

Summit TIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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FORMER CHIEF MINISTER NAR BAHADUR BHANDARI PASSES AWAY

A Leader who held his ground to ensure that Sikkim was not submerged

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 JUL:

Former Chief Minister of Sikkim, Nar Bahadur Bhandari, passed away today in a Delhi hospital this afternoon. He was 77 and is survived by his wife, Dil Kumari Bhandari, two daughters and a son.

Mr Bhandari served Sikkim as its second Chief Minister from 1979 till 1994.

He had reportedly undergone a spinal cord surgery at Primus Super Speciality Hospital in New Delhi last Friday and succumbed today at around 4 PM. He had not been keeping well for the past month or so, it is informed.

Born in Malbasse in West Sikkim on 05 August 1940, Mr Bhandari started his career as a government school teacher before joining active politics in the mid-seventies and leading the Janta Parishad to office in 1979 in alliance with Congress (I).

Following the toppling of his government in 1984, he formed the Sikkim Sangram Parishad, since he had merged his earlier party with the Congress, and returned to office the same year and in the Assembly elections of 1989, led his party to a complete sweep of the Assembly with all the 32 MLAs of the State having been elected on an SSP ticket.

He sat in the Opposition bench for the

next two terms and was also the State Congress President in the interim. He last contested the Assembly elections in Sikkim 2009.

Following his parting of ways with the Congress, he returned to a resuscitated Sikkim Sangram Parishad and was its president at the time of his passing away.

Mr Bhandari will be remembered for his role at the helm of affairs during Sikkim's transition from a monarchy to a democracy, having been the CM of the State for 15 of Sikkim's first twenty years as a part of India.

He did not always enjoy a good equation with the Centre, an equation which led to his being toppled from office twice - in 1984 and in 1994 - in his three terms as Chief Minister here. It was perhaps his ability to take on Delhi and bounce back that sustained his image as a potent political force despite his losses in elections.

He will probably be most remembered for his role in securing Constitutional recognition for Nepali language, a feat he accomplished in 1992 in collaboration with his wife, Dil Kumari Bhandari, who was the Lok Sabha MP from Sikkim at the time.

And while this was a significant and important achievement, he was also much more than that.

He was also the first tall leader of post-Merger Sikkim who, while he had run-ins with many and being hounded by controversies and despite being constantly under pressure from Delhi, managed to hold his own, and through that extension, carved a unique recognition and self-belief for Sikkim and its people in their new identity as a State of India and Indians.

His resolute, almost stubborn, refusal to be cowed down by Delhi's mechanizations ensured that Sikkim held its own through the early years of the Merger when things could have swung either way. In a way, he was instrumental in seeding Sikkim's unique identity within the Indian Union, an attitude which Sikkim continues to carry to this day.

Even his detractors, and there were many, will recognize that this was an important contribution Mr Bhandari made towards easing Sikkim into its new innings.

There are very few instances when the passing away genuinely causes an irreparable loss, in Sikkim's context, this is one of them.

Mr Bhandari's mortal remains are scheduled to arrive at his Gangtok home on Monday evening, escorted from Bagdogra airport with full state honours including a ceremonial guard.



**Sikkim's
Oorja runs
out in semis**

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 JUL:

Sikkim went down to Karnataka in the semifinals of the final round of Oorja CAPFs U-19 Football Talent Hunt Tournament 2017 at New Delhi on Sunday. Sikkim lost the match by 5-2.

**Gopalkrishna
Gandhi to file
nomination
papers for
VP on Jul 18**

New Delhi, Jul 16 (PTI):

The joint opposition candidate for the post of vice president Gopalkrishna Gandhi is likely to file his nomination papers on Tuesday, the last date for doing so, in the presence of top Congress leaders including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. Sources said Gopalkrishna Gandhi, whose candidature was endorsed by 18 non-NDA parties, including the JD-U, will also be accompanied by top opposition leaders, including those from the Left parties and TMC.

Sikkim mourns passing away of a "worthy son of the soil"

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 JUL:

Former Chief Minister, Nar Bahadur Bhandari, was a tall leader who leaves a deep legacy and a wide political footprint even though he had withdrawn from active public life in the recent past. His passing away, even though he had been keeping unwell for a while, came as a shock and is being deeply mourned across the state. Condolence messages have been pouring in from all quarters not just from Sikkim but also from the neighboring region and the Centre.

"I am extremely sad and shocked to know about the untimely demise of Shri Nar Bahadur Bhandari, the former Chief Minister of Sikkim. With his passing away, Sikkim has lost a worthy son of the soil whose contributions to the State and its people are unparalleled. The State and the people of Sikkim have lost a great leader," shared CHIEF MINISTER Pawan Chamling in a Facebook post shortly after news arrived of Mr Bhandari's passing away in Delhi.

"I offer my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and pray that the departed soul may rest in eternal peace," he adds.

GOVERNOR Shrinivas Patil expressed deep sadness and grief on the demise of the former Chief Minister of Sikkim.

In the condolence message sent

to Mrs Dilkumari Bhandari, the Governor conveys, "I am deeply shocked and saddened by the news of demise of Shri Nar Bahadur Bhandari, Former Chief Minister of Sikkim.

Late Shri Bhandari has always been regarded as one of the tallest political figures who had won unparalleled trust of the people of Sikkim during its formative years of democratic transition. He had set the benchmark in Sikkim's polity by his vision and will to work for the common people. His concern for welfare and political rights of Sikkimese people will always be fondly remembered by people in Sikkim from all walks of life.

At this time of bereavement, I join the people of Sikkim to mourn his demise. I offer my deepest condolences and pray to the almighty for bestowing strength to his family members to bear this great loss."

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi tweeted today: "Saddened by demise of Shri Nar Bahadur Bhandari. His contribution towards Sikkim's progress will always be remembered. My condolences."

Condolence messages have also been posted by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, in their respective Facebook pages. Formal messages of condolence are expected to come in from more Central leaders.

SIKKIM KRANTIKARI MORCHA

has also prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

An SKM press release issued by its general secretary, Birendra Tamling, points out that Mr Bhandari was a popular and much-loved leader of Sikkim and its people. The party has hailed him as the creator of modern Sikkim and the one who introduced sustainable development here.

The release states that he was a strong and forthright leader whose passing away leaves a vacuum which will be hard to fill.

The state-unit of the BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY has also joined in extending condolences on the demise.

In a press communiqué issued this evening, the BJP-Sikkim president, DB Chauhan, while reiterating that Mr Bhandari's passing away was an irreparable loss for Sikkim, adds, "I personally feel like we have lost our guardian."

"Shri Bhandari's deep love for Sikkim and its people will continue to inspire the new generation. I found him always calm and collected. He was a person with vast administrative experience and knowledge and a straightforward person who never hesitated to call a spade a spade. May his soul rest in peace," Mr Chauhan conveys.

Condolence messages have also come in from neighbouring Darjeeling hills, with the GORKHA JANMUKTI MORCHA president, Bimal

Gurung, remembering Mr Bhandari as a leader who "served Sikkim with deep commitment and worked for the wellbeing of the entire State of Sikkim".

In a Facebook message posted this evening, Mr Gurung conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family and the people of Sikkim on behalf of the "entire Gorkha community", lauding the departed leader as a "distinguished Gorkha leader who had immensely contributed for the recognition of our Nepali language... [and who] was also a well-wisher for our century old demand of Gorkhaland."

Meanwhile, the SIKKIM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION held a condolence meeting at the Football House here this evening to mourn the demise.

SFA members present for the condolence meeting remembered the late Mr Bhandari as a "true leader, a dynamic personality and above all a real human being."

"He was a great football lover. SFA owes him a lot. He was the person who allotted land in the vicinity of Paljor Stadium to build the present Football House. He was a staunch supporter of SFA. He will be fondly remembered by all Sikkimese as a

great football lover. When he was the Chief Minister, he used to come down to Paljor Stadium to witness even the quarterfinal stage matches of the Governor's Gold Cup. We vividly remember, once without informing the organisers, watching the first round of Governor's Gold Cup match that too from the Hill Side Gallery near Norkhill Hotel. He was last seen at Paljor Stadium, Gangtok in the finals of the 35th All India Governor's Gold Cup on 21 Oct 2014 to see the match between ONGC (Mumbai) and Manang Masangdi Club (Nepal)," the SFA message prepared by its president Menla Ethenpa on the passing away reads.

The meeting also decided that before the start of SFA scheduled league matches for 17 July, a one minute silence will be observed in the field as a mark of respect to the departed soul. SFA has also decided not to hold scheduled matches at Paljor Stadium on the day of the funeral.

The PRESS CLUB OF SIKKIM too has extended condolences to the bereaved family, and, at an emergency meeting of executive members convened here today, also decided to postpone its foundation day celebrations scheduled for Monday.



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Federer wins record 8th Wimbledon as Cilic bid ends in tears

LONDON, JUL 16 (AFP):

Roger Federer won a record eighth Wimbledon title and became the tournament's oldest champion today with a straight-sets victory over injury-hit Marin Cilic who dramatically broke down in tears midway through the final.

Federer claimed his 19th Grand Slam title 6-3 6-1 6-4 and at 35 is Wimbledon's oldest men's winner of the modern era, succeeding Arthur Ashe, who was almost 32 when he won in 1976.

However, the Swiss superstar's 11th Wimbledon final, and 29th at the majors, will also be remembered for the moving sight of the popular Cilic breaking down in tears after slipping 3-0 behind in the second set.

The seventh seeded Croatian, the 2014 US Open champion, sobbed inconsolably and buried his head in his towel as his title dream slipped away.

He then had his left foot taped at the end of the second set but it was in vain as Federer became the first player since Bjorn Borg in 1976 to win Wimbledon without dropping a set in the entire tournament.

Beneath a star-studded Royal Box where Prince William and wife Kate rubbed shoulders with actors Hugh Grant and Bradley Cooper, Cilic had his first break point in the fourth game.

