

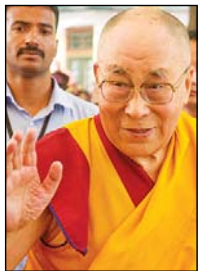
SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Dalai Lama leaves for 20-day Europe tour

DHARAMSHALA, SEP 8 (PTI): Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama today left for a 20-day visit to various European countries, including Germany and Italy, where he will address gatherings and hold discourses.

The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) said that the Dalai Lama will reach the United Kingdom tomorrow and will speak on 'Compassion in Action' at an event the following day.

"The Dalai Lama will leave for Germany on September 12 and on September 13, he will speak on 'Global Ethics Shared Values' at a programme organised by the Frankfurt Tibet House at Jahrhunderthalle," CTA's PRO Jamphel Shonu said.

On September 14, he will participate in a one-day conference on 'Western Science and Buddhist Perspectives' at Jahrhunderthalle, the official said.

The PRO said that on September 16, in Italy, the Dalai Lama, will talk on 'Peace' and will address gatherings in Sicily on September 17 and 18.

From September 20 to 21, the Dalai Lama will participate in a symposium on 'Buddhist turn to pg02

CM visits cooperative project in organic farming at Munich

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 08 SEPT:

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, on his second day in Germany, visited Tagwerk Cooperatives, a cooperative project between regional organic farmers, traders, wholesalers and consumers in Munich. The representative of the cooperative body, Michael Klaus Gruber extended a warm welcome to the Chief Minister and his delegation to the cooperative office complex, a press release informs.

Mr Gruber congratulated the Chief Minister for winning the One World Grand Prix Award



2017 for Sikkim Organic Mission. During his pre-

sentation, he elaborated the working of the coop-

erative and how the co-

with just 04 farmers and 34 consumers in 1984,

grew into a large family of 780 cooperatives and 120 farmers. Mr Gruber talked about the experiences related to dealing with assortment of people to grow larger by seeking support from Ministers and Mayors in-charge. Mr Gruber also shared that at present the state of Bavaria is 09% organic and said that it is striving to be 12 % organic during the next few years.

The Chief Minister also visited a country side organic model farm called 'Herrmannsdorfer Landwerkstaetten' which deals with bakery, cheese making, butchery, eco-hotels, eco-restaurants and

farm shops producing range of organic products in the Region.

The Chief Minister also visited an organic super market in Munich and witnessed the range of organic products managed by the supermarket ranging from vegetables, dairy, fruits, meat and other food products by the organic farmers of the region.

The Chief Minister shared his own experience in transforming Sikkim into an organic State. Mr Chamling was accompanied by Agriculture Minister, Somnath Poudyal and Secretary, Khorlo Bhutia, reads the release.

NE Health Care Summit gets underway



NITESH R PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 08 SEPT:

The North East Health Care Summit commenced in the capital today with a series of technical sessions which had addresses and Q&A sessions among the panelists and participants.

While presenting the

introductory speech, Member of Parliament, PD Rai said that the summit coincides with 100 years of service of STNM hospital and thanked Public Health Foundation of India for organizing the summit in Sikkim.

Crediting the political

will of the State's leaders, he said that Sikkim enjoys the best healthcare system in the country. Mr Rai highlighted the need to look at health in a holistic manner and converting the health centers in the state into well-being centers.

STNM Hospital Su-

perintendent, K.B Gurung while delivering his presentation said that from 10-bedded to now 350-bedded hospital, the institution has come a long way. The technical session had various health related issues of the North East discussed by experts along with

other important stakeholders including policy makers and NGOs.

The two-day summit will conclude on Saturday which will be attended by Minister of State for Women and Child Development Department, Government of India, Anupriya Patel.

Darj: Cops and people injured in clashes

DARJEELING (WB), SEP 8

(PTI): Several police personnel and locals were injured after clashes broke out between them in the Chowkbazar area here today, the 86th day of the indefinite shutdown.

The clashes broke out between the police and the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) supporters, who had taken out a rally in support of their demand for separate Gorkhaland, resorted to stone pelting on the police personnel deployed there, the police claims.

The police initially tried to convince the GJM activists to refrain from stone pelting but they remained defiant, forcing police to use water cannon, resort to baton charge and also fired tear gas shells to disperse the crowd.

Several police personnel and Gorkhaland supporters were injured in clashes, they said.

Meanwhile, the police also claim to have discovered a secret location in Patlebas area of the hills and seized bomb making materials from it during the day. Patlebas is the stronghold of GJM supremo Bimal Gurung.

"Based on a tip off we raided the place which was used to make bombs and IEDs. We have sealed the place and seized bomb making materials."

"We suspect that there are few modules of GJM who are behind the several blasts that took place on the hills in the last one month," a senior police official said.

GJM supporters took out processions in various parts of the hills in support of their demand for a separate Gorkhaland state amidst patrolling by police and security forces, who also kept a tight vigil at all entry and exit routes as in other days.

South DC conducts Friday Field visit to Salghari

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 08 SEPT:

Under the Each Friday, Field Day initiative, a team led by District Collector [South] visited Salghari Gram Panchayat Unit today.

A press release issued by DC [South] informs that the team first inspected Dhargaon Primary School where the DC went through the notebooks of the students and conducted a test to check their knowledge. A portion of the school was found to be damaged by a landslide to which the DC directed the repair work to be done by the District Level Review Committee [DLRC] in convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act [MGNREGA].

After that the team visited Dhargaon ICDS center and inspected the availability of paushtik ahar and supply of cylinder which was found to be 'adequate'. Similarly the stock of paushtik ahar in Pos-



song ICDS was inspected by the team and reading materials including nursery rhymes and riddles were distributed for the kids.

While visiting Timburay Primary School, the team found that previous works sanctioned by the EFFD team were still not started

to which the DC directed the Block Development Officer (Jorethang) to immediately start the pending work. The headmaster and teachers of

the school were directed to kick off the beautification works and ensure 'quality education' given to the students. The school ground and overall maintenance of the school campus were found to be 'not up to the mark'.

Next, the team visited Bhaialgaon Primary School where the team inspected the Mid Day Meal (MDM) kitchen of the school. The DC asked the kitchen in-charge to update the menu card. Furthermore, the teachers were also requested to check the quality of education by engaging more in remedial classes.

Bhaialgaon ICDS center was found to be 'well maintained'. The stock of paushtik ahar in the ICDS center was inspected by the team and reading materials including nursery rhymes and riddles were distributed for the kids. It was found that the center has opened its own Self Help Group. The SHG was found to be helping the society by col-

lecting utensils and buffet set for weddings, funerals, parties in the society.

Multi Purpose Cooperative Societies (MPCS) situated in Salghari was also inspected by the EFFD team. Inspector of the Cooperative Department requested the DC to install three-phase power supply as the cooperative society is planning to start packaging food items on its own. The DC assured to discuss the installation of the power supply with the Power Department.

Wrapping up the visit, the team went to Salghari Secondary School. The team conducted a counseling session with the teachers and class X students of the school. The team discussed the concept of District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee [DISHA] in the meeting and how the district administration is trying to encourage students engage in quality education by in-

roducing 'Best School', 'Best Teacher' and 'Best Student' award in the district.

It is to be noted that DISHA is an initiative started by the South District Administration to bring improvement in the quality of education in eight selected schools on pilot basis, one from each block.

The DC talked about the board examination and said that the pattern has 'changed a lot' making it tough to make it through.

Under DISHA, the DC explained that students will be divided into three categories - above average, average and below average to impart maximum effort towards the students in the lowest category.

Diagnostic Test, Class Test and Pre-Achievement Tests have been conducted from time to time since its introduction to categorize students as per their performance and to help them improve through remedial classes.

