cash, most simply complain and shout at them.

"They are extremely disrespectful to us," said Nibesh.

Customers celebrate, receiving and giving gifts, and portals rejoice at turn-overs as another Diwali comes around.

Death toll from blast in Somalia's capital rises to 53

MOGADISHU, OCT 15 (AP): The death toll from a huge truck bomb blast in Somalia's capital rose to 53 as hospitals struggled to cope with the high number of casualties, security and medical sources said today.

More than 60 others were injured.

Somalia's government has yet to release the exact death toll from an explosion many called the most powerful they had ever witnessed in Mogadishu. Officials feared the toll would continue to climb.

Ambulance sirens echoed across the city a day after the blast as bewildered families wandered in the rubble of buildings, looking for missing relatives. President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed declared three days of mourning and joined thousands of people who responded to a desperate plea by hospitals to donate blood for the wounded victims.

"I am appealing all Somali people to come forward and donate," he said. Many victims died at hospitals from their wounds, said Police Capt Mohamed Hussein.

Somalia's government has blamed the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group for the attack it called a "national disaster." However, al-Shabab, which often targets high-profile areas of the capital with bombings, had yet to comment.

"They don't care about the lives of Somali people, mothers, fathers and children," Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire said. "They have targeted the most populated area in Mogadishu, killing only civilians."

TEHRAN, OCT 15 (AFP): US President Donald Trump's speech outlining an aggressive new strategy against Iran violated Tehran's nuclear agreement with world powers, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said.

Trump's virulent speech contravened three articles of the 2015 deal, Zarif said in televised remarks broadcast late on Saturday.

The clauses he referred to mandate the signatories to implement the accord "in good faith" and the US administration and Congress to "refrain from re-introducing or re-imposing" sanc-



tions related to Iran's nuclear programme.

"I have already written nine letters (to EU foreign policy chief Fed-

erica Mogherini) listing the cases where the United States has failed to act on or delayed its commitments under the JCPOA,"

Zarif added, calling the nuclear deal by its technical name.

Zarif said he was going to write a new let-

ter regarding Trump's speech on Friday.

He called on the United States to prolong sanctions relief, otherwise "the Islamic Republic of Iran will definitely take a similar and reciprocal measure."

In his speech, Trump refused to "certify" Tehran's compliance with its obligations under the nuclear deal.

He warned he could rip up the agreement "at any time," saying it had failed to address Iran's influence in its region and its illegal missile programme. Trump said he supported efforts in Congress to work on new measures to address

these threats.

The remarks triggered swift condemnation from Iranian President Hassan Rouhani of what he called "baseless accusations and swear words".

Responding to US threats of new sanctions against Tehran's missile programme, Zarif repeated that Iran would not tolerate interference in its defence policy.

"Our achievements in the field of ballistics are in no way negotiable," he said.

"We live in a region into which hundreds of billions of dollars of lethal American weapons have poured, turning it

into a gunpowder storehouse... so we have the right to have defensive means," he said.

The nuclear agreement was signed in July 2015 between Iran and six world powers -- Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States.

Mogherini helped to negotiate the nuclear deal.

It lifted some Western and UN sanctions and in return Tehran curtailed a large part of its atomic programme to assure the world that a nuclear bomb -- which Iran denies seeking -- would remain well out of its reach.



Forty people are now dead in what have become the deadliest and most destructive fires in California's history. The fires have consumed nearly 214,000 acres north of San Francisco, with the state's governor Jerry Brown describing the scene as a "horror that no one could have imagined." He said: "This is truly one of the greatest tragedies that California has ever faced." The devastation is just unbelievable." The victims were aged between 14 and 100, most of them elderly. Many of them were thought to have died between late 8 October and early 9 October, when the fires emerged and took many people by surprise. There are still around 300 people missing but authorities are confident many of these will be found alive.

India calls for urgent revision of IMF quota

WASHINGTON, OCT 15 (PTI): India has called for urgent revision of the quota of International Monetary Fund in favour of dynamic emerging market so as to reflect the ground realities of the world. Addressing the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank here, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley hoped that this can be accomplished as part of the 15th General Review of Quotas.

"There is an urgent case for revising quota shares in favour of dynamic emerging market countries in line with global economic realities to maintain fairness in the governance structure of the Fund," he told the world financial leaders yesterday.

"We should make every effort to complete the 15th Review by the agreed timeline of 2019 Annual Meetings," he asserted.

Jaitley said the risks to global financial and economic stability have significant implications for IMF's operations. He said the IMF needs to be

adequately resourced to meet these demands while functioning as a strong quota-based institution.