It was saved by Federer and it was to be Cilic's only glimmer of hope.

Federer broke in the next game when his opponent suffered a nasty fall on the worn surface which was to ultimately undermine his challenge.

Federer then served up two love service games before claiming the opener 6-3 off a Cilic double fault, the Croatian's second of the final.

The Swiss superstar swept into a 3-0 lead in the second set and at the changeover, Cilic slumped in his court-side chair in tears and in obvious pain.

DARJEELING (WB) JULY 16 (PTI): The security forces stayed on high alert today in the Darjeeling hills which remained incident-free on the 32nd day of the GJM-sponsored indefinite shutdown for a separate state of Gorkhaland.

Meanwhile, as per the court orders, two companies of the CRPF reached in the hills today while two more would be arriving tomorrow in Darjeeling.

The Calcutta High Court on July 14 had asked the Centre to provide

four additional companies of CRPF within 48 hours in Darjeeling to maintain law and order.

"Two companies of CRPF arrived in the hills today and two more will be arriving by tomorrow morning," Darjeeling Superintendent of Police Akhilesh Kumar Chaturvedi said.

Eleven companies of CRPF have already been stationed in the Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts.

A report from neighbouring Jalpaiguri district said that the Gorkha

Janukti Morcha started a relay hunger strike at Birpara today demanding Gorkhaland state.

The GJM's women cell also sat on a hunger strike at Jaigaon in the same district, district administration sources said.

GJM supremo Bimal Gurung last night had warned that the agitation would turn 'terrible' in the coming days.

"The agitation which has been going on for over a month now will turn

terrible and it will be a decisive battle for our independence," Gurung had told reporters here last night.

"If I need to shed my blood, I am ready to do that, but the fight will go on till Gorkhaland is achieved," Gurung said.

The Army was deployed in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Sonada and police and security forces were patrolling the streets of the hills, which saw rallies being taken out by GJM supporters at Chowkbazar demand-

ing a separate state.

The ban on Internet, which was imposed on June 18, has been extended till July 25 by the district administration yesterday.

Except pharmacy, all the other shops, restaurants, hotels, schools and colleges remained closed.

With the food supply severely hit due to the ongoing shutdown, GJM activists and NGOs of the hills were seen distributing food items among the people.



REDRH home inaugurated in Zoom-Salghari

JORETHANG, 16 JUL (IPR): Minister for Health and IPR, AK Ghatai, inaugurated the home of Chandra Kumar Rai constructed under

the Reconstruction of Earthquake Damaged Rural Houses scheme at Ward No. 6 of Zoom-Salghari constituency here today.

The beneficiary couple expressed their gratitude towards the Government and thanked the Minister for taking time out to personally

inaugurate their new home.

The Minister was accompanied by Zilla Panchayat and Ward Panchayat Members.



Rangpo's factory workers march for Gorkhaland

YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 16 JUL:

A rally of more than 200 factory workers invested their weekend off in registering support for the Gorkhaland

demand in the neighbouring region. Raising slogans and carrying banners in support of the statehood demand in neighbouring Darjeeling, they marched out from Rangpo ba-

zaar and aim to walk all the way to Gangtok. The rally was made up of casual workers employed at the Zyudus and Cipla pharmaceutical factories the Wai-Wai unit in Rangpo.

Assam flood toll climbs to 60, over 10 lakh affected



GUWAHATI, JUL 16 (PTI): The flood situation in Assam marginally improved today with the water level receding, amid reports of one more death and over 10 lakh people affected across 21 districts in the state.

According to a report by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), one person died in Morigaon district, raising the death toll to 60 in this year's flood related incidents. Eight of them have died in Guwahati alone, after the floods hit the state.

The ASDMA said over 10 lakh people are currently affected in Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Biswanath, Darrang, Nalbari, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Kokrajhar, Dhubri, South almar, Goalpara, Morigaon, Nagaon, Karbi Anglong, Golaghat, Jorhat, Majuli, Sivasagar, Karimganj and Cachar districts.

At the Kaziranga National Park, 38 per cent of the area is under water, leaving some animals dead and some moving to nearby highlands.

ASDMA said 1,512 villages are under water and nearly 50,000 hectares of crop area inundated.

The worst affected is south Salmara, where over 3.07 lakh people have been

affected by the deluge, followed by Dhubri with more than 1.88 lakh people marooned.

Authorities are running 280 relief camps and distribution centres in 15 districts, where 22,837 persons are currently taking shelter.

The government has distributed rice, dal, salt and mustard oil among the flood victims, the ASDMA said.

Across the state, 10,99,141 animals and poultry have been affected by the flood waters, the agency said.

Due to the impact of flood, many roads, embankments and bridges have been damaged in several districts, including Lakhimpur, Morigaon, Biswanath, Goalpara, Bongaigaon, Dhubri, Golaghat, Majuli, Sivasagar and Karimganj.

Currently, the Brahmaputra is flowing above the danger mark at two places - Nimatighat in Jorhat and Dhubri town.

Other rivers flowing above the danger mark include Dhanisiri at Numaligarh, Barak at AP Ghat in Cachar and Badarpurghat in Karimganj, Katakhal at Matizuri in Hailakandi and Kushiyrara at Karimganj town.

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J&K govt fails to regularise over Rs 1.04 lakh crore

JAMMU, JUL 16 (PTI): The Jammu and Kashmir government has failed to regularise an excess expenditure of Rs 1,04,767 crore in the state Assembly for last 36 years, according to a CAG report.

The report of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India on state finances for the year ending on March 31, 2016, was tabled in the recently-concluded Assembly session.

As per the section 82 of Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, it is mandatory for the state government to get the excess expenditure over the grant/appropriation regularised by the State Legislature, the CAG report said.

The respective governments of NC-Congress and PDP-BJP alliances have miserably failed to regularise an excess expenditure over Rs 1.04 lakh crore through its State Legislature for past 36 years, it said.

"Although no time limit for regularisation of expenditure has been prescribed under the section, the regularisation of excess expenditure is done after the completion of discussion of appropriation accounts by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC)," CAG said.

NorthEast Career Guide

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Gangtok on Monday, 17 July

Temp: 27°C / 20°C
Forecast: Interval of clouds and sunshine with chances of showers and a thunderstorm.
Sunrise: 04:50 AM
Sunset: 06:32 PM

Selfies at tourist hot-spots, water bodies banned at Jabalpur

JABALPUR, JUL 16 (PTI): If you are planning to visit tourists hot-spots and water bodies in Jabalpur district this Monsoon, you won't be able to click selfies, as the authorities have banned it.

The decision has been taken to prevent accidents which usually happen in the Monsoon, an official said.

District Collector Mahesh Chandra Chowdhary issued the order last week using the powers vested to the collector under Section 144 of Code of Criminal Procedure.

As per the order, there are different water bodies including Pariyat and Khandari dams and rivers -Narmada, Hiran, Pariyat and ponds at Adhartal, Hanumantal, Supatal, Gokulpur and Sangram Sagar lake in the district.

The tourists including school and college students frequently visit these places during the Monsoon, it said.

There is growing possibility of accidents, particularly while clicking of selfies with cell-phones, as the water level in all these water bodies is on the rise during the Monsoon, reads the order.

Hence, there would be ban on taking selfies at such places in order to ensure the public safety. Any violation of the order will invite action against the offenders under section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the Indian Penal Code, it stated.

Thendup Tamang emerges champion at Jigdal Denzongpa Memorial State-level Open Chess Tournament



SAGAR CHHETRI

GANGTOK, 16 JUL:

Thendup Tamang has emerged the champion of the Jigdal Denzongpa Memorial State-level Open Chess Tournament 2017 held here at SDF Bhawan. Rahul Gurung finished runners-up and Rohit Gurung stood on the third position in the tournament.

The four-day long tournament was organised by the Sikkim Chess Association and saw the participation of 327 chess players from different parts of the State.

Meanwhile, Priya Chhetri stood on the fourth position and Saurab Subba on fifth, Bhoj Bahadur Chhetri on sixth, Sushmita Lama on seventh, Durga Prasad Sharma on eighth, Phurba Wangyal Bhutia on ninth and Sejal Rai on tenth position in the tournament.

The prize distribution ceremony had Agriculture Minister, Somnath Poudyal, as the chief guest.

The chief guest and other guests handed over cash and other

prizes to the winners.

The top-20 received cash prizes and trophies, while winners in age categories received medals, certificates and chess sets.

In his address, Minister Mr Poudyal highlighted that chess helped children not only in their studies but also in their overall development. He appreciated the efforts of the SCA towards promotion and development of chess in the State and for providing a good platform to chess players through such tournaments.

He also congratulated the SCA for producing rated players from Sikkim.

The Minister urged SCA to continue with its activities to bring out more chess players from the State. He also urged parents to encourage children to take up chess. He also assured to support the SCA in its future endeavours.

Chief Arbiter of the tournament, Dharmendra Kumar, also encouraged SCA to continue with

its initiatives for the promotion of chess especially among school students. He added that chess will help make a healthy and creative society. He also encouraged young children to continue pursuing chess with same passion and dedication.

Earlier, in his welcome address, SCA general secretary, Mahendra Dhakal, who is also an International Arbiter, mentioned that the late Mr Denzongpa was a talented chess player and that this tournament in his memory was to recognise his contributions towards the development of chess in the State.

He mentioned that the tournament had participants starting from a 5-year-old to 82 year olds. He urged players to continue with their practice to do even better in future. He also mentioned that sports engaged the young in healthy competition and productive ways. He also encouraged players to practice chess at least one hour every day.

Embattled Nagaland chief minister appeals for reconciliation

KOHIMA, JULY 16 (PTI): Nagaland Chief Minister Shurhozelie Liezietsu today appealed to his party NPF's dissident MLAs, led by former CM T R Zeliang, to settle differences at the party forum.