Gangtok on Saturday, 09 Sept

Temp: 25°C / 17°C
Forecast: intervals of clouds and sunshine with a couple of showers and a thunderstorm.
Sunrise: 05:18 AM
Sunset: 05:47 PM

Heavy rain likely in Sub-Himalayan West Bengal

KOLKATA, SEP 8 (PTI): The Met department today said that heavy rain would lash isolated places in Sub-Himalayan districts of West Bengal, while the southern districts of the state are likely to receive scattered rains.

The weatherman said that all the districts in Sub-Himalayan West Bengal are likely to receive isolated heavy rains till the morning of September 11.

Jalpaiguri in the region received 83 mm rainfall during 24 hours till 8.30 AM today, while Coochbehar got 26 mm of precipitation during the period.

The southern districts comprising Gangetic West Bengal are likely to receive scattered rains in the next three days.

High relative humidity during the day affected people in the southern districts, including the metropolises.

There was no rainfall in Kolkata or any other part of Gangetic West Bengal during the 24 hours till 8.30 AM today, the Met department said.

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National Nutrition Week concludes at Gor

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

DZONGU, 08 SEPT:

National Nutrition Week programme organized by Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department concluded here at Gor Community Centre in Lower Dzongu, North Sikkim today.

The programme was chaired by Panchayat President, Chung Chung Lepcha as the chief guest accompanied by resource per-

sons, Deputy Director [Nutrition Cell, Gangtok], SL Bhutia, Additional Director [Nutrition Cell], Tshering Kipa Lachenpa, students, anganwadi workers and Accredited Social Health Activists [ASHA] members and other dignitaries of the district.

Resource persons, Medical Officer of Passingdang and Hee-Gyathang Primary Health Center laid down some valuable infor-

mation on Tuberculosis, Multi Drug Resistant TB [MDR], use of Directly Observed Treatment [DOTS], immunization, Scrub Typhus, proper vaccination, Universal Immunization Programme [UIP], Polio, Hepatitis B, Tetanus, maternal health and more.

Another resource person shared information on Protection Of Children from

Sexual Offences Act, 2012 [POCSO], odd touch, teasing, different abuses and how to open up for justice, self defense and protection.

Deputy Director and Assistant Director [Nutrition Cell] shared practical information and demonstration on nutrition and healthy diet, mid-day meal, cleanliness and effects of junk food on health.



Remanti Sangeet Academy celebrates Teachers' Day

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 08 SEPT:

Remanti Sangeet Academy of Sikkim celebrated Teachers' Day with a programme conducted in its acade-

my at Deorali, East Sikkim today.

A press release from the academy states that the programme was co-ordinated by its founder and Sikkim Sewa Award-

ee, Remanti Rai.

Ms Rai in her address talked about how music as a career has the ability to touch millions of souls around the world and how people now see

music as a career option.

The programme witnessed the felicitation of the academy's teachers.

Along with the teachers, Naren Rai from Mount Zion Kidzee School, Albert Gurung from Tashi Namgyal Academy, Andrew Thapa from Holy Cross School, Sharad Diyali from Takse International School, Ankit Rai, Bijay Subba, Narayan Rai and Indradeep Rasaily from Remanti Sangeet Academy were also felicitated on the occasion.

Delhi HC questions uneven distribution of edu streams in schools

NEW DELHI, SEP 8 (PTI): The Delhi High Court today sought the responses from the AAP government and the Centre on a plea alleging an "alarmingly uneven distribution" of science and commerce streams in the government schools here.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar also issued notice to the CBSE on a plea alleging issues of "non-uniformity and 'cherry-picking' practice" of Delhi government in offering science and commerce streams to students at the intermediate level in the government schools.

The bench asked the city government, the Centre and the CBSE to file affidavits on the matter and posted it

for further hearing on November 28.

The plea, filed by Yusuf Naqi through his counsel GM Akhtar, said the allocation of science and commerce streams have been done in an uneven manner which cannot be justified, thus causing grave injustice and prejudice to the pupils here.

"There are a total of 41 government schools in central Delhi, wherein only 2 schools offer science stream throughout the entire district, whereas in north east district of Delhi, there are as many as 18 schools out of total 38 which offer science stream at intermediate level," the plea said.

The plea also alleged that since

only two government schools in central Delhi have the science stream in their curriculum, the willing students of this area are required to travel to other districts of the National Capital Territory.

"Though there are government educational institutions offering science and commerce streams at intermediate level, however the distribution of such schools offering science and commerce streams is alarmingly uneven and it is evident from the government records that there are 'shadow pockets' in different regions of Delhi that do not offer science and commerce streams at all, in their academic curriculum," it said.

Italian restaurant opens in Gangtok



REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 08 SEPT:

Italian cuisine has remained a popular choice for people across the world for quite some time now. While pizzas and pastas are widely available in Sikkim, a purely Italian joint was missing. To fill this space, budding entrepreneur, Sandip Gurung in partnership with chefs from Darjeeling, has launched 'Al Forno', an Italian restaurant located near Yama Building at M.G Marg.

The restaurant was inaugurated by Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Hishey Lachungpa today in a small function. The restaurant hopes to prove au-

thentic Italian cuisine at affordable prices. The restaurant offers Veg and Non-veg Italian and fusion food with their own version of mozzarella cheese.

Owner of Al Forno, Sandip Gurung, while interacting with the media said that the restaurant promises to provide authentic Italian cuisines with no 'compromise in quality' of the food. He shared his experience as a manager of an Italian restaurant in Kolkata and how the experience prompted him to open an all Italian restaurant in Gangtok.

The restaurant will also provide home delivery service and take away.

Book donation camp held at Singtam



SUMMIT REPORT

SINGTAM, 08 SEPT:

Namphing Cluster Resource Centre, South Sikkim organized a Book Donation Camp here Mandi Bazaar in Singtam, East Sikkim today. The camp was conducted under the guidance of South Sikkim Human Resource Development Department Deputy Director, DB Subba and was supported by Yangyang Block Administrative Center.

The donation camp was attended by Sub Divisional Magistrate (Rangpo), Mahesh Sharma, Singtam Nagar Panchayat President, SK Pradhan along with officials from various depart-

ments, school heads, Singtam Marwari Yuwa Manch members and the public.

The camp was held to encourage students towards reading more and to inculcate good communication skills.

The camp will provide books to students in three languages - Nepali, Hindi and English including varieties of print material ranging from picture books, encyclopedias, comics, and dictionaries to fiction, non-fiction and grammar books.

The collected books will be distributed to students of all classes. Some of the books will also be made available in school libraries.

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Defeat Insularity, Every Time

Agent provocateurs can be persistent, but cannot be allowed to win

Some or the other attempt is always in play to whip up some scare with some high-pitched paranoia, and as elections approach nearer, so will the bluster and pretend shock. 'Pretend' because there is nothing really surprising in any of this drama which plays out in a cycle around this time of a term every time. To Sikkim's credit, the tenacity of the communal scare-mongers is matched by the pragmatism of its people. Organisations and individuals have consistently represented the interests of their office-bearers [and/or silent promoters] and almost never the concerns of the people they claim to [or are supposed to] represent; which is perhaps why they hyperventilate over issues which rarely receive mass, grassroots based endorsement. It is this disconnect which also ensures that Sikkim witnesses no communal flare-ups on the streets even though, if the press releases, press statements or Facebook posts were to be believed, the thread of civility between community has been frayed very thin.

This condition is of course not unique to Sikkim. The overlapping of religion and identity and politics has handicapped India since its birth in 1947. Inter-community fault lines were exploited even in Sikkim during the movement for democracy in the 1970's. One hears of how rumours tried to pit one community against the other through those tumultuous years and although some clashes did occur, these were more class-confrontations and not inter-community. The people did not turn communal even then. Communal issues flared up in 1979 as well with the Nepali seat issue but its promoters did not receive the endorsement of the people and communal politics was played in the open again in 1994, but did not translate too well in the ballot that time either.