Similarly, for the World Bank Group, a delayed but unanimously agreed Lima Roadmap had envisaged to see a conclusion of the 2015 shareholding review by Annual Meetings 2017, he said.

"While we note that we failed to deliver it, given the progress that has been made so far, we strongly urge all to commit to deliver an equitable conclusion of this process for both the IBRD and IFC by the Spring Meetings 2018," he said.

He warned that any further delay in concluding the review will risk not only development in the client countries but the existence and leadership of both Bank and IFC in MDBs.

"We look for an exped-

itious decision on capital enhancement through both selective capital increase (SCI) and general capital increase (GCI) for both the IBRD and IFC, by Spring Meetings 2018," he added.

Jaitley also assured the world financial leaders that India will continue to perform robustly on the back of credible macroeconomic adjustments and structural reforms.

While the persistence of low productivity and potential growth in advanced economies (AEs) remains worrisome, growth in emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) is expected to recover going forward, the minister said.

The prospects in commodity exporting countries continue to remain challenging due to ongoing adjustments to low commodity prices, he added.

Bangladesh's Chief Justice to face graft investigation

ANISUR RAHMAN DHAKA, OCT 15 (PTI): Bangladesh's first Hindu Chief Justice S K Sinha will face probe for "grave" graft charges and moral lapses, the Law Minister said today, a day after he was accused of money laundering following his departure to Australia.

Minister Anisul Huq said the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will investigate "almost all of the allegations" levelled against Sinha by the country's president Abdul Hamid.

"Nobody is above the law," Huq told reporters after the apex court issued the statement, sparking a media uproar.

He, however, said "it

is the prerogative of the President to take (the subsequent) actions if the charges are proved".

The government's row with the judiciary sparked in July this year when the apex court delivered a verdict declaring void 16th constitutional amendment, scrapping parliament's authority over impeaching Supreme Court judges.

In an unusual move, the country's Supreme Court (SC) said yesterday the apex court judges earlier this month decided not to sit in the bench of Sinha over 11 "grave" charges brought brought to their notice against him by the President.

The Supreme Court

issued a statement as Sinha overnight left for Australia, saying he was "embarrassed" over the controversy surrounding his July ruling. He also denied claims by the government that he was sick.

"What he (Sinha) said (ahead of his departure) is a lie," Huq said reading out Sinha's letter to the president in which he had conveyed to him about his sickness and willingness to go abroad.

Asked if Sinha could resume office on return after the one-month leave, Huq answered in negative, saying "he does not have the scope to resume office until the disposal of the allegations".

Huq, however, said since the Chief Justice's

office is an "institution" nothing would be done in haste and all steps would be taken in adherence to the law of the land.

The Supreme Court statement said President Hamid on September 30 had invited all the five apex court judges to Bangabhaban presidential palace barring the chief justice and held a long discussion.

"The honourable president handed over to them the evidence of 11 specific allegations against Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha," it said, adding that it included some grave charges like money laundering, financial irregularities, corruption and moral lapses.

Anthyesthi Kriya



The Anthyesthi Kriya of **Late Smt Hari Maya Pradhan**, permanent resident of Rhenock Bazar, presently residing at Arithang, Gangtok, who left for her heavenly abode on October 7, 2017 falls on **October 18, 2017**. All family, friends and well-wishers

are requested to kindly join us for offering of departed soul at **Chokasum Hall, Nam Nang, Gangtok**. We also take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude towards those who has extended their support during the time of the bereavement.

Mingma Bhutia, Nima Bhutia, Dawa Bhutia (Sons), Phuphama Shrestha, Neelam Bhutia, Neelu, Bhutia, Ningmu Bhutia (Daughters), Krishna Chettri, Yankee Bhutia (Daughters-in-law), Bhusan Pradhan, Suraj Kr. Chettri (Sons-in-law), Chung Chung Bhutia (Granddaughter), Daniel Bhutia (Grandson)