Liezietsu made the appeal on the eve of the slated hearing by the Kohima bench of the Guwahati High Court of his plea against the Nagaland governor's directive to him to seek a confidence vote.

It is unfortunate that the issue which could be resolved in the party, as it is purely an internal problem of the Nagaland People's Front (NPF), but it has been dragged to the governor's and speaker's office, government spokesperson and minister Yitachu said in a statement this evening.

He asserted that Liezietsu was forced to take over as chief minister during public agitation against the then chief minister T R Zeliang against 33 per cent



reservation for women in the election for the urban local bodies.

Yitachu said that being a member of the NPF, Zeliang cannot move a no-confidence motion simply because he belongs to the party which Liezietsu heads.

Therefore, constitutionally and legally Liezietsu still enjoys absolute majority in the House as NPF alone commands 47 members in the House of 60, he argued.

Lok Sabha member and former Chief Minis-

ter Neiphiu Rio and 44 MLAs, all supporters of former chief minister T R Zeliang, had yesterday met Governor P B Acharya who promised to uphold the Constitution.

On the other hand, Liezietsu, along with his council of ministers, had also met the Governor last evening and apprised him about the political situation.

Earlier, the governor's directive to the chief minister to hold a trust vote had been rejected by the state cabinet.



MISS SIKKIM CONTEST BEGINS FROM NAMCHI

Contestants dazzle at Namchi to brighten up a sunny Sunday even more. The first round of Miss Sikkim 2017, the red carpet event, was held here at Central Park on Sunday.



**SIKKIM URBAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
URBAN DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK
FILE NO:1(158)NULM/17-18
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Request for proposals invited from reputed firms for setting up and operating a State Mission Management Unit (SMMU) under Deendayal Anthyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission in Sikkim.

1. The RFP document can downloaded from www.sikkimurbandevelopmentagency.org and should be submitted alongwith a D.D of Rs 1000/- drawn in favour of the Director, SUDA, Urban Development & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim.
2. The last date for receipt of RFP is 19.07.2017 at 1600 hrs. It can be sent through speed post/registered post/courier/submission by hand, however no drop box facility is available. It should be addressed to the Mission Director, DAY-NULM, UD&HD, Govt. of Sikkim-737101.
3. Date and time for opening RFP: 21.07.2017 at 1100 hrs.
4. The proposals shall be accompanied by a TDR amounting to Rs. 20,000/- as EMD. The Director, SUDA, UD&HD reserves the right to change the terms and conditions, select or reject any application without assigning any reason thereof.
5. For further information:-

**MISSION DIRECTOR, DAY-NULM
UD&HD, Government of Sikkim
Gangtok, Sikkim-737101
Phone No: 9434410804
Email: udhdsikkim@gmail.com**



Water Resources Deptt plants at Chirbirey

**SUMMIT REPORT
JORETHANG, 15 JUL:**

The South District office of Divisional Engineer, Water Resources and River Development Department conducted a, massive plantation drive at Chirbirey Eco-

Park here at 16th Mile. The plantation drive, themed 'Preserve Protect our Water Resources', was joined by Secretary-cum-PCE, WRRD Department, DK Rai, along with Chairperson, NJMC, Tika Gurung, Deputy Chairperson NJMC,

Councilors, officials and representatives from Dans Energy. Around 300 saplings of various kinds of trees which were provided by the Forest Department were planted at the Chirbirey Eco-Park premises, an official release informs.

SummitTIMES

Make Space for People in the Public Domain

Enough of dictating terms while pretending to confer

Certificates of Identification, Old Laws, land acquisition, statehood, identity chauvinism, territorial integrity... these are some of the issues that have been in the news in the recent weeks. There have been many comments issued in the public domain on these matters, but start scratching the nature of reactions and it quickly becomes apparent that most of the voices come out from the same bouquet of opinionators. Public opinion is claimed by those who have traditionally usurped the privilege to speak, an empowerment which now allows them to dictate even though they might be claiming to be conferring and set the agenda even when they are supposedly trying to build consensus.

There is a small clutch of voices which occupies the public domain and while there is nothing wrong in holding opinions and broadcasting them, the quality of debate suffers in the absence of variety or new voices. The region, unfortunately, is afflicted by a paucity of representative voices which can claim to be genuinely speaking for a wide section of people. The public space is monopolised by political viewpoints, each comment anchored in the political position projecting the view. It does not help that political personalities and leanings infiltrate other organisations with ease and get their views echoed from there as well. The ruling and the Opposition groups and all sections and fronts aligned with either of them react on expected lines and never surprise with the positions they take and rarely enlighten with lucid explanations or justifications. And no, they stopped explaining their actions a long time ago.

The priority for them is to embarrass or dominate the other side and this they pursue with spite instead of reason. The media allows them the platform to exchange their barbs, and while all of this can be very entertaining, it is rarely informative. Refer to the short list with which this piece begins and it becomes obvious that though many allegations, counter allegations, justifications and claims have been made on these issues, the issues themselves remain largely under-explained and widely misunderstood. Because the political voices get so belligerent in these debates, the unattached voices hesitate from entering the discussions because that would attract immediate political branding which most apolitical stances would be uncomfortable with. It is time that this hesitation was overcome, because the people's right to know and understand is suffering as a result.

The process can be initiated if genuinely apolitical groups and organisations, even social organisations, overcome their passivity and engaged more energetically on issues that concerned the people, tried to understand them better and then shared their informed stands. Until that happens, as far as the people are concerned, they will view debates on all issues only as rants and counter-rants between political opponents, not as important discussions which could affect them.

Five Amazing Books to Read This Summer

CLAYTON CHILDRESS
theconversation.com

This summer, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the publication of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, don't re-read Harry Potter. Likewise for Gabriel García Márquez's One Hundred Years of Solitude, which is commemorating its 50th anniversary this year.

Instead, embrace a little known fact about both books: their successes were prefaced with massive rejection. Twelve publishers rejected JK Rowling's Potter before Bloomsbury agreed to an initial print run of just 500 copies. One Hundred Years of Solitude beat seemingly insurmountable odds before it was published. It was also dismissed by literary elites the world over before becoming a classic.

In a more recent example, Viet Thanh Nguyen's Pulitzer Prize winning *The Sympathizer* (2015) was rejected by a baker's dozen of publishers. The list goes on and on: In 1950, Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl* was rejected by 15 publishers, with one explaining that "even if

the work had come to light five years ago, when the subject was timely, I don't see that there would have been a chance for it." *Moby-Dick* was so bad it was supposed to end Herman Melville's career. *Lord of the Flies* was rejected by 20 publishers and sold so poorly it was out of print within 18 months. After John Grisham's first novel failed to sell, he promised his wife he'd give up writing after one more try.

For unknown writers, success is random. I've spent the last decade of my life studying book publishers, and everyone in the book publishing business knows how difficult it is to get published and to gain success.

During my research, Delia Falconer's *The Lost Thoughts of Soldiers* (2006, Soft Skull Press) came up in a marketing and distribution meeting. On mention of the novel, the 20 or so people around the room let out sighs of agony and grief. Falconer's book, the book they all adored so much, had failed to find the audience they agreed it deserved. They loved it so

turn to pg05



Modi's polarising populism makes a fiction of a secular, democratic India

IRFAN AHMAD
theconversation.com

After Donald Trump was sworn in as US president, *The Times of India* published a piece titled "Why both Modi and Trump are textbook populists".

Citing Jan-Werner Müller's *What is Populism?*, the journalist, Amit Varma, was struck by "how closely our own prime minister, Narendra Modi, matched Müller's definition". After enumerating Müller's seven "characteristics" and the three "things" populists did when in power, Varma found these all applicable to India.

But can such schematic "characteristics" of populism describe the ghastly daytime murder of 15-year-old Hafiz Junaid on a moving, packed train? And what about the complicit silence maintained during and afterwards by populists, non-populists and anti-populists alike?

Located barely 20 kilometres from the scene of the crime, neither social-media-savvy Modi nor his ministers posted any tweets, let alone visited the victim's family.

It was the "crowd" that knifed Junaid. Two of his brothers were severely beaten and injured because they were Muslim. They wore beards and skullcaps for which they were humiliated.

They were called "Mulleys [Muslims]", "beef-eaters", "terrorists", "traitors" and "Pakistanis". As Junaid's bloodied body lay in the lap of his brother, who begged for help, the crowd simply and silently watched on.

Junaid's murder was not the first since Modi came to power in 2014. Similar instances of brutality have occurred throughout India: from Jhajar, Jharkhand and Dadri to Latehar, Una and Alwar.

And since the government backs the lynchings through silence and inaction, and since Hindutva has created a war-like mindset among many Hindus, they will likely continue.

"Populism", as Müller defines it, fails to articulate the experience and vocabulary of those at the receiving end of such persistent violence.

RELIGION AND THE REAL TARGETS OF POPULISM

Preoccupied with the statements of populist leaders nearly the world over, Müller seldom draws on the views of those who are objectified and victimised by populism. His treatment of religion as constitutive of populism is thin at best.

Müller implies that populism is inimical to democracy. But if populists claim to represent "we the people" and therefore democracy, who do they view as their enemy? It can't just be "the elite" – populists too are elite. The real targets of populists, then, are those non-elites who supposedly threaten the culture of the "real" people.

And who threatens the "Judo-Christian culture", "homelands" or "ways of life" that populists uphold? In Western countries, the threat is attributed to Muslims, who are depicted as only religious – indeed the most religious of all peoples. Muslims alone are seen as a problem to "integration" and "cohesion", as if Buddhists, Confucians, Hindus and people of other faiths lived on a different planet.

Müller reads the populist demand for Barack Obama's birth certificate as a signification of the former US president's status as the "bicoastal elite and the African-American other". He leaves religion out of it. So why did one-third of Americans believe Obama was a Muslim well into his second term, after many proclamations of his own Christianity?

Anders Breivik, the terrorist who killed 77 people in Norway, also stands expelled from Müller's

text. Breivik surely was opposed to elites; but elites themselves were not his target.