The Sikkimese people, it would hence be safe to vouch, have consistently rejected communal postures. Admittedly, there is an inherent communal streak in all people at an individual level, but the Sikkimese have done exceptionally well in ensuring that this does not become a pathological condition of the entire community. Unfortunately, not all community elders and leaders seem to have accepted this fact and continue to try and peddling prejudiced notions. One hopes that Sikkimese empathy is made of stronger stuff than the chisels with which too many are hammering away at the edifice of respectful coexistence that Sikkim has held firm thus far. In the wake of the festival reaffirming brotherhood and propitiating its Guardian Deity, Sikkim and its people should reaffirm their consistent commitment to stand fast in protecting Sikkim's interests to fend off the shallow belligerence which should continue to fail so that empathy and mutual respect continue to hold sway.

The World is Facing a Global Sand Crisis

AURORA TORRES; JIANGUO "JACK" LIU; JODI BRANDT & KRISTEN LEAR
theconversation.com

When people picture sand spread across idyllic beaches and endless deserts, they understandably think of it as an infinite resource. But as we discuss in a just-published perspective in the journal *Science*, over-exploitation of global supplies of sand is damaging the environment, endangering communities, causing shortages and promoting violent conflict.

Skyrocketing demand, combined with unfettered mining to meet it, is creating the perfect recipe for shortages. Plentiful evidence strongly suggests that sand is becoming increasingly scarce in many regions. For example, in Vietnam domestic demand for sand exceeds the country's total reserves. If this mismatch continues, the country may run out of construction sand by 2020, according to recent statements from the country's Ministry of Construction.

This problem is rarely mentioned in scientific discussions and has not been systematically studied. Media attention drew us to this issue. While scientists are making a great effort to quantify how infrastructure systems such as roads and buildings affect the habitats that surround them, the impacts of extracting construction minerals such as sand and gravel to build those structures have been overlooked. Two years ago we created a working group designed to provide an integrated perspective on global sand use.

In our view, it is essential to understand what happens at the places where sand is mined, where it is used and many impacted points in between in order to craft workable policies. We are analyzing those questions through a systems integration approach that allows us to better understand socioeconomic and environmental interactions over distances and time. Based on what we have already learned, we believe it is time to develop international conventions to regulate sand mining, use and trade.

SKYROCKETING DEMAND

Sand and gravel are now the most-extracted materials in the world, exceeding fossil fuels and biomass (measured by weight). Sand is a key ingredient for concrete, roads, glass and electronics. Massive amounts of sand are mined for land reclamation projects, shale gas extraction and beach nourishment programs. Recent floods in Houston, India, Nepal and Bangladesh will add to growing global demand for sand.

In 2010, nations mined about 11 billion tonnes of sand just for construction. Extraction rates were highest in the Asia-Pacific region, followed by Europe and North America. In the United States alone, production and use of construction sand and gravel was valued at US\$8.9 billion in 2016, and production has increased by 24 percent in the past five years.

Moreover, we have found that these numbers grossly underestimate global sand extraction and use. According to government agencies, uneven record-keeping in many countries may hide real extraction rates. Official statistics widely under-report sand use and typically do not include non-construction purposes such as hydraulic fracturing



Sand for use in hydraulic fracturing operations at a processing plant in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin in 2011.

and beach nourishment.

Sand traditionally has been a local product. However, regional shortages and sand mining bans in some countries are turning it into a globalized commodity. Its international trade value has skyrocketed, increasing almost sixfold in the last 25 years.

Profits from sand mining frequently spur profiteering. In response to rampant violence stemming from competition for sand, the government of Hong Kong established a state monopoly over sand mining and trade in the early 1900s that lasted until 1981.

Today organized crime groups in India, Italy and elsewhere conduct illegal trade in soil and sand. Singapore's high-volume sand imports have drawn it into disputes with Indonesia, Malaysia and Cambodia.

SAND MINING HARMS HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The negative consequences of overexploiting sand are felt in poorer regions where sand is mined. Extensive sand extraction physically alters rivers and coastal ecosystems, increases suspended sediments and causes erosion.

Research shows that sand mining operations are affecting numerous animal species, including fish, dolphins, crustaceans and crocodiles. For example, the gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) – a critically endangered crocodile found in Asian river systems – is increasingly threatened by sand mining, which destroys or erodes sand banks where the animals bask.

Sand mining also has serious impacts on people's livelihoods. Beaches and wetlands buffer coastal communities against surging seas. Increased erosion resulting from extensive mining makes these communities more vulnerable to floods and storm surges.

A recent report by the Water Integrity Network found that sand mining exacerbated the impacts of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami in Sri Lanka. In the Mekong Delta, sand mining is reducing sediment supplies as drastically as dam construction, threatening the sustainability of the delta. It also is probably enhancing saltwater intrusion during the dry

season, which threatens local communities' water and food security.

Potential health impacts from sand mining are poorly characterized but deserve further study. Extraction activities create new standing pools of water that can become breeding sites for malaria-carrying mosquitoes. The pools may also play an important role in the spread of emerging diseases such as Buruli ulcer in West Africa, a bacterial skin infection.

PREVENTING A TRAGEDY OF

THE SAND COMMONS

Media coverage of this issue is growing, thanks to work by organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme, but the scale of the problem is not widely appreciated. Despite huge demand, sand sustainability is rarely addressed in scientific research and policy forums.

The complexity of this problem is doubtlessly a factor. Sand is a common-pool resource – open to all, easy to get and hard to regulate. As a result, we know little about the true global costs of sand mining and consumption.

Demand will increase further as urban areas continue to expand and sea levels rise. Major international agreements such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Convention on Biological Diversity promote responsible allocation of natural resources, but there are no international conventions to regulate sand extraction, use and trade.

As long as national regulations are lightly enforced, harmful effects will continue to occur. We believe that the international community needs to develop a global strategy for sand governance, along with global and regional sand budgets. It is time to treat sand like a resource, on a par with clean air, biodiversity and other natural endowments that nations seek to manage for the future.

[Aurora Torres is Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Ecology, German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research; Jianguo "Jack" Liu is Rachel Carson Chair in Sustainability, Michigan State University; Jodi Brandt is Assistant Professor - Human Environment Systems, Boise State University; Kristen Lear is Ph.D. Candidate, University of Georgia]

Musine Kokalari: a lost story of defiance in the face of political oppression

AGATA FIJALKOWSKI
theconversation.com

Musine Kokalari was an Albanian writer and political dissident. She was imprisoned and suffered the humiliation of a public show trial under a despotic regime which murdered her brothers and kept her under surveillance and in exile most of her life. Her brave story can now be told after secret police files were released that revealed details about a shocking miscarriage of justice which deprived the world of a great writer.

Kokalari was Albania's first female writer of note from the pre-communist period. She was born in 1917 in Adana, Turkey, where from an early age the young Musine showed a passion for literature and national folklore. The Kokalari family was at the centre of literary and political activity.

They returned to their native Gjirokastra in southern Albania in 1920. In 1938 Kokalari embarked on university studies in literature at La Sapienza University, Rome. She kept a diary, *My University Life*, which was published in 2016. Then in 1941, she published her first book called, *As My Grandma Says*. The book is about the daily struggles of a Gjirokastran woman living in a deeply patriarchal society and can be seen as an early feminist text.

THE WRITER AND POLITICAL DISSIDENT

It was during her studies that Kokalari joined anti-fascist and anti-communist movements. She continued her political activities upon her return to Albania in 1942 where she co-founded the Albanian Social Democratic Party. Her brother's bookshop became a hub of intellectual activity. As a result the family was kept under close surveillance by the communist authorities (represented by the National Liberation Movement/National Liberation Front). Two of her brothers, Vesim and Muntaz, were executed by the state for their political activities. Kokalari herself was detained and arrested several times in 1945 after openly expressing her views against totalitarianism.