Cont: 9933706483, 7063535102, 7098861554,

7602982847, 9932764642

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR HAWK EVENING

Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards
Draw No:11 DrawDate on:15/10/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- - 89G 03836
(Including Super Prize Amt)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/- - 03836 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-
01395 04849 09506 14386 14450
20440 28887 75727 76424 94059
4th Prize Rs.500/- - 1676 2307 3508 3747 4087 4777 5755 5912 6463 8720
5th Prize Rs.250/- - 1351 1654 3152 3163 3575 4421 5422 5537 7790 9459
6th Prize Rs.120/-
0075 0129 0167 0201 0319 0348 0481 0612 0657 0829
0876 0999 1051 1244 1500 1579 1673 1724 1855 1985
2390 2561 2648 2791 2986 3011 3074 3126 3162 3263
3359 3377 3482 3535 3612 3623 3728 3793 3946 4076
4105 4133 4137 4199 4215 4422 4437 4642 4651 4791
4842 4843 4847 5126 5152 5322 5345 5547 5626 5636
5672 5679 5705 5744 5838 5842 6062 6130 6168 6628
6694 6699 6782 7008 7191 7195 7227 7296 7523 7642
7753 8157 8273 8379 8401 8619 8937 9049 9105 9132
9237 9348 9391 9512 9521 9575 9609 9610 9695 9733

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For Results, Please visit: www.nagalandlotteries.com

KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR RESPECT MORNING

Draw No:6 DrawDate on:15/10/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- - 89D 07890
(Including Super Prize Amt)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/- - 07890 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-
00101 15703 18316 26425 27666
61461 70772 83232 85175 94228
4th Prize Rs.500/- - 0083 0608 3651 3808 5209 5468 6105 7671 8939 9328
5th Prize Rs.250/- - 0164 1248 2241 3401 3454 3528 4920 7874 9127 9128
6th Prize Rs.120/-
0011 0036 0071 0237 0250 0262 0436 0767 0972 1037
1216 1242 1278 1359 1389 1449 1564 1590 1639 1907
1956 1978 2020 2034 2090 2116 2184 2233 2234 2259
2301 2362 2373 2454 2604 2666 2763 2854 2875 2880
2937 2961 3000 3249 3254 3257 3335 3368 3421 3576
4015 4321 4330 4702 4747 5294 5350 5583 5651 5883
5938 5955 6019 6038 6072 6250 6292 6445 6526 6577
6604 6650 7025 7268 7381 7410 7550 7673 7826 7891
8084 8135 8374 8506 8579 8609 8770 8845 8865 8996
9001 9054 9229 9406 9467 9504 9560 9694 9946 9958

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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

DEAR AFFECTIONATE

Draw No:11 DrawDate on:15/10/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- - 80B 68272
(Including Super Prize Amt)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/- - 68272 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-
05243 13665 15789 24526 48576
59167 83875 85294 91609 99494
4th Prize Rs.500/- - 1002 1926 1952 3010 5911 7351 7558 7605 8607 9478
5th Prize Rs.250/- - 0190 0350 0594 0619 2438 4549 6381 6450 6543 6822
6th Prize Rs.120/-
0237 0446 0464 0493 0624 0655 0768 0942 1055 1161
1235 1261 1431 1454 1500 1637 1695 1807 1919 1934
2021 2045 2074 2171 2311 2448 2476 2511 2742 2866
3104 3136 3296 3381 3419 3677 3879 3921 4194 4359
4545 4480 4632 4773 4776 4815 4898 4965 5125 5407
5571 5628 5857 5981 6029 6103 6203 6269 6403 6433
6558 6664 6699 6707 6776 6873 6901 7015 7034 7122
7127 7238 7335 7338 7397 7418 7563 7578 7609 7619
7628 7703 7957 7995 8111 8391 8558 8718 8837 8908
9105 9398 9439 9480 9580 9790 9807 9822 9985 9993

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE:

Roadside plots (general land) available for sale at Adampool, east Sikkim.

Contact **9434117687** for further details and to arrange site visits.

HARVEY WEINSTEIN KICKED OUT OF ACADEMY AMID SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ALLEGATIONS

The board of governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has voted to strip Harvey Weinstein of his lifetime membership amid recent sexual assault and harassment allegations against him.

The disgraced producer, who had won an Oscar for Best Picture for producing Shakespeare in Love in 1999, has not commented on the decision.

The 54-member board, which includes the likes of Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks, Whoopi Goldberg and producer Kathleen Kennedy, had held their vote during an emergency meeting on Saturday. The decision to revoke Weinstein's membership was made later that day.

"The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Board of Governors met today to discuss the allegations against Harvey Weinstein, and has voted well in excess of the required

two-thirds majority to immediately expel him from the Academy," the group said in a statement to the press.

"We do so not simply to separate ourselves from someone who does not merit the respect of his colleagues but also to send a message that the era of willful ignorance and shameful complicity in sexually predatory behavior and workplace harassment in our industry is over," the statement continued. "What's at issue here is a deeply troubling problem that has no place in our society. The Board continues to work to establish ethical standards of conduct that all Academy members will be expected to exemplify."