The real targets were Muslims whose culture, Breivik held, elites had spread by allowing immigration, which in turn threatened Christian Europe. The title of Breivik's manifesto is revealingly religious.

And while Müller wrote only one sentence on India in his book, Breivik promised military support "to the [Hindu] nationalists in the Indian civil war and in the deportation of all Muslims from India". He also viewed John Howard and Cardinal George Pell as heroes defending "Christian civilisation".

So what connects populists in the US, Australia, Europe, India and elsewhere? And what prompted the International Democratic Union in 2016 to grant membership "unanimously" to Modi's party, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), despite its reputation for ethnic and violent politics?

POPULISM AND ANTI-PLURALISM IN INDIA

Accounts of populism like Varma's mechanically assume a "secular" conception of India separate from the religious one to which populism is assigned. This separation is central to the Indian liberal story parroted by Nobel laureate Amartya Sen and Ramchandra Guha.

Mukulika Banerjee traces neo-nationalism (which anthropologists use in association with populism) to religious nationalism in the early 20th century and V.D. Savarkar's Hindutva.

Hindutva defined Indianness exclusively in religious terms: an Indian is someone who considers India as their holy land. Because India was not sacred geography for Christians and Muslims, they were non/anti-Indian. Indeed they were non-people.

In contrast, Banerjee presents Mohandas Gandhi's and Jawaharlal Nehru's vision as secular and pluralist: "It was the great achievement of Gandhi and Nehru that it took four post-independence decades for such enmity [against Muslims] to flourish."

However, anthropologist N.K. Bose, who served as Gandhi's secretary, had this to say: "Gandhi tacitly formed an alliance with those who believed in a restoration of Hindu domination."

Gandhi's tactical commitment to non-violence is evidenced by statements in his speeches that authorise violence: "If later they [Muslims] betray you, you can shoot them. You may shoot one or two or a certain number... We must be brave and trust the Muslims. If later they violate the trust you can cut off their heads."

It follows that Savarkar's ethnic, anti-pluralist vision was not radically at odds with Gandhi's.

Moreover, as independent India's first prime minister, if secularism was the hallmark of Nehru's ideology, why didn't he write it into the Indian Constitution? Why was it inserted only in the mid-1970s? Nehru admitted that Hindus, including in his own party, were prejudiced and biased against Muslims. Bureaucracy was no different, he wrote:

"Nearly all our District Officers and Hindus are ... biased in a certain direction. It is unfortunate that so few Muslims are represented in our services now."

If the main political parties and the bureaucracy were prejudiced, where did Nehru's secularism, then, live? Not in Hyderabad, nor in Jammu, where, with the government playing an active role, 200,000 Muslims were massacred in 1947.

CREATING INHUMANITY IN THE GUISE OF HUMANITY

Though anti-pluralism (which Müller sees as the core of populism) in India began much earlier than Trump and the Tea Party in America, populism has

undeniably taken on a new flavour in contemporary times.

The September 11 attacks marked a new phase in the definition of "the people" around the axes of "terrorism" and "humanity". In a televised debate soon after 9/11, Modi hailed the Indian media for speaking "the truth" in using the phrase "Islamic terrorism".

Modi opined that terrorism was innate to Islam (and less emphatically also to Christianity), for it did not consider other religions to be true. In his view, the "whole world" had witnessed terrorism "for 1,400 years" (since Muhammad's time). Modi saw the post-9/11 era as a battle between "humanity" and "terrorism".

The "humanity" Modi spoke of did not exist as a prior idea. Instead, it was manufactured through the disingenuous discourse on terrorism that his party enacted on the international stage. In the same debate, Modi said: "Because of India's initiative in the UN meeting twice, we have made terrorism an issue. Due to this, we have succeeded in dividing the country into two camps: those who are against terrorism and those who are in support of terrorism."

I think that the recent incident in America [9/11] will intensify it [the division]. The world is about to be divided into two parts: those who are in favour of humanity and those who are against humanity."

While Müller does discuss polarisation as constitutive of populism, he fails to connect its articulations across countries as Modi did. Modi's polarisation was between humanity and its enemy, which is simultaneously anti-human, non-human, sub-human and less than human.

In the 2002 anti-Muslim pogrom, which Modi presided over as chief minister of Gujarat, over 3,000 Muslims were killed with state complicity. He maintained a long silence over the killings; when he eventually spoke, he compared the killings to running over puppies with a car. In doing so, he transferred Muslims from human to sub-human.

The act of transference partly explains why hundreds of people at the railway station did not even see Junaid's dead body. Surely populism itself is too wandering and too light a term to grasp the ferocity with which the crowd killed Junaid, and the subsequent weight of the public's apathy. When Junaid's mother, Saira, was told of his murder after she had broken her Ramadan fast, she responded with words that did not include populism. Can democracy, then, understand the tears and moaning through which Saira spoke?

It's worth remembering that in addition to Modi's claim that he is chosen by God, his followers regard him as God. At Madison Square Garden in 2014, Modi described his electoral victory as divine. He pronounced: "Janata jan janārdan", or "the will of the people prevails over the world", where the people themselves are God because janārdan denotes the Hindu god Lord Krishna.

Thus, unlike "secularism", which Modi denounces as "pseudo-secularism", the idea that there can likewise be "pseudo-democracy" remains unthinkable for Modi and his followers.

I tend to agree with Müller's observation that "one implication of the analysis presented in this book is that National Socialism and Italian Fascism need to be understood as populist movements..." The question, then, is: are populism and fascism substitutes?

[the writer is Senior Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute]

Youths ready to sacrifice lives for Gorkhaland: GJM

PRADIPTA TAPADAR

DARJEELING (WB), JUL 16 (PTI): A number of people, mostly youths, are ready to sacrifice their lives for the cause of a separate Gorkhaland state, the group spearheading the movement has claimed.

The Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM), which is leading the shutdown in the hills since June 15, had threatened to start a fast un-

to-death strike and later self-immolation to pressure the state and the central governments to give in to their demand.

Although the GJM has postponed its plans for the fast un-to-death strike due to the presidential election, the party's youth wing has started a ground work for preparing youths for self-immolation in days to come, party leaders

said.

"After we announced that we would go for self-immolation to meet our demand, I have been flooded with hundreds of proposals and messages from the youths and people of the hills who have expressed their desire to sacrifice themselves for the cause," GJM youth wing Yuva Morcha president Prakash Gurung told PTI.

He said there are "no pre-conditions and those ready to sacrifice themselves will do on their own terms and desire".

He did not divulge details of the people who have sent such proposals but merely said "the agitation will intensify in days to come".

Prakash, who had resigned from Gorkhaland Territorial Ad-

ministration (GTA) in May, had proposed to launch a separate statehood agitation on the line of the Telengana stir.

Darjeeling has a history of self-immolations over the demand of separate state. In July 2013, a 45-year-old supporter had set himself alight at the Dambarchowk in Kalimpong town (now a district). He died of burn injuries a

month later.

Another GJM supporter, a 32-year-old physically challenged man, had attempted immolation in 2013 but survived after prolonged treatment.

The picturesque hill station has earlier witnessed a 40-day bandh in 1988 and a 44-day one in 2013. This indefinite shutdown entered its 32nd day today.

CMFRI study gives nod for trade in sharks

KOCHI, JUL 16 (PTI): Some varieties of sharks, feared to be facing a high risk of extinction, do not suffer such threat from fishery in Indian waters and international trade of these species and their by-products can be done, says a study by Indian marine scientists.

The study was conducted by scientists of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

The findings have come when the global conservation agency International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN has recommended increased conservation efforts to save world's sharks and some of their species facing extinction.

Indian scientists, however, say the trade of hammerhead sharks and oceanic whitetip shark and their by-products can be done with CITES certification, an international agreement between governments, which aims at the sustainability of wild exploited fauna and flora.

"From the information available on the fish-

ery and stock status of hammerhead sharks and oceanic whitetip shark in Indian waters, ICAR-CMFRI has found that at present, the fishery does not pose a serious threat to the stocks of these species, provided there is a check on the exploitation of juvenile hammerheads from the inshore waters," says the study.

The study is titled "Non-Detriment Findings (NDF) for export of shark and Ray species listed in Appendix II of the CITES and harvested from Indian waters."

It says that positive NDFs were therefore recommended and international trade in these sharks and their by-products can be done with CITES certification, subject to existing regulatory laws on shark fin trade implemented by the Indian government.

They study, however, says it is not possible to fix recommended harvest levels since the sharks were not targeted by a particular fishing fleet, gear or method, and the landings not consistent throughout the year.

Rain fury in Gujarat claims 9 lives, over 400 rescued

AHMEDABAD, JUL 16 (PTI): At least nine persons have died and over 400 people rescued by the National Disaster Response Force and the Air Force as heavy rains lashed many parts of Gujarat in the past two days, leading to swollen rivers and overflowing reservoirs.

Rescue operations gained momentum today as the rains took a break after lashing several parts of the state, especially Saurashtra and Kutch, throwing normal life out of gear and leaving thousands stranded in flood waters.

Gujarat Revenue Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama visited the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) in Gandhinagar to take stock of the situation in Morbi, Surendranagar, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Kutch districts, which bore the brunt of the rain fury.

"With the help of NDRF and Air Force, we have rescued 405 persons in different parts of the state in the last 48 hours.

Nine persons have lost lives while 2,004 persons have been shifted to safer places," said Chudasama.



"Today 40 persons were rescued in Jodia tehsil of Jamnagar. Seven persons were rescued in Surendranagar using a helicopter. We are taking the help of NDRF and the Air Force," he said.

Three persons stranded at Natwargarh in Surendranagar district were airlifted by an IAF chopper this morning, a release by Defence PRO said here.