She was then involved in the Democratic Coalition, a political movement that supported the postponement of elections and for multi-party elections. The writer hoped that representatives from the United Kingdom and the United States would monitor the elections. But all 37 members of the coalition were arrested and deemed traitors of the Albanian nation. Neither the US nor the UK intervened.

HAIR TORN FROM HER HEAD

In 1946, Kokalari stood before the military court in the Albanian capital, Tirana. She was threatened, intimidated and coerced. Archival memos



refer to her hair being torn out of her head by bystanders. Her trial was transmitted live via loud speakers to the crowds outside. Her stoic stance is illustrated in a photograph taken by the Albanian Telegraphic Agency. In defiance she wore a mourning veil in memory of her executed brothers. Her powerful image made the front page of the broadsheets in Albania two days running.

This trial was the second in a run of six organised by the authorities from that period that effectively eliminated "enemies of the state". It was dubbed the "political dissidents trial" and it sent a message about the direction that the regime was taking towards free speech. It did not stop

Kokalari. She used the trial to stand up for her rights. Witness accounts speak of her declaring: "I do not need to be a communist to love my country". Despite her bravery, she would have endured severe, prolonged torture during her detention and trial. The court refused to let her speak for any length of time.

Kokalari was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment, of which she served 16. She spent a further period of exile in northern Albania, where she worked as a manual labourer. She joked that she was a "mortar specialist" as her work involved heavy, arduous construction. On her days off she would visit the library and sit in a public place reading a book under the watchful eye of the secret police. Despite the fact that she was forbidden to write, she secretly completed a manuscript about the founding of the Social Democratic Movement. Kokalari died in 1983 – two years before the decline of the dictatorship – after being refused treatment for cancer by the Albanian government.

THE FRAGILE RULE OF LAW

The near full isolation imposed on her by the communist authorities denied Albanian society and the wider world her powerful voice and writings. Kokalari's writing tapped into local custom and language, using local dialects in a lucid way, as she wrote about the challenges facing her generation of women. Her broader outlook about her country's future as a democracy is far from outdated. At its core the protection of free speech as a key to participating in and contributing to civil society should serve to remind us how democracies are still works in progress. Her trial and the trials of her contemporaries show how fragile the rule of law can be.

In April 2015 the Albanian parliament passed a law permitting individuals to access their secret police or Sigurimi files. In 2017 the Kokalari family was presented with the file that the Sigurimi kept on her. Within it they found the powerful and defiant photograph of the writer standing alone in front a crowd of people as she was put on trial for her beliefs (main image). Kokalari is evidence of a political dissident voice in a country with little experience with democracy and which existed in near isolation for most of the 20th century. It continues to struggle with its communist past.

It is a timely moment, in Kokalari's centenary year, to reflect on the contribution that this remarkable woman made to Albania's cultural and political life. Her life story is a poignant tale of achievement and ambition, of hope in the face of repression and also inspiration – for Albanians and non-Albanians alike.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer, Lancaster Law School, Lancaster University]

WB to send another proposal to Centre on changing its name

KOLKATA, SEPT 8 (PTI): With the Centre turning down the West Bengal government's last proposal on changing the state's name, its cabinet today decided to send another proposal.

"After the central government turned down our request to change the name of West Bengal, in the cabinet meeting today it was decided to send them another proposal of changing the name to Bangla in all three languages - Bengali, Hindi and English," state Education Minister Partha Chatterjee said.

The Centre had earlier turned down the state government's proposal to change the name of West Bengal to 'Bengal' in English and 'Bangla' in Bengali.

Incidentally, the state government had decided to rename the state as 'Bengal' after its earlier proposal of rechristening it as 'Paschim Bango', made in 2011 when the Trinamool Congress took office, failed to get the Centre's approval.

The primary reason for changing the name of West Bengal is that whenever there is a meeting of all states, West Bengal figures at the bottom of the list which is prepared in alphabetical order.

Mizoram-HPC(D) peace talks later this month

AIZAWL, SEPT 8 (PTI): Peace talks between the Mizoram government and Manipur-based Hmar People's Convention (Democratic) is proposed to be resumed during the third week of this month, a senior official in the state home department today said.

Additional secretary to the home department Lalbiakzama said that it was proposed to have two-day talks in Aizawl but the exact dates would be announced after consulting the HPC(D) delegates.

The resumption of the parleys was delayed as the state government had decided to rein in the HPC(D) faction led by Lalhmithanga Sanate, based in neighbouring Assam.

The peace overtures of the state government was snubbed by the Sanate faction by setting conditions unacceptable to the government.

The faction had demanded separate autonomous district council for the Hmar community in Mizoram and tripartite talks in which a senior official from the Centre should participate.

Decision to resume talks with the HPC(D) faction led by H Zosangbera was made after the proposed talks with the Sanate faction in August fizzled out.

Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy whimsical: Arunachal Cong chief

ITANAGAR, SEPT 8 (PTI): The "whimsical" Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy, 2014, will create a new social disorder in Arunachal Pradesh if implemented, state Congress president Takam Sanjoy has said.

Sanjoy said Arunachal Pradesh has been facing a crisis with the Chakma-Hajong refugees for decades in spite of having constitutional safeguards, and implementation of the Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy would open another flood gate in the state.

"This predominately tribal state, protected by constitutional safeguards like Bengal



Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873, and Chin Hills Regulation 1896, cannot be equated with Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, New Delhi.

Uttarakhand, which have decided to adopt the policy," he said.

Not all policies are mandatory for the state, the

Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) chief told reporters here.

There have been growing protests in Arunachal Pradesh against the recent decision by its Cabinet to implement the Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy, 2014.

Sanjoy said the national rehabilitation policy for the Tibetan refugees was prepared by the Centre without consulting any state government.

Terming the policy adoption as "whimsical", he said, if implemented it would create a new social disorder as there are already Tibetan settle-

ments at Tenjing Gaon, Tezu and Miao in West Kameng, Lohit and Changlang districts, respectively, he said.

The guideline of the policy states that Tibetans may be allowed to undertake any economic activity and to that extent, relevant papers/trade license/permit may be issued to them, and also permitted to take jobs in any field for which they are professionally qualified.

"When the lease period expires, the state government through a policy decision can extend lease further. But, there is no question of allow-

ing new settlement in any part of the state as available cultivable lands are limited even for its growing indigenous population," Sanjoy said.

He said issues relating to the Chakma-Hajong refugees, Tibetans or Bangladeshis should be viewed seriously, as the Himalayan state has turned into a "most volatile hotspot of South East Asia."

"Any trading license should not be granted to them (Tibetans), except the way others Indians are given on power of attorney basis on humanitarian grounds," said Sanjoy, a former Lok Sabha member.



NE festival in Delhi this weekend

NEW DELHI, SEPT 8 (PTI): Handicrafts, art and culture and cuisine of the Northeast will be showcased at a festival to be held over the weekend here at the India Gate lawns.

The 'North East Calling' festival will help promote the heritage of the region and create awareness on business and tourism opportunities there.

The two-day event on Saturday and Sunday is being organised by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) under its 'Destination North East series' of this year, an official state-

ment said.

DoNER Minister Jitendra Singh will inaugurate the festival, where the entry is free.

The event will include performance by music bands, dance troupes, musicians and a handloom show displaying ethnic dress materials.

There will be stalls by various central government ministries showcasing the works being undertaken by them in the region.

There will also be stalls by state governments offering opportunities in their states, sale of products

of NERAMAC and NEHHDC, variety of food stalls featuring delicacies of the Northeast as well as contests for all sections of young population to expose them to the region.