Before the meeting, the Academy had said in a statement that Weinstein's alleged behavior is "repugnant" and that the board would discuss the allegations against him "and any actions warranted by the Acade-



my."

The New Yorker's Ronan Farrow had recently reported that 13 women told him that Weinstein had sexually harassed or assaulted them.

Three of the women, including xxX actress Asia Argento, say he raped them, while Rose McGowan has also recently accused Weinstein of rape. The producer's rep has said Wein-

stein denies any allegations of non-consensual sex.

Soon after the scandal broke, several more actresses, including Oscar winners Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow, came forward with allegations of sexual harassment by Weinstein.

The New Yorker article had followed a New York Times story that said he had reached eight settlements with women who made sexual harassment allegations, including McGowan. Weinstein apologized for his past behavior with "colleagues" but also said he plans to sue

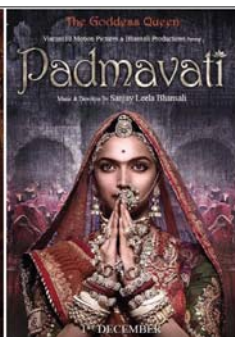
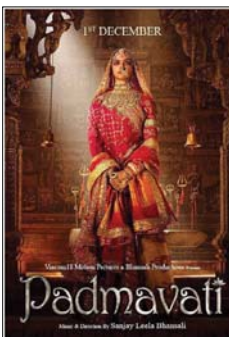
the newspaper for an estimated \$50 million. One of his attorneys said the article is "saturated with false and defamatory statements."

The producer has not been charged with a crime stemming from the allegations. However, the New York Police Department said on Thursday it is opening an investigation in light of the claims in the media. Meanwhile, the Weinstein Company fired him and Weinstein's wife, Marchesa designer Georgina Chapman, has announced she's leaving him.



GOSSIP GIRL: Blake Lively enjoys a laugh during her interview on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon.

PADMAVATI: 200 CRAFTSMEN, 600 DAYS TO CREATE DEEPIKA PADUKONE'S JEWELLERY



The trailer of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's much-awaited magnum opus Padmavati was recently unveiled and ever since then, Deepika Padukone's majestic look in the film has left everyone in awe.

The trailer proved that Bhansali has once again conjured magic with the perfect cast and its magnificent look. Deepika, who plays the role of Rani Padmini, looks like a dream adorned in intricate Rajasthani costumes and jewellery. A recent behind-the-scenes video reveals that it took 200 craftsmen who spent 600 days molding 400 kgs of gold to bring the beauty of Rajputana era back to life. The video, released by Tanishq, shows what all went behind the making of Rani Padmini's jewellery and the magnificence of it will leave you speechless. Apart from jewellery, Deepika's attire has been designed by Del-

hi-based designers Rimple and Harpreet Narula and has been created using traditional zardosi. The border, however, has been derived from the architectural details of Rajasthani palace windows and jharokhas and the odhnis have been styled in conventional ways which are still prevalent in the Mewar belt of Rajasthan.

Every costume worn by the actress cost approximately Rs 20 lakhs and weighed almost 30 kgs.

The film, set to release on December 1, marks Bhansali's third collaboration with Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone while Shahid Kapoor enjoys his first outing with the able director.



16TH OCTOBER WORLD HISTORY

1793- French Queen Marie Antoinette is guillotined for treason

1854- Oscar Wilde is born

1923- The Walt Disney Company is founded by Walt and brother Roy Disney.

1934- Embattled Chinese Communists break through Nationalist enemy lines and begin an epic flight from their encircled headquarters in southwest China known as 'The Long March'

1962- The Cuban Missile Crisis begins

1964- China detonates its first atomic bomb

1971- Rod Stewart begins his 2nd week at No.1 with Maggie May

1974- Three prison staff are in hospital and dozens of prisoners injured after rioting and fires at

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY

Assistant Professor in History, Namchi Govt. College

the Long Kesh Maze prison
1996- Football fans stampede before a World Cup qualifying match in Guatemala City, leaving 84 people dead
1996- The British Government announces plans to outlaw almost all handguns following the Dunblane massacre in March
2011- President Barack Obama dedicates a memorial to civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., who was assassinated in 1968.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REIMER



"HAVEN'T YOU HEARD ABOUT THIS NEW SHARING ECONOMY?"

ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



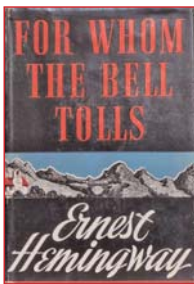
BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



BOOK OF THE WEEK FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS BY ERNEST HEMINGWAY

Ernest Hemingway's For Whom The Bell Tolls is a war novel about life, love, lost and ultimately death. Robert Jordan lives to fight with the republican guerrillas and he dies fighting alongside them. He lived a life that meant more to him than living in American suburbia with his wife and two children and a dog, while working a nine-to-



five job. That wouldn't be Robert Jordan, or Ernest Hemingway.

Hemingway's minimalist writing reflects the pristine snow trails and pine forests, which reflect loneliness and death but also love and hope. Like a full moon reflected in a still lake. A poetry of war and camaraderie, where the violence of the writing

would only temper the tragedy of lost. To experience these feelings is to experience the beauty of Hemingway's writing. For a war novel, there aren't many battle scenes. But we get to feel Robert Jordan's subdued emotions against the violence of war. The power of his love for Maria is that it couldn't be consummated. In the end, he chooses the only path consistent with his other choices: to fight to the end and risk capture and torture rather than have his comrades shoot him.

ARIES: Cupid may have struck you unawares. Your libido could be in high gear today and you're ready for love. You look and feel great. Try your best to reach the one you love. If it isn't possible to get together this evening, see if you can plan a romantic interlude soon. If all else fails, dive into a romance novel and escape that way.

TAURUS: Today you may come down from your recent high with a thud. If you feel irritable dealing with everyday chores, you're not alone. Your mood may be exacerbated by a visit from an even grumpier friend. If you're feeling cooped up with the detritus of fam-

ily life, take a break and go for a long walk to clear your head and raise your spirits. Tomorrow is another day.

GEMINI: Today may be taken up with doing a lot of last-minute errands. You may be called on to referee a dispute among colleagues, relatives, or neighbors. Depending on the nature of the spat, you may be able to broker a temporary truce, but don't be too hard on yourself if tempers simmer despite your best efforts. Try and make relaxation a priority.

CANCER: Are you experiencing a shopping hangover today? Are you worried that you outdid yourself despite your best intentions? Don't

fret. You'll be back on track soon. Cash will begin flowing again and your lifestyle won't suffer. Instead of worrying about money, pay attention to your creative outlets. Follow that instinct and see where it takes you!

LEO: Today's planetary aspects may have you experiencing a little cabin fever. If you have the urge to go off by yourself for a while, do so. Try a new diversion. Drive down a country road you've never explored. Find some antique shops. You probably need a break from your daily routine. You'll feel revitalized.

VIRGO: OK, the party's over. Time to put away the sinful pleasures,

the champagne, the chocolate truffles, and who knows what else. Take a good look at your home and get serious about putting things in order. A reality check is looming. Today would be a good day to get ready by tidying up the house and getting your brain in gear.

LIBRA: You may be experiencing a wonderful openness to new ideas and grand plans. You're enjoying an active imagination and your intuition is sharp. Trust in your self-awareness and confidence. If a friend with a negative attitude tries to dissuade you from your plans, keep it in perspective. Consider the source. Stay in tune with your ini-

tatives and you'll succeed.

SCORPIO: If you're feeling restless today, don't fight it. Use your energy to do something physical. Go for a walk or play tennis. Anything that helps you release the excess energy will feel good. It's important that you pay attention to your body's signals. Getting a good night's rest will have you feeling refreshed tomorrow. You'll be able to deal with the tasks at hand.

SAGITTARIUS: You don't want to sit still for a minute. You may make people dizzy with your energy, and you're itching to get away. You may be contemplating a long trip abroad. It's fine to fantasize about all the

choices out there, but don't commit to anything today. Your imagination and spirit are a bit too high to settle on anything in particular. Just enjoy all the choices for now.

CAPRICORN: This would be a good day to pursue some new interests. Perhaps you've recently discovered a book that opens up new areas for you. If dreams recently punctuated your sleep, try to recall the general feeling you had and reflect on that for a while. You'll probably realize it's only emotional residue from all the exhaustion of the past few weeks catching up with you.

AQUARIUS: Are you fed up with everyone around you now? Are you

fantasizing about walking out the door and not returning? Go ahead - just for today! You probably need a break from everyone. Why not get a massage and float away for a while? Your family will be happy to have you back, especially if you left them with plenty of assignments.

PISCES: The main things you need to do today are relax and enjoy your day. You may be feeling a bit under the weather and have a trip coming up that doesn't exactly thrill you. Stay alert, because you may receive an important message today from someone far away. You may also have a visitor arriving from out of town.