During the last 24 hours (till 8

am today), Abdasa tehsil of Kutch district received the maximum rainfall of 322 mm followed by Jodia in Jamnagar (259 mm), Dasada in Surendranagar (236 mm), Rajkot (206 mm), Dhrangadhra in Surendranagar (166 mm), Morbi (161 mm) and Chotila in Surendranagar (149 mm), said a release by the SEOC.

Other places which received heavy rainfall in the last 24 hours

include Sutrapada in Gir Somnath (123 mm), Lodhika in Rajkot (117 mm), Gadhada of Gir Somnath (116 mm), Lalpur in Jamnagar (112 mm), Mandvi in Kutch (111 mm), Bhachau in Kutch (106 mm), Bhuj-Kutch (106 mm) and Tankara in Morbi (100 mm).

The Meteorological Centre here said light to moderate rains would continue in many places over the next two days.

Fire in IOC oil tankers, no casualty

JALPAIGURI (WB), JUL 15 (PTI): A fire broke out in at least four oil tankers inside an Indian Oil Corporation depot near New Jalpaiguri railway station in Jalpaiguri district tonight, police said.

Several shanties of a nearby slum area were gutted but there was no report of any casualty.

Police said the slum area was evacuated and people residing there were taken to a field.

Fire brigade personnel fought for over two hours and brought the flame under control.

Fire brigade officials said initially four fire tenders were trying to douse the blaze and later three more were pressed into service as the fire spread.

The reason for the fire or losses incurred were yet to be ascertained.

Jogen Chowdhury spearheads 'Kolkata Street Art Festival'

KOLKATA, JULY 16 (PTI): Eminent painter Jogen Chowdhury will guide a group of artists to paint the city's walls in prominent locations in an effort to kickstart a graffiti art and mural movement.

Named 'Kolkata Street Art Festival', the campaign "is a unique concept on the lines of similar street art and wall graffiti campaigns in cities like London, Chowdhury told a press meet here yesterday.

"For a city like Kolkata with its own distinct characteristics, it is important," the Kalidas Samman recipient said.

A wall near Exide Crossing is already being decorated with a mural as part of this campaign.

Chowdhury, however, cautioned against visual clutter, saying, "We must ensure that the murals and the graffiti are properly maintained and not defaced or hidden by a hoarding or posters pasted on them. We have to make it a year-long movement."

"We have also seen how paan



masala stains have impeded the beautification drive of the civic authorities and need to sensitise people against such bad habits. The festival will thus sensitise people to keep their places and surroundings clean and beautiful," he said.

Two trams and important locations like walls at Exide Crossing and Ballygunje Tram Depot, Metro station walls in three

places in the north and south, a wall at New Alipore will be adorned with colourful weaving patterns and designs by 15 artists under guidance from Jogen Chowdhury.

KMC Mayor-in-Council Debashis Kumar said, "The civic authorities will extend all help in beautifying the city and enhance the aesthetic appeal."

Abhijit Roy, CEO of a paint

company, and organiser of the street art festival, said, "The mission is to paint more prominent walls in the coming years. We are seeking to collaborate with local authorities and government bodies to ensure that the works are cleaned throughout the year."

Kolkata Street Art Festival had earlier taken place in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

Five Amazing Books to Read This Summer

contd from pg04

much that while publishing and promoting it they had suspended what they knew: all hits are flukes. For books, quality and success are, at best, distant cousins of one another.

So, when picking books to read this summer, don't reach for Harry Potter or One Hundred Years of Solitude. Rowling and Márquez don't need you. Instead, spend your time reading authors who do need you: the future Rowlings' and Marquez's whom fate has yet to shine on.

FIVE AMAZING BOOKS TO READ THIS SUMMER:

Here are my recommendations for fiction, nonfiction and poetry, for which deserved attention is just starting to shine:

IN THE DISTANCE by Hernán Díaz (Fiction, Coffee House Press): The independent Coffeehouse Press is best known for its literary fiction, but publisher Chris Fischbach is a fan of westerns. He was tipped off to Díaz's unpublished manuscript when an acquaintance recommended it to him for his off-hours pleasure reading. He loved it so much he decided he had to publish it. In *The Distance* tells the story of a 19th century Swedish immigrant who seems to be the only person in the United States travelling West-to-East during a time of Westward expansion. Like all great travelogues it's nominally about a quest to get somewhere and find someone, while really being about the journey.

MAKING A GLOBAL CITY: HOW ONE TORONTO SCHOOL EMBRACED DIVERSITY by Robert Vipond (Non-fiction, University of Toronto Press): In an age of Trump and Brexit, Canada is globally exceptional, and on our 150th birthday it's something that shouldn't just be celebrated repeatedly in the pages of *The New York Times*. It should be celebrated on your bookshelf too. Do so with Vipond's exquisite micro-history of Canadian immigration, all told through the changing demographics of Toronto's 129 year old Clinton Street

Junior Public School.

FULL-METAL INDIGIQUEER by Joshua Whitehead (Poetry, Talonbooks): This first full-length book of poetry by Oji-Cree poet Joshua Whitehead uses a two-spirit trickster figure to take on and challenge literary and pop culture works to re create space in storytelling in an irreverent and creative way. With appearances from everyone from William Shakespeare to Peter Pan, catch up on Whitehead's poetry in preparation for his YA novel that should be out soon too.

A KIND OF FREEDOM by Margaret Wilkerson Sexton (Fiction, Counterpoint Press): When Sexton's law firm declared bankruptcy, she found herself with twelve months and a partially paid leave, which she used to write *A Kind of Freedom*. In the novel, Sexton lays out how racism, colorism and structural inequality pushes a high-income, multi-racial New Orleans family into poverty across three generations. Twelve months to write can be the difference between a future literary classic existing or not. One year off to write was also the gift that airline ticketing agent Harper Lee was given by well-heeled friends in 1956, resulting in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

THE HANDOVER by Elaine Dewar (Nonfiction, Biblioasis): Upon retirement, most of the scions of mid-20th Century literary publishing used the same exit strategy. After spending decades teetering on the brink of financial insolvency, they sold off their presses to multinational conglomerates. Canada's storied McClelland & Stewart was a bit different. To survive long enough to reach international scale, it needed CanLit subsidies via government intervention. Dewar's story is an engaging tale of a uniquely Canadian boondoggle, in which literary, academic and financial elites coordinated to skirt federal law and transfer Canadian cultural wealth to the largest conglomerate publisher in the world.

[The writer is Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Toronto]

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'Pak Army chief analysing Jadhav's plea, decision on merit'

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, JUL 16 (PTI): Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa is "analysing" the evidence against Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav, sentenced to death by a military court, and will decide his appeal on merit, the Army said here today.

Jadhav, 46, filed a mercy petition before Gen Bajwa last month, according to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement issued on June 22. The statement said that the former Indian Navy officer had filed the petition after the Military Appellate Court rejected his appeal.

Pakistan Army spokesman Major Gen Asif Ghafoor today told reporters that Gen Bajwa was "analysing the evidence against Jadhav. The Army chief will decide Jadhav's appeal on merit."

Jadhav is eligible to appeal for clemency to the Army chief under Pakistan's law, and if his plea is rejected, he can subsequently appeal the Pakistan president for the same.

He was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court in April for his alleged involvement in espionage and terrorist activities. The International Court of Justice in The Hague in May halted his execution on India's appeal.

Pakistan has repeatedly denied India consular access to Jadhav in violation of the Vienna Convention. It has also sat on a request for a visa to Jadhav's mother, Avantika Jadhav, so that she can travel to Pakistan and meet her son. On July 13, the foreign office said Pakistan was "considering" the request for visa.

Pakistan claims to have arrested Jadhav from Balochistan province on March 3 last year after he reportedly entered from Iran. However, India maintains that he was kidnapped from Iran where he had business interests after retiring from the Indian Navy.

At the briefing today,

the Army spokesman also accused India of ceasefire violations and targeting civilians along the LoC. "There were 580 ceasefire violation on the LoC so far in 2017, which is the highest number of violations in recent years," he said, suggested that India was "compelled" by the "domestic pressure" to do so.

Asked about the "role" of the military in the joint investigation team (JIT) report against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and government allegations of a "conspiracy", the spokesman said that the Army was only focused on the "security of the country."

"JIT was formed by the Supreme Court which did its job honestly. Its report will be examined by the court. Army has no role in the process," he said.

Maj Gen Ghafoor said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a project of national development and the Army would provide complete security to it and will not let it fail.

On a bill passed by the US House of Representatives toughening up conditions for aid to Pakistan, the spokesman conceded the "conditions were coercive but it should not be interpreted as sanctions."

The spokesman also talked about the Army's operation against militants in Khyber tribal district near Afghanistan.

"It would help us to secure the border with Afghanistan which is used by militants to sneak into Pakistan."

The northwestern tribal region has witnessed increasing terrorist attacks of late, some claimed by the Islamic State.

Maj Gen Ghafoor rejected any "organised presence" of the terrorist group in Pakistan. He, however expressed fears that the group was getting stronger in Afghanistan.

He said Afghanistan should look at the security situation with its own "lens" and not through the "lens of any other country."

A draw and a thrashing on penultimate day of C-Division Sikkim-League



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 16 JUL:

United Sports Culture Association held Almost-30 Football Club to a 2-2 draw in the ongoing Sikkim Football Association C-Division Sikkim League here at Paljor Stadium on Sunday.

In the other match of the day, Khatarnak FC thrashed EPL FC 4-0. Sangay Tashi [13th minute], Subham Gurung [19th], S Samdup [51st] and Pema Gyatso [57th] contributed a goal each in Khatarnak FC victory.

The final two league matches

of the C-Division league are scheduled for Monday. In the first match, Down Town Football Club will take on Lall Bazaar Gangtok, while the second match will be played between Ranka Football Club and New Moon Hostel.



Imran Khan powers North FA into finals of U-15 knockout

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 16 JUL:

A brace by Imran Khan helped North Football Academy secure a berth in the finals of the Sikkim Football Association Under-15 Knockout Football Tournament 2017 underway here at Paljor Stadium.