The event coincides with the 16th anniversary of ministry of DoNER. In the run-up of to the event, a variety of contests including photography and caption contest, video contest, choreography contest for colleges on the theme "Connect NE", quiz competition for schools and colleges, best Northeastern attire in the crowd, home chef contest, have been organised.



ULFA(I) rejects Sri Ravi Shankar's mediation offer

GUWAHATI, SEPT 8 (PTI): ULFA (Independent) 'Vice Chairman cum Chief of Staff' Paresh Asom (Baruah) today rejected Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's offer for facilitating the peace process if any underground group wanted to come back to the mainstream.

ULFA(I) leader Paresh Asom in a letter to the spiritual guru rejected his offer.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar had yesterday expressed his willingness to facilitate the process if any underground group wanted to come back to the mainstream as several youth had already expressed their desire to come overground if the government ensured a respectable deal.

Mizo University students burn Javadekar's effigy

AIZAWL, SEPT 8 (PTI): Agitating students of the Mizoram University today burnt an effigy of Union Human Resources Development Minister Prakash Javadekar because of delay in appointing a vice-chancellor in the central university.

Mizoram University Students' Council (MZUSC) president Malsawsanga said the union minister's effigy was burnt so that their stir for a vice-chancellor could be heard in New Delhi.

On the third day of their strike, MZUSC members set fire to the effigy of Javadekar in front of the university campus.

The Mizoram University had been without a regular VC for almost two years and repeated appeal to Javadekar and officials of the Ministry of Human Resources Development bore no fruits till date, the MZUSC said.

The students stopped all the academic and non-academic activities in the lone central uni-



versity since Wednesday demanding appointment of VC for the university.

They were not allowing teaching and non-teaching staff of the institute to enter the campus.

State Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla yesterday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to appoint the VC quickly in the central university.

DEAR READERS, IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING YOUR COPY OF SUMMIT TIMES IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD, PLEASE MESSAGE US AT 9734152451 AND WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE NEWSPAPER REACHES YOU.

Women's coach Marijne given charge of men's hockey team

NEW DELHI, SEPT 8 (PTI): Women's national hockey coach Sjoerd Marijne was today named chief coach of the Indian men's team -- a stunning decision given that the Dutchman has no prior experience of handling a senior men's side.

Marijne replaced Roelant Oltmans, who was sacked after a few ordinary performances in the past few months.

Besides, World Cup-winning junior team coach Harendra Singh was appointed High Performance Specialist coach of the senior women's team.

While Marijne will take charge on September 20 after returning from an ongoing tour of Europe with the women's team, Harendra will be on the job tomorrow itself.

The decisions were announced by newly-appointed Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore on his official twitter page.

"Current Chief Coach of Indian Senior Women Hockey Team, Mr. Waltherus Marijne, will take over as Chief Coach of Indian Senior Men Hockey Team," Rathore tweeted.

"Pleased to announce appt of

Sh Harendra Singh, Dronacharya Award winner, as High Performance Specialist Coach for Indian Senior Women Hockey Team," the Minister added.

According to a top Hockey India official, both Marijne and Harendra have been given a tenure till the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The sports ministry issued a release stating that the decisions were taken yesterday after a joint meeting between the Sports Authority of India and Hockey India.

"The Joint Committee Meeting of SAI and HI held at SAI, here on 7th September 2017 appointed Shri Harendra Singh, Dronacharya Awardee, Hockey Coach as High Performance Specialist Coach for Indian Senior Women Hockey Team.

"This decision has been taken jointly by SAI and Hockey India on the basis of recent and past performance of Shri Harendra Singh, wherein under his coaching the junior men team won the Junior Men World Cup in 2016 at Lucknow.

"He was also the Chief Coach of the Senior Men Hockey team from 2008 to 2009 and National coach

from 2009 to 2010.

He is a Level III certified Coach," the release read.

The ministry stated that Marijne has accepted the new role.

"It has also been decided in the meeting that, the present Chief Coach of India senior women Hockey Team, Mr. Waltherus Norbertus Maria Marijne will take over as Chief Coach of Indian Senior Men Hockey Team on his return from the on-going Europe tour. Mr. Marijne has accepted the offer of Chief Coach of the senior Indian Men Hockey Team," it added.

The decision came as a bolt from the blue as HI had advertised seeking Oltmans' successor on its website just three days ago. HI had set September 15 as the deadline to apply for the post.

However, the top official said HI withdrew the advertisement yesterday.

"The advertisement has been withdrawn as both HI and the Sports Authority of India felt Marijne is the best candidate for the job having spent more than six months in the country," the official told PTI.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD GANGTOK - 737101

No: 21/SSTRB

Dated: 07/09/2017

NOTICE

The written Examination for selection to the post of Headmaster/Headmistress Sec. School will be held on 22nd of September, 2017 at TNSS School, Development Area, Gangtok.

The Admit Card of the eligible candidates will be issued from 18th of Sept. 2017 from the office of Sikkim State Teachers' Recruitment Board, Upper Syari during office hours.

The application of those candidates who have applied with cumulative service as Graduate Teacher and Post Graduate Teacher and the application of those candidates who are currently on deputation to other non teaching posts are rejected in accordance to Office Memorandum No. 984/HRDD/Adm. Dated 24/07/2017 read with Corrigendum No. 1265/Adm./HRDD dated 26/08/2017 issued by the HRDD.

Further, the applications of those candidates who have selected for the post of Headmaster of Junior High School and have joined their duties as HM/JHS are also rejected in accordance to the letter No. 1221/HRDD dated. 23/08/2017.

Sd/-

CONTROLLER OF EXAMINATION,
SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD,
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

R.O. No. 294/ipr/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 7.9.2017

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GST Council may fix tax anomalies, cess hike on cars on Saturday

HYDERABAD, SEP 8 (PTI): The GST council, meeting here on Saturday, is likely to take up fixing of tax anomalies on a number of common use items as well as the quantum of cess to be hiked on luxury and mid-size cars, officials said on Friday.

It will also take up IT related issues in the GST network which has faced glitches.

The all powerful GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and comprising his state counterparts, is likely to consider lowering tax rates on over two dozen products, including idli/dosa batter, dried tamarind, custard powder and kitchen gas lighter after anomalies in their fixations were pointed out, officials said.

The Council will also formulate a mechanism to deal with businesses that are deregistering their brands to avoid taxes after the rollout of Goods and Services Tax from July 1. The fitment committee has proposed to the GST Council to consider May 15, 2017, as the cut off date for considering as a registered brand for the purpose of levy of GST, irrespective of whether or not the brand is subsequently deregistered.

Unbranded food items are exempted from GST, whereas branded and packaged food items attract 5 per cent rate. Hence, many businesses are deregistering their brands to avoid the levy.

The quantum of hike in cess on a range of cars from mid-sized to hybrid variants would be finalised in Saturday's meeting.

The Council had in its last meeting on August 5 approved hike in cess on mid, large size cars, SUVs, hybrid and luxury ones to up to 25 per cent, from 15 per cent. An Ordinance to hike the cess rate has been promulgated and the Council will now look at the quantum of hike.

The states are likely to raise in the 21st GST Council meeting is the technology backbone prepared by GST Networks (GSTN) and how the maiden return filing fared.

Due to huge rush of July GSTR-3B return filing on the penultimate date, the GSTN software had witnessed some glitches and the last date of filing had to be extended.



Sikkim's arm wrestlers leave for national championship

SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 08 SEPT:

A team of arm wrestlers from the State have left for the upcoming 36th National Arm Wrestling Championship 2017 to be held from 08-

10 Sept at Guwahati in Assam today.

The State team comprises of arm wrestlers - Ranju Sundas, Manisha Tewari, Binita Subba, Pempa Tamang, Joseph Sharma, Ratan Hang Sub-

ba, Phundik Hang Subba, Den Hang Subba and Kharka Dhoj Subba.

The team is being led by Pema Dorjee Bhutia as an official, Ganesh Kumar Subba as team coach and Tashi Tenzing Lepcha as

team manager.

The team has thanked Human Resource Development Advisor, OT Lepcha for sponsoring t-shirts for the team members.

Stephens ousts Venus, to face Keys for US Open title

NEW YORK, SEP 8 (AFP): Americans Sloane Stephens and Madison Keys, both struggling with serious injuries just three months ago, advanced to their first Grand Slam final at the US Open on Thursday.

Stephens, who missed 11 months with a left foot injury before returning in July, outlasted seven-time Slam champion Venus Williams 6-1, 0-6, 7-5.

"I'm super happy to be in a Grand Slam final," Stephens said. "To do it here, my home slam, is obviously more special."

I think this is what every player dreams about."

US 15th seed Keys, who had left wrist surgery for the second time in 10 months after a first-round French Open exit, routed US 20th seed CoCo Vandeweghe 6-1, 6-2 in 66 minutes to complete the first all-American US Open final since Serena Williams beat sister Venus in 2002.

"It still doesn't feel real. I'm still shaking," Keys said. "I played pretty well. There's a lot of things in my head right now so I'm struggling to come up with words."

"I knew I had to rise to the occasion. I'm just happy to be in the final."

The friends and Fed Cup teammates will meet Saturday at Arthur Ashe Stadium in the biggest match of either's career for a top prize of



3.7 million (3.07 million euros).

"I've known her for a long time. She's one of my closest friends on tour," Stephens said. "I love her to death. And it's not easy playing a friend."

Stephens, who was wearing a walking boot in June and ranked 957th in July, has won 14 of her past 16 matches, with semi-final runs at Toronto and Cincinnati.

"I have no words to describe what I'm feeling, what it took to get here, the journey I've been on," Stephens said.

"It's incredible. I don't know how I got here. Your guess is as good as mine. Just hard work. That's it."

Stephens beat Keys in the second round at Miami in 2015 in their only career meeting.

"Sloane is a new person right now," Keys said. "She's so excited to be out on the court again. I'm excited we get to play each other in the US Open final."

Stephens needed a thrilling break at love in the penultimate game and closing hold of serve to deny two-time champion Williams her first US Open final in 15 years.

"I just worked my tail off and tried to run every ball down and here we are," Stephens said. "It required a lot of fight and a lot of grit."

Now 83rd, Stephens is the lowest-ranked Slam finalist since unranked Justine Henin at the 2010 Australian Open and the lowest at the US Open since unranked Kim Clijsters won the 2009 title.

Stephens, who beat Williams in the first round of the 2015 French Open in their only prior meeting, will jump into the world top 25 next week with the victory.

US ninth seed Williams could not overcome 51 unforced errors that doomed her bid to become the oldest women's singles finalist in US Open history at age 37.

"It was definitely well competed," Williams said. "In the end she won more points than I did and that's what it added up to."

"Just made so many errors at the end there... I wasn't playing well. Just wasn't playing well."

Williams will return to the top five in Monday's world rankings for the first time since 2011, the year she was diagnosed with strength-sapping Sjogren's Syndrome.

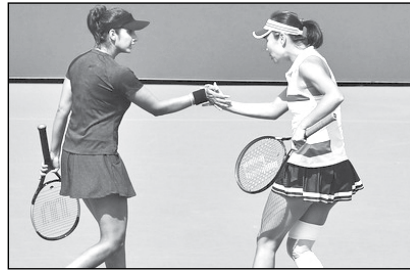
Sania Mirza and Shuai Peng reach US Open semis

NEW YORK, SEP 8 (PTI): India's Sania Mirza reached her first Grand Slam semifinal of the 2017 season with Shuai Peng after edging past Timea Babos and Andrea Hlavackova in a close two-set battle at the US Open, here.

The fourth seeded Indo-Chinese pair dispatched the fifth seed Hungarian-Czech combo 7-6 (5) 6-4 in the quarter-final which lasted one hour and 56 minutes.

It is season's best performance for Sania at the Majors as she fell in the third rounds of the Australian Open and the Wimbledon while at the French Open she had made a first round exit.

Sania and Peng now face second seeds Martina Hingis and Yung-Jan Chan, the pair which had defeated the Indian and her Belgian partner Kirsten Flipkens at the



Wimbledon.

Sania has played with different partners at the Grand Slams this season. She had started the season by teaming up with Barbora Strycova. They had lost in the third round of the Australian Open to Eri Hozumi and Miyu Kato.

At the Roland Garros she played with Yaroslava Shvedova and lost to Daria Gavrilova and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in the opening round.

This season Sania has managed to win only

one title -- Brisbane WTA event with American Bethanie Mattek-Sands -- and ended up finalist in Sydney with Strycova.

This is in complete contrast to her stupendous show in the 2016 season, during which she won eight titles, including five with Swiss great Martina Hingis.

She had ended the 2016 year as number one but has now slipped to number nine as she struggled to find a consistent partner after splitting with Hingis.



Conte has no worries over squad's resilience

LEICESTER (UK), SEP 8 (AFP): Chelsea manager Antonio Conte is confident his squad can cope with a far busier September than last year.

The reigning Premier League champions will kick off at Leicester on Saturday in sixth place on six points, one spot below West Bromwich and one above Watford whilst Leicester are three points worse off and fifth from bottom after three games.

The Leicester clash is quickly followed by Tuesday's Champions League group game at home to Qarabag with Chelsea needing to fulfil seven fixtures in just 21 days, an intense schedule Conte did not have to worry about last season.

But the 48-year-old Italian was confident that all the hard work he was able to put in on the training ground in his first campaign meant his ideas were now firmly embedded in his players' minds.

"A year ago they didn't know my idea of football, my physical work and the analysis," he said.

"It is easier now for me and my job at this point of the season. The feeling is a lot better if you compare now to this time last season."

The Leicester game also provides new signing Danny Drinkwater with the opportunity to make his debut against the club that sold him for 35million (45.1 million, 37.9 million euros) on deadline day.

Indeed, the deal was concluded so late that Leicester's attempts to bring

in a replacement -- Adrien Silva from Sporting Lisbon -- ended in farcical failure.

FIFA refused to grant the Portugal midfielder international clearance after Leicester missed the deadline for submitting paperwork by just 14 seconds, placing the 22m move in doubt.

Silva will not face the champions as Leicester prepare an appeal against FIFA's decision but Riyad Mahrez is available after failing to seal a deadline-day move away.

Jamie Vardy, who has started the season strongly in attack for Leicester, will play in the week he has admitted he could be tempted to leave in future to clinch more trophies having like Drinkwater won the Premier League two seasons ago with the Foxes.

He rejected a move to Arsenal in the wake of that success.

"I'm pleased with the decision I made," said Vardy.

"Turning down Arsenal doesn't mean I wouldn't look at another offer."

"I want to win as much as possible, I don't want to only have one Premier League medal in my drawer at home -- it would be an empty glass cabinet."

"I'm contracted to Leicester and we'll see how high we can go. Down the road, there might be an opportunity to go to the MLS or China. It would be something I'd like to experience. I know it'll involve moving the family again but it'll give them a different experience to see different cultures."

Muslim artistes from Indonesia to perform Ramlila in Ayodhya



ARUNAV SINHA LUCKNOW, SEP 8 (PTI):

The Ramayana not just transcends religious and linguistic differences, but borders too.

In a first, nearly a dozen Muslim artistes from Indonesia will enthrall audience by reenacting scenes of the Ramayana in Ayodhya and Lucknow.