Playing the first semi-final match of the tournament today, North Football Academy outplayed Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club 2-0. Imran Khan scored in the 24th and 39th minutes of the match.

On Monday, the second semi-final match is scheduled between Sanju Football Academy, Sombaria, and Boys' Club, Gangtok.

Fiftyfive MPs to vote in their state assemblies for prez poll: EC

NEW DELHI, JUL 16 (PTI): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his Goa counterpart Manohar Parrikar are among 55 MPs who will vote in their state assemblies instead of Parliament House for the presidential election tomorrow, an Election Commission document says.

Five MLAs will cast their ballot in Parliament House and four other legislators will vote in state assemblies which they have not been elected to.

Usually, MPs vote in Parliament House and MLAs in their respective state assemblies.

As per rules governing presidential elections, lawmakers can ask the Commission to make an exception to allow them to vote from some other place.

According to the EC document, it has allowed 14 Rajya Sabha and 41 Lok Sabha members to vote in state assemblies instead of Parliament House tomorrow.

These include Parrikar, Adityanath and UP Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, who have not yet given up their Parliament membership. While Parrikar is a Rajya Sabha member, Adityanath and Maurya are Lok Sabha members.

Most of the MPs who would vote in their respective assemblies belong to the Trinamool Congress.

While MPs will mark their vote on a green-coloured ballot paper, pink-coloured ballot papers will be used for MLAs.

The value of an MLA's vote depends on the population of the state he or she represents. But the value of the vote of an MP does not vary -- it is 708.

Hence, the colour of ballot papers will help the returning officer count votes based on the value. The total value of the electoral college is 10,98,903.



Training 10 hours a day to face Vijender: Maimaitiali

NEW DELHI, JUL 16 (PTI): Aiming to "surprise" Vijender Singh in his own backyard, WBO Oriental super middleweight champion Zulpikar Maimaitiali says he is training 10 hours a day to ensure a knockout win for himself.

WBO Asia Pacific super middleweight champion Vijender will face Chinese No.1 Maimaitiali for a double title fight on the August 5 at NSCI, Mumbai.

"I take every bout seriously and try to push myself to the limit every time. Vijender will be one of the rivals that I beat, I know his traits and I am preparing accordingly," Maimaitiali said.

"I am putting in 10 hours every day into training to make sure Vijender is knocked out in the first 2-3 rounds itself.

On 5th August Vijender will actually face the toughest opponent in his pro boxing career," he added.

Maimaitiali said he has worked out his plan to tame the Indian, who is unbeaten since his debut in 2015.

"My team has watched all his bouts. At

this phase, maybe only myself and my coach should understand the training schedule that have been implemented. Vijender will be surprised when I throw punches at him, he thinks I am a kid, but he has no idea who I am," he said.

Vijender has seven knockout wins since his pro-boxing debut. Maimaitiali has the same unbeaten record but has lesser knockout wins.

"Both of us have no loss record since pro debut, both of us have high ratio of KO. As I said, the pressure should be on his side, as it will be too old for him to suffer and recover from a loss, what will be worse is losing from someone as young as me. He is considered the king of boxing in India, so he has started feeling like a king, its time I get him down onto the ground," he said.

Battleground Asia will also feature Olympic quarter-finalists Akhil Kumar and Jitender Kumar along with WBC Asia welterweight champion Neeraj Goyat, Kuldeep Dhanda, Pardeep Kharera, and Dharmendra Grewal.

Indian-origin doc finds 27 contact lenses in woman's eye in UK

LONDON, JUL 16 (PTI): An Indian-origin eye specialist in the UK has found 27 contact lenses stuck in the eye of a 67-year-old woman who was due to have a cataract surgery. Rupal Morjaria, a trainee ophthalmologist at Solihull Hospital near Birmingham, found 17 lenses first and then noticed 10 others in the woman's eye.

"None of us have ever seen this before. It was such a large mass. All the contact lenses were stuck together. We were really surprised that the patient didn't notice it because it would cause quite a lot of irritation while it was sitting there," she told 'Optometry Today' publication.

The lenses, which resembled a "blueish mass" in the patient's eye, were causing the woman discomfort that she simply attributed to dry eye and old age.

The woman was due to have cataract surgery, but it was postponed af-

ter the discovery as the risk of developing endophthalmitis, inflammation of the interior of the eye, was increased.

She had been wearing monthly disposable lenses for 35 years but had neither reported any problems nor had regular optometrist appointments.

"She was quite shocked. When she was seen two weeks after I removed the lenses she said her eyes felt a lot more comfortable," Morjaria said. "In this day and age, when it is so easy to purchase contact lenses online, people become lax about having regular check ups," she said.

"Contact lenses are used all the time, but if they are not appropriately monitored we see people with serious eye infections that can cause them to lose their sight," Morjaria added.

The case took place in November last year but has come to light in the 'British Medical Journal' only this week.

Prez poll: Voters can't carry their pens inside voting chamber

NEW DELHI, JUL 16 (PTI): MPs and MLAs who vote to elect the next President tomorrow have been barred from carrying their personal pens inside the voting chamber and will have to mark their ballot with a specially-designed marker, the Election Commission said today.

Following the ink controversy in the Rajya Sabha polls in Haryana last year, the Election Commission has decided to use special pens for the electors to mark their votes in the presidential and vice presidential polls.

Specially serial-numbered pens with violet ink have been supplied by the Election Commission to ensure that only the

writing instrument issued by it is used by voters to mark their votes tomorrow.

"Before entering the voting chamber, a polling staff will collect personal pens from the voters and hand over the special pen to mark their vote on the ballot paper.

"When the member comes out of the voting chamber, the special pen will be taken back and the polling staff will return the personal pen," a Commission spokesman explained the new rule.

While announcing the schedule of the election, the poll panel had made it clear that use of any other pen could lead to invalidation of the vote at the time of count-

ing under the Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections Rules, 1974.

These special pens have been procured from Mysore paints and varnish Ltd which supplies indelible ink to the EC.

In another first, the poll watchdog has also prepared special posters carrying dos and don'ts for the voters. It asks them to use only EC-issued pen and warns that no whip or directive can be issued to party members to vote in favour of any candidate. Since it is a secret ballot, the voters should not disclose whom they have voted for.

Green-coloured ballot papers will be there for members of Parliament and pink

for MLAs who vote in the election.

The value of an MLA's vote depends on the population of the state he or she represents. But the value of the vote of an MP does not vary -- it is 708.

Hence, the different colour of ballot papers will help the returning officer count the votes based on the value.

The total value of the electoral college is 10,98,903.

The ballot boxes will be brought to Delhi for counting on July 20.

The electoral college, which elects the President through the system of proportional representation, comprises elected MPs and members of state legislative as-

semblies -- a total of 4,896 voters including 4,120 MLAs and 776 elected MPs.

While 233 are elected members of the Rajya Sabha, 543 are from the Lok Sabha.

A total of 32 polling stations -- one in Parliament House and one each in the state legislative assemblies, have been set up.

33 observers have been appointed by the EC to oversee the conduct of election. While two observers will be present in the Parliament House, one each will be deployed in the respective state assemblies.

NDA nominee Ram Nath Kovind is pitted against opposition candidate Meira Kumar in tomorrow's prestigious poll.

Israel reopens sensitive holy site closed after attack

JERUSALEM, JUL 16 (AFP): Israel reopened an ultra-sensitive holy site today closed after an attack that killed two policemen, but Muslim worshippers were refusing to enter due to new security measures including metal detectors and cameras.

Crowds chanted "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) as a number of initial visitors entered Jerusalem's Haram al-Sharif compound, known to Jews as the Temple Mount.

The flashpoint holy site includes the Al-Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

But midday Muslim prayers were held outside the site due to the new security measures.

"We reject the changes imposed by the Israeli government," Sheikh Omar Kiswani, Al-Aqsa director, told reporters outside.

"We will not enter through these metal detectors."

Three Arab Israeli assailants opened fire on Israeli police Friday in Jerusalem's Old City before fleeing to the compound.

Israeli authorities said they had come from the flashpoint holy site to commit the attack.

Israel took the highly unusual decision to close the Al-Aqsa mosque compound for Friday prayers, triggering anger from Muslims and Jordan, the holy site's custodian.

The site remained closed on Saturday, while parts of Jerusalem's Old City were also under lockdown.

Israeli authorities said the closure was necessary to carry out security checks and announced it would reopen the compound today.

Police said Sunday that so far two gates leading to the holy site had been opened, equipped with metal detectors.

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Jan Dhan deposits surge to Rs 64,564 crore

ASHWINI SHRIVASTAVA
NEW DELHI, JUL 16 (PTI): Deposits in Jan Dhan accounts have touched a new high of Rs 64,564 crore, of which over Rs 300 crore came in the first seven months of demonetisation, according to government data.

The Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet scheme, aims at bringing hitherto unbanked areas and people under a formal banking system. Bank accounts can

be opened with a zero balance under the PMJDY.

Finance ministry data, accessed through a Right to Information (RTI) application filed by a PTI correspondent, show that there were about 28.9 crore PMJDY accounts on June 14 this year.

Of these, 23.27 crore accounts were with public sector banks, 4.7 crore with regional rural banks and 92.7 lakh with private ones.

These accounts together

have deposits of Rs 64,564 crore, the Finance Ministry data show. Public sector banks account for Rs 50,800 crore, regional rural banks for Rs 11,683.42 crore and private banks, Rs 2,080.62 crore.

On November 16, 2016, there were 25.58 crore PMJDY accounts with an aggregate deposit of Rs 64,252.15 crore, Minister of State for Finance Santosh Kumar Gangwar had told the Lok Sabha.

Thus, between Novem-

ber 16 last year and June 14 this year, Rs 311.93 crore had been added to Jan Dhan accounts.

The PM had on November 8 last year announced the demonetisation of 500-rupee and 1,000-rupee notes.