"A Ramlila Samiti from Indonesia will reenact the scenes of the Ramayana in Ayodhya and Lucknow from Septem-

ber 13 to September 15," UP religious affairs and culture minister Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary told PTI.

"All the artistes are Muslims. Neither they eat non-vegetarian food nor they believe in violence in any form," he said.

It is for the first time such a Ramlila is being organised in the state, the minister said.

The artistes will perform in Lucknow on Sep-

tember 13 and in Ayodhya on September 15.

The minister said the government wanted to send out a message of cultural integration.

"Despite Indonesia being a Muslim-dominated country, they do not have any problem with Ramlila," he said.

In Ayodhya, the programme will be held at Swami Vivekanand auditorium of Avadh University.

Avadh Universi-

ty vice-chancellor Prof Manoj Dixit said, "A number of lessons can be drawn from this. Ramlila has a strong cultural link with Indonesia."

"A large number of artistes are Muslims, but they love their cultural past. We want that Ramlila of all the 65 countries, where it is performed, is staged in the Ramnagiri of Ayodhya," he said, adding there are 100 versions of the folk drama in India.



Trump does not rule out military action against North Korea

WASHINGTON, SEP 8 (PTI): US President Donald Trump said military action against a defiant North Korea is certainly an option, but hoped that he does not have to use it. Tensions have dramatically risen on the Korean peninsula after North Korea on Sunday conducted its biggest nuclear test, which its state-run KCNA news agency described it as a hydro-gen bomb.

"Military action would certainly be an option. Is it inevitable? Nothing is inevitable. It would be great if something else could be worked out," he told reporters at a news conference with the Kuwait's Emir Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday. "We would have to look at all the details, all of the facts. But we've had presidents for 25 years now, they've been talking, talking, and the day after an agreement is reached, new work begins in North Korea, continuation on nuclear. So, I would prefer not going the route of the military, but it's something certainly that could happen," Trump said in response to a question.

Pyongyang in July conducted two long-range ballistic missile launches, followed by a medium-range over Japan, a US ally, in August. The US has responded to meet the challenge with "fire and fury".

Stressing that the US military is now stronger than ever, Trump said, "Hopefully we're not going to have to use it on North Korea. If we do use it on North Korea, it will be a very sad day for North Korea".

"I'm not negotiating with you. Maybe we ll have a chance to negotiate with somebody else, but I don't put my negotiations on the table. Unlike past administrations, I don't talk about them. But I can tell you that North Korea is behaving badly, and it's got to stop," he said.

Russia claims killing of IS ‘Minister of War’ in Syria

MOSCOW, SEP 8 (AFP): Russia claimed today to have killed several top commanders of the Islamic State group in an airstrike in Syria, including the "Minister of War" and the so-called Emir of Deir Ezzor.

"As a result of a precision airstrike of the Russian air forces in the vicinity of Deir Ezzor city, a command post, communication centre and some 40 ISIS fighters have been killed," the Russian defence ministry said in a statement posted on Facebook.

"According to confirmed data, among the killed fighters are four influential field commanders including Deir Ezzor emir Abu Mohammed al-Shimali," the ministry said.

Gulmurod Khalimov, who is known as the IS group's Minister of War and the highest-ranking defector from ex- Soviet Tajikistan, suffered a "fatal injury," it added.

Russia's SU warplanes dropped "bunker buster" bombs on the fighters as they were meeting near Deir Ezzor to discuss how to respond to the advance of the Syrian army, Moscow said.



Backed by Russia, Syrian troops on Tuesday broke through a years-long siege imposed by IS militants

on tens of thousands of civilians in Deir Ezzor. Reports of Khalimov's death have surfaced before.

imov, described as the highest-ranking IS commander in Mosul, had been killed in an airstrike.

A former colonel, he headed

the Tajik interior ministry's special forces unit and received American training before joining IS in 2015. Khalimov pledged allegiance to the jihadist group in a video released in May 2015 in a high-profile defection that rocked Tajikistan, a mainly Muslim country.

In the footage he warned that he and other IS recruits based in the Middle East were "coming" for top officials in the country, including long-ruling President Emomali Rakhmon. In 2016, the United States offered a 3 million bounty for information leading to his location or arrest.

In July, police in Tajikistan killed four relatives of the former special forces colonel in a gun battle, an interior ministry source has said, and three other relatives were detained.

The source claimed that all of those killed or detained were IS "supporters" and said that they were intending to flee to neighbouring Afghanistan, but did not offer any proof to back up the claims.

‘Tsunami warning as magnitude 8 quake rocks Mexico’



MEXICO CITY, SEP 8 (AFP): A powerful 8.0 magnitude earthquake struck southern Mexico, the US Geological Survey said, with seismologists warning of a tsunami of more than three meters (10 feet). The quake hit offshore in the Pacific about 120 kilometers (75 miles) southwest of the town of Tres Picos in far southern Chiapas state, the USGS said.

"Based on all available data ... widespread hazardous tsunami waves are forecast for some coasts," the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said.

"Tsunami waves reaching more than three meters above the tide level are possible along the coasts of Mexico," it said, with lower waves in other countries.

The tsunami warning was for the coasts of Mexico, down through Central America into Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama and

Honduras, and as far south as Ecuador.

The quake was felt in Mexico City, where people ran out of buildings after hearing earthquake warning sirens go off. It was not immediately known if there were casualties. The quake was also felt in much of Guatemala, which borders Chiapas.

The quake struck at a depth of 33 kilometers (21 miles), the USGS said.



Myanmar violence may have killed more than 1,000: UN

SEOUL, SEP 8 (AFP): More than 1,000 people may already have been killed in Myanmar's Rakhine state, mostly members of the Muslim Rohingya minority, a senior United Nations representative said today -- around twice the government's figure.

"Perhaps about a thousand or more are already dead," said Yang-hee Lee, the UN special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar.

"This might be from both sides but it would be heavily concentrated on the Rohingya population."

In the last two weeks alone 164,000 mostly Rohingya civilians have fled to Bangladesh, overwhelming refugee camps that were already bursting at the seams.

Others have died trying to flee the fighting in Rakhine state, where witnesses say entire villages have been burned since Rohingya militants launched a series of co-ordinated attacks on August 25, prompting a military-led crackdown.

The Rohingya have long been subjected to discrimination in mostly Buddhist Myanmar, which denies them citizenship and regards them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, even if they have lived in the country for generations.

The figures given by Lee, a South Korean academic, in an interview in Seoul, are far higher than official tolls, which total 475. In updated figures released by the authorities on Thursday, Myanmar said 6,600

Rohingya homes and 201 non-Muslim homes had been burned to the ground since August 25.

They added some 30 civilians had been killed -- seven Rohingyas, seven Hindus and 16 Rakhine Buddhists -- in the fighting. Myanmar's army has previously said it has killed around 430 Rohingya militants. Authorities say they have lost 15 security personnel since the August attacks.

But Lee told AFP that "it's highly possible that it's underestimated numbers".

"The unfortunate thing, the serious thing is that we can't verify that now with no access.

"I think that it's going to be one of the worst disasters that the world and Myanmar has seen in recent years."

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE: Roadside plots (general land) available for sale at Adampool, east Sikkim. Contact 9434117687 for further details and to arrange site visits.