Following reports of alleged misuse of Jan Dhan accounts to convert black money into white after the note ban, the government had warned people that they would be penalised if they in-

dulged in such activities.

In a press release issued on November 18, the government had said, "There are some reports received that some people are using other persons' bank accounts to convert their black money into new denomination notes."

This, it had said, had also been reported in Jan Dhan accounts.

The government had said such activities could attract penalty if it was established

that the amount deposited in the account did not belong to the account holder.

"Also the person who allows his or her account to be misused for this purpose can be prosecuted for abetment under the Income Tax Act," it had said.

Alongside other facilities, PMJDY accounts also allow an overdraft facility of up to Rs 5,000 in one account per household, preferably held by a woman member.

States should take stringent action: PM on cow vigilantism

NEW DELHI, JUL 16 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today asked state governments to take strict action against cow vigilantes as he sought the support of opposition parties in tackling "communal violence" in the name of cow protection.

At an all-party meeting a day before the Monsoon Session, he also cautioned against giving political or communal colour to the issue.

"The Prime Minister urged all parties to extend their support to the government in fighting corruption and the issue of communal violence in the name of cow protection.

"Modi said state governments must ensure the maintenance of law and order and strict action must be taken against those who break the law," an official statement quoted Modi as having said in the meeting.

Modi's statement assumes significance as the opposition also plans to target the government on several recent instances of violence in the name of cow protection.

The Prime Minister also underscored the belief of many Hindus that cow is like mother, but said that this should not let people take law in their own hands and every state government should act against violation of the law, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar told reporters after the meeting.

Opposition parties have attacked the BJP over the cases of cow vigilantism, in which Muslims and Dalits have often been targeted.

Modi also mentioned the presidential poll, slated tomorrow, and said it would have been very good had a consensus been reached on the candidate.

He, however, said a "high level of dignity" has been maintained by both sides during the campaign and no "ill will or bad language" has been used.

He said all political parties must ensure that everybody votes and no vote is wasted.

While the ruling BJP-led NDA



has named Ram Nath Kovind as its candidate, the Congress-led group of opposition parties has pitted Meira Kumar against Kovind, who has a big numerical advantage over his rival.

Apparently indicating the recent cases against TMC leaders and RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, the Prime Minister those involved in corruption should not be saved, adding that the image of a political leader has taken a beating because of this.

Kumar said Modi also noted that the 75th anniversary of the Quit India movement falls on August 9 and all parties should celebrate it.

Modi also thanked everyone for the implementation of the GST, calling it a "shining example of co-operative federalism".

He told the all-party meeting that 30 per cent of total expenditure and 49 per cent of spending in the infrastructure sector had already taken place before the

monsoon started due to the advancement of the budget.

On the issue of Kashmir and tensions with China, Kumar said the government had a meeting with opposition leaders and every party has said they were with the government on matters of national security.

To preserve institutions of democracy, Modi said it was important that all political parties support the government to conduct business in Parliament without disruption so that constructive discussion can take place on issues of national importance.

"The Prime Minister in one voice with the leaders of all parties also asserted that all political parties stand united to ensure the nation's safety and security, after such concerns were raised by many leaders on recent developments," it said.

There was a consensus across party lines on ensur-

ing smooth functioning of Parliament without disruptions and deadlocks to be resolved through constructive discussions in both the Houses, the official release said.

Modi also expressed deep concern for the floods in the North Eastern States and assured all leaders that the government was fully informed of the crisis and taking all steps to reduce the suffering of people, it said.

Among those opposition leaders who attended the meeting were Ghulam Nabi Azad (Congress), Sharad Pawar (NCP), Sitaram Yechury (CPI-M), Mulayam Singh Yadav (SP), Farooq Abdullah (NC) and D Raja (CPI).

However, no one from the JD(U) or the Trinamool Congress were present. TMC has already announced it would boycott this meeting amidst recriminations between it and the BJP over the recent violence in West Bengal.

Kol Police team in B'desh over arrest of Burdwan blast accused

ANISUR RAHMAN
DHAKA, JUL 16 (PTI): A Special Task Force of the Kolkata Police has held a meeting with Bangladeshi security officials here for information on arrested Jama'atul Mujahideen militant Sohel Mahfuz, wanted in India in the 2014 Burdwan blast case.

The three-member team reached the capital city yesterday and met Bangladeshi security officials at the police headquarters, Assistant Inspector General Md Moniruzzaman said.

In the meeting, they discussed information received so far during the interrogation of Neo-JMB militant Mahfuz, who was arrested along with three other militants by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit from Chapainawabganj district in northern Bangladesh on July 7.

The officials from both countries also shared their experiences dealing with militant incidents in addition to information on Mahfuz, Moniruzzaman said as quoted by the Daily Star.

Mahfuz, a top explosives specialist of neo-JMB, is on a seven-day remand in the Dhaka cafe attack case.

He allegedly supplied firearms and explosives for the cafe attack in which 22 people, including 17 foreigners, were killed.

Mahfuz who lost a hand while making bombs, thereby earning him his title 'Hatkata', was wanted by the National Investigation

Agency (NIA) in India for the blast at Khagragarh in Burdwan district of West Bengal on October 2, 2014.

"Mahfuz, who had worked for about five years from 2009 to set up an extremist network in India's West Bengal, was planning to expand the activities of IS-inspired militant group Neo JMB to India," the Daily Star reported.

He wanted to visit India by this year and open a wing of "Neo JMB", counterterrorism officials were quoted as saying by the daily.

Sohel told the interrogators that he left India months after the JMB leadership removed him from the post of West Bengal JMB ameer and replaced him with Sajid, another Bangladesh-born militant, in 2014, the report said.

After his return to Bangladesh in December 2014, he got involved with pro-IS militants and played an important role in recruiting youths to the new brand of terror group, Neo JMB as police call it.

In the meeting, the Bangladeshi and Indian police officials discussed how the top militant spread a militant network in both countries and carried out his activities in West Bengal and Assam during his stay in India, the daily said.

The Kolkata police team would stay in Bangladesh for the next couple of days.

Besides, a team of National Investigation Agency is supposed to arrive in Dhaka tomorrow to learn about Sohel's arrest, Moniruzzaman added.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
SINGAM RUBY MORNING	DEAR GENTLE EVENING
Draw time: 11:55 am onwards Draw No:11 DrawDate on:16/07/17 1st Prize Rs.10 Lakhs/- 96B 06660 (Including Super Prize Amt)	Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards Draw No:116 DrawDate on:16/07/17 1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 96B 31623 (Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.9,100/- 06660 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9,000/- 21137 36556 48978 57481 59996 63061 74356 76728 84607 93750 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0079 0198 1217 1424 1712 2367 5056 6142 6972 8026 4th Prize Rs.300/- 1843 3382 4717 5176 5316 5440 6681 7387 9531 9764 5th Prize Rs.130/- 0127 0243 0255 0340 0510 0521 0526 0833 0956 0976 1239 1256 1507 1637 1848 2365 2391 2486 2505 2646 2659 2664 2684 2819 2916 3045 3110 3136 3194 3205 3226 3259 3330 3393 3405 3408 3665 3697 4039 4076 4078 4144 4227 4309 4330 4380 4484 4547 4735 4747 4782 4833 4947 4952 5019 5052 5077 5128 5286 5352 5388 5436 5456 5838 5894 5994 6164 6200 6317 6498 6531 6586 6610 6611 6614 6802 6949 7101 7661 8045 8243 8442 8446 8448 8503 8579 8588 8740 8756 8762 8895 9162 9178 9206 9208 9366 9487 9903 9928 9937	Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 31623 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9500/- 01887 10181 11475 11682 38359 48604 58380 72321 80671 98284 3rd Prize Rs.9000/- 09283 12111 28640 31612 54468 69784 71547 80706 81887 83008 4th Prize Rs.1000/- 0682 1614 5038 5144 6189 7528 7544 9000 9401 9464 5th Prize Rs.600/- 0916 2014 2270 4295 5602 5925 6051 7314 7990 8737 6th Prize Rs.250/- 0164 0338 0419 0595 0691 0779 0826 0944 1057 1066 1087 1094 1179 1252 1308 1327 1438 1833 1902 1993 2030 2194 2350 2368 2518 2705 2768 2777 3087 3253 3471 3502 3610 3622 3670 3762 3791 3823 3943 3967 4084 4221 4237 4257 4347 4417 4645 4689 4876 5030 5056 5124 5158 5263 5398 5535 5593 5663 5726 6012 6071 6079 6093 6175 6252 6640 6656 6682 6762 6817 6884 6946 7081 7181 7398 7416 7703 7774 7789 7793 8222 8237 8350 8441 8526 8546 8749 8801 8812 8821 8884 8892 8940 8950 8968 9230 9306 9319 9841 9917
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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULTS WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE.	

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR PROSPECT
Draw No:52 DrawDate on:16/07/17 1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 88D 17308 (Including Super Prize Amt) Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 17308 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9500/- 20826 25573 43149 57673 59639 61609 64343 66673 84915 96726 3rd Prize Rs.9000/- 00698 03186 03865 21822 30269 35703 43631 48429 63206 99359 4th Prize Rs.1000/- 0042 0408 1768 6044 6847 6969 7760 8981 9528 9590 5th Prize Rs.600/- 0484 0599 0852 1414 3267 3950 3980 4033 7333 7369 6th Prize Rs.250/- 0020 0278 0330 0470 0804 0828 0913 0943 1006 1275 1289 1292 1416 1669 1877 1884 1997 2368 2618 2706 2741 2748 3060 3090 3144 3193 3278 3344 3457 3670 3781 3790 3867 3872 3954 3993 4285 4395 4484 4562 4576 4607 4630 4662 5122 5166 5190 5207 5266 5370 5571 5575 5791 5806 5809 5958 5990 6308 6348 6439 6556 6593 6598 6612 6648 6791 6978 7103 7174 7482 7530 7677 7764 7767 7885 7977 7995 8038 8078 8178 8191 8416 8432 8475 8521 8552 8708 8965 9139 9147 9180 9347 9475 9491 9552 9580 9782 9847 9880 9937
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MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR FLAMINGO MORNING
Draw No:48 DrawDate on:16/07/17 1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 92D 96280 (Including Super Prize Amt) Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 96280 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9500/- 08539 08673 11466 41889 56708 59469 61381 75181 83762 87814 3rd Prize Rs.9000/- 06421 10881 12947 34507 39655 44929 47888 51402 87785 98404 4th Prize Rs.1000/- 0935 1785 2877 3452 4975 6970 7372 7693 8778 9872 5th Prize Rs.600/- 0274 0824 0969 2711 3528 5098 6738 7012 8844 9719 6th Prize Rs.250/- 0123 0143 0156 0202 0212 0293 0298 0325 0362 0552 0760 1027 1149 1182 1234 1440 1575 1748 1965 2310 2487 2682 2710 2810 2856 2904 2955 2989 3405 3409 3562 3630 3896 3907 3928 4022 4076 4086 4109 4146 4166 4202 4235 4251 4347 4374 4640 4675 4690 4850 4914 5037 5186 5490 5585 5625 5682 5779 5865 5945 6086 6111 6113 6132 6244 6313 6724 7029 7059 7081 7284 7344 7419 7449 7647 7704 7719 7762 7868 7934 7959 8072 8199 8254 8272 8300 8453 8501 8612 8839 8998 9072 9098 9358 9382 9389 9540 9657 9870 9877
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Why Braun Strowman Is the Next Great WWE Giant

Vince McMahon has always liked bigger wrestlers. That's sort of his thing. He supposedly isn't a fan of the little guys like Daniel Bryan getting huge props from the crowd, and is always on the lookout for that next freak-of-nature guy who hovers near the seven foot mark.

Baron Corbin's rise, and the push that Big Cass is no doubt about to get now that he's severed ties with Enzo Amore both follow a lineage of guys from Big John Stud to the Undertaker, and, of course, Andre the Giant. Sometimes it works out, and sometimes they're Nailz. Remember Nailz? Of course you do - because he was awful.

Big men are a gamble, because most of the time they aren't like The Undertaker, and won't do things like walk on the top rope to come barreling down on an opponent or sell a match to make it look more interesting. In some cases, they simply just can't wrestle.

When Braun Strowman made his WWE debut as part of the Wyatt Family in 2015, it was hard to tell if the former Arnold Amateur Strongman Champion was going to be one of those guys that just destroys ev-



everything in his path for a few months, then slowly becomes a big training dummy, some roadblock up and coming superstars must plow through. But his run in 2017 has shown that not to be the case.

While the buildup has been impressive, with strong pay-per-view showings and a run of taking on and destroying a string of jobbers who you'll probably never hear from again in the WWE, it was difficult to tell where the feud with Roman Reigns was going. Before his May injury that was supposed to sideline him for six months only ended up being a little less than two, it felt like Strowman was just there to put Reigns over.

That hasn't been the case. While both superstars have put everything into this rivalry, it's been Strowman who has shown fans something different and extraordinary whenever he marches down the aisle. Be it caving in an entire ring after a brutal match with an even larger Big Show or pushing over an entire ambulance, Strowman has showed plenty to make us believe he's a massive, terrifying man with godly strength.

But could he keep it up? Wrestling has been filled with big men who had impressive runs for a few months, maybe a year. Yet Strowman, with that combination of freakish strength, anger and quick moves for a man his size, keeps proving he's ready to go to

the top of the WWE and even stay there. But what's next? There's talk of a Reigns heel turn after the crash, but he's already a bad guy in the eyes of fans, and Strowman isn't exactly loved for much more than pulverizing Reigns and throwing smaller guys into garbage dumpsters. The only answer is to give Strowman the shot at the ultimate prize. Keep building up his mystique and don't stop.

Strowman has done everything the WWE has asked him and more. With Samoa Joe losing but putting up one of the best fights ever against

reigning Universal Champion Brock Lesnar, one could only imagine Joe will stay in the title picture.

Yet Strowman, who has shown himself to be invincible - literally unkillable after last night - is the most obvious choice to go up against Lesnar for the title. Why else would you build up Strowman to nearly derail Reigns' momentum and then put him anywhere but the main event for the belt? Braun Strowman is officially the most terrifying and must-see superstar on Raw.

MENA MASSOUD CAST AS ALADDIN IN DISNEY'S LIVE-ACTION MOVIE



Anaheim (California), Jul 16 (PTI): Disney has finally found its Aladdin in newcomer Mena Massoud for their live-action reboot.

Will Smith will play Genie and Naomi Scott will portray Princess

Jasmine in the Guy Ritchie movie, Disney announced at D23 Expo.

Photos of the three actors were screened at the Anaheim Convention Center.

"So honoured and grateful for the opportunity to help bring this magical story to life once again. Let's get to work! #Aladdin #Disney," Massoud tweeted.

John August, whose credits include "Big Fish," wrote the new "Aladdin" script.

The original animated movie was a comic take on the Arabic folk tale of a young man granted three wishes by a genie trapped in a lamp.

"Aladdin" was the highest-grossing film of 1992, and won Academy Awards for best score and best song for "A Whole New World."



THE BLACK ORDER: Avengers: Infinity War just got four new villains - and darkness is coming for our heroes. At the Disney D23Expo on Saturday, not long after Marvel Studios premiered a secret trailer for the May 2018 film, we got a look at the Black Order - the four "children" of the mad titan Thanos. Here are the new characters: **CORVUS GLAIVE**- This enforcer, whose job was to shakedown planets for gifts that would enrich Thanos, was immortal as long as his mystical blade remained unbroken. He was married to... **PROXIMA MIDNIGHT**- This warrior used her spear - which was forged from a sun trapped in an alternate reality - to launch a shattering attack on Black Panther's nation of Wakanda. **EBONY MAW**- Not the most powerful of the Black Order, but a brilliant and manipulative thinker who wields power of persuasion over most beings. He famously tangled with Doctor Strange in the comics. **BLACK DWARF**- Don't let the name fool you. This brawler is physically hulking and has superhuman strength and nearly impenetrable muscle mass.

THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: You will have to make an important decision in a delicate matter: should you accept a better paid job, even if this would mean working longer hours? Take your time, and sleep over it before deciding! A quarrel with your loved one might upset you, but it's nothing serious. By tomorrow you will have forgotten it altogether. A friend's advice is worth considering!

TAURUS: This morning you may have to run several errands. You might have an argument with your loved one over your

having spent too much money lately. Keep calm and do your best to avoid a fight! You have good chances to improve your budget. Don't be surprised if you will receive an inheritance!

GEMINI: A piece of bad news might trouble your love life and give you food for thought. You may want to remain cautious and avoid making promises that you are not sure you can keep. Avoid fighting with an older person over money issues!

CANCER: Your boss could remonstrate you with your un-

derachievement. Making up excuses would only make things worse. Whatever the outcome, don't take it off at home! In the evening, a meeting with friends will help you to yourself again.

LEO: You might have to leave on an urgent business trip. Your family will be quite unhappy with this change of schedule. In the afternoon, an argument with an older relative might upset you. Keep calm!

VIRGO: You could be facing financial difficulties. This may make you feel uneasy in a meet-

ing with friends. Avoid getting into controversies! You can rely on intuition, but an older woman's advice is worth considering too.

LIBRA: You might have a quarrel with your loved one over your reluctance to pay a visit to relatives. Looks like today is not a very good day for business, either. You are advised to avoid financial speculations today. You should stay to routine and spare your health.

SCORPIO: Changes at work will upset you. Keep your tem-

per - or you'll only manage to make things worse. Keep your voice down when talking to a younger relative! You are advised to avoid hot arguments today, for they may easily turn into fights.

SAGITTARIUS: You may be facing a difficult decision. Unless you will manage to spend more time with family and friends, conflicts may arise and old relationships might break. Your loved one may remonstrate you with your neglecting the young ones in the family. You are advised to take better

care of your health.

CAPRICORN: You will be very creative today and your imagination will reach new heights. You'd better put your creativity to good use for your career and in business. A friend's advice is worth considering. Your sentimental relationship may not unfold very smoothly in the afternoon. All you have to do is avoid any upbraiding.

AQUARIUS: Chances are you will receive a significant amount of money or be offered a side job. A visit to friends

might unfold in a very surprising way. Don't blame it on your loved one for having insisted to pay this visit! Avoid making hasty decisions!

PISCES: Today you might have a tendency to criticize everybody at work. You are determined to solve a difficult issue and will resent your workmates' lack of involvement. You will recover your good mood in the afternoon. Chances are you will have a great time with your friends. Remember: all work and no play is not the way to go!



17th July
WORLD HISTORY
1429: Dauphin crowned king of France
1453: Battle of Castillon: French army beats English force under Talbot, turning point of the 100 Years' War
1473: Charles the Stout conquers Nijmegen
1945: World War II: The main three leaders of the Allied nations, Winston Churchill, Harry S. Truman and Joseph Stalin, meet in the German city of Potsdam to decide the future of a defeated Germany.
1585: English secret service discovers Anthony Babington's murder plot against Queen Elizabeth I
1954: The Brooklyn Dodgers made history as the first team with a majority of

THIS DAY IN HISTORY
Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY
Assistant Professor in History, Namchi Govt. College

black players.
1955: Disneyland opened in Anaheim, CA.
1960: Francis Gary Powers pled guilty to spying charges in a Moscow court after his U-2 spy plane was shot down over the Soviet Union.
1966: Ho Chi Minh ordered a partial mobilization of North Vietnam forces to defend against American air strikes.
INDIAN HISTORY
1996: M. Karunanidhi, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu announced in the state assembly that the state capital of Madras would from then on be known as Chennai.



"JUST THE IMPORTANT THINGS, LEROY... THIS TIME, DON'T ASK ABOUT THE GIANTS."