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Draw No:6 DrawDate on:08/09/17	
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 848 48346	
(Including Super Prize Amt)	
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 48346 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-	
21176 28383 68459 73115 75936	
84838 87143 89781 90108 95648	
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-	
25387 31639 39419 40509 41122	
43468 77079 80970 81416 87677	
4th Prize Rs.1000/-	
1889 2067 2955 3067 4358 4708 5784 6858 7937 8097	
5th Prize Rs.500/-	
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6th Prize Rs.250/-	
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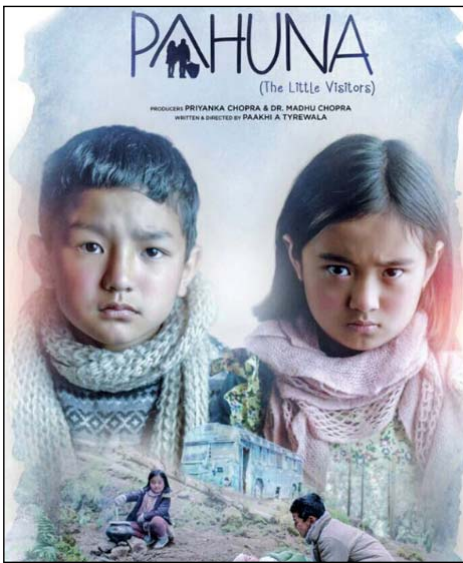
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DEAR ADMIRE MORNING	
Draw No:1 DrawDate on:08/09/17	
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(Including Super Prize Amt)	
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 86710 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-	
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46602 59635 70043 72837 90558	
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-	
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4th Prize Rs.1000/-	
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5th Prize Rs.500/-	
2840 2994 3405 3601 4150 6079 6634 6711 7138 8419	
6th Prize Rs.250/-	
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Issued by:	
The Director , Sikkim State Lotteries , Gangtok	
Please Visit : www.sikkimlotteries.com	

DEAR TENDER	
Draw No:6 DrawDate on:08/09/17	
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 95B 75201	
(Including Super Prize Amt)	
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 75201 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-	
05627 12360 17387 21560 45871	
46917 51850 81059 92065 93581	
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-	
11583 14438 17304 25115 35443	
38607 44363 47093 55552 63809	
4th Prize Rs.1000/-	
1517 1721 2904 3210 5024 5243 6273 7762 8921 9488	
5th Prize Rs.500/-	
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6th Prize Rs.250/-	
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FASHIONABLE FRIENDS: Karlle Kloss and Joan Smalls hugged it out at the Tom Ford Spring/Summer 2018 runway show after party in NYC.

PRIYANKA CHOPRA'S 'PAHUNA' RECEIVES WIDE ACCLAIM AT TIFF 2017



Priyanka Chopra's Sikkimese production Pahuna was very well-received after it premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2017.

The actress wrote a long note along with a video, thanking the people who were part of the project and applauding the female director of Pahuna, Paakhi A Tyrewala. Captioning the short-video, Priyanka wrote: "Never be ok with hearing the word no... because there will always be

someone who will say "yes." I'm very proud of my first time 'female' director Paakhi A Tyrewala for having the courage to not give up, when people didn't believe this film could be made." Pahuna: The Little Visitors narrates the story of three Nepalese children separated from their parents and their journey back home. She added: "Thank you Cameron Bailey for the opportunity to share this small film and a big message with a world audience...one about

BUZZWORTHY!!

children's rights, the refugee crisis, religious conversion and the affect of adult decisions on kids from the perspective of our protagonists, who are to young kids from a small village in Sikkim.

"Tonight an audience watched this film for the first time outside of our offices at @purplepebblepictures, and told us how proud they were that a story like this was told. Thank u @madhuchopra for your keen eye. Thank you @cameronbailey for the oppor-

tunity to share this small film and a big message with a world audience...one about children's rights, the refugee crisis, religious conversion and the affect of adult decisions on kids from the perspective of our protagonists, who are 2 young kids from a small village in Sikkim. My heart swells at the thought of people standing up and applauding our effort. This is the reason I wanted to be a filmmaker. Major feels," the actress wrote in Instagram.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

09th SEPTEMBER WORLD HISTORY

1776: The term "United States" was adopted by the second Continental Congress to be used instead of the "United Colonies."

1915: During First World War, a German zeppelin bombed London for the first time, causing little damage.

1926: The National Broadcasting Co. (NBC) was incorporated by the Radio Corporation of America, which had originated as Marconi Wireless.

1940: During Second World War, Italian troops under Marshal Graziani alias "Butcher of Ethiopia" attacked Egypt.

1948: The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) emerged out of Soviet occupation. Kim Sung established the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the northern half of the Korean peninsula. Kim Du Bong stood as Chairman of

the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly.

1965: Tibet was made an autonomous region of China.

INDIAN HISTORY

1850: Bhartendu Harish Chand, Hindi poet and dramatist was born.

1915: Jatindranath Mukherjee, alias Bangha Jatin and his companions fought a battle with the British police at Kaptipada on the banks of the Buri Balang River in Orissa.

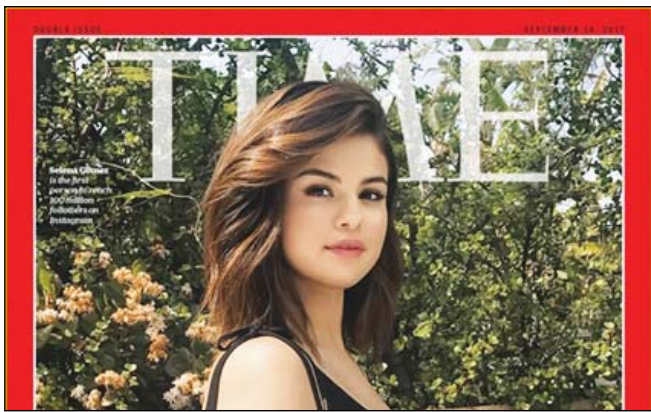
1920: the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College (MAO College) of Aligarh was converted into the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

1943: Four youths were hanged for instigating revolt amongst the Indian Army in the Madras area.

TIME MAGAZINE ROLLS OUT FIRSTS, A SPECIAL PACKAGE ON GROUNDBREAKING WOMEN

Time magazine is celebrating female achievement in its Sept. 18 issue.

The magazine unveiled 'Firsts', a multimedia special project that features 46 women who broke a variety of barriers, such as becoming the first woman to win a major party's nomination for president (Hillary Rodham Clinton), co-anchoring a major network news program (Barbara Walters), designing a memorial on the National Mall (Maya Lin), owning and producing her own her own talk show (Oprah Winfrey) and



breaking 100 million Instagram followers (Selena Gomez).

As part of the multiplatform project, there will be 12 different covers featuring 12 different women, on newsstands. Portraits, including the 12 covers, were shot with an iPhone by Luisa Dörr, a Brazilian photographer that Time's director of photography Kira Pollack found on Instagram.

Other aspects of the project include short videos, produced by Time videographers Spencer Bakalar and Diane Tsai, an interactive site, a dedicated social media campaign and a hardcover book, which will come out later this fall.

ZAYN MALIK DROPS ACTION-PACKED VIDEO FOR HIS NEW SINGLE 'DUSK TILL DAWN' FEATURING SIA

Zayn Malik premiered the music video for his new single "Dusk Till Dawn" featuring Sia on Thursday, September 7, off his upcoming sophomore album. The singer teased the arrival of his new visual on Twitter on Friday, September 1, revealing that he'd star alongside Girls actress Jemima Kirke.

The former One Direction member took to social media to share his excitement with his followers. "Hope you enjoy it as much as I did making it," the star wrote to his fans. Kirke shared her reaction to the video's release on Twitter, sharing a video of herself eating cereal and singing along to the song. She wrote, "How are you celebrating the release of @zaynmalik new video?" The singer replied to her post saying, "My Mornings...similar."

The action-packed video follows the



couple as they carry two different briefcases and try to escape from the authorities who are chasing after them. Kirke's character hides her identity with a black wig and glasses, as Malik's character follows her and is eventually taken in for questioning.

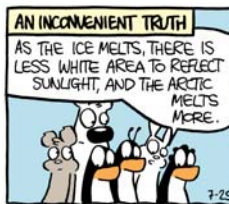
The police officer says, "I know who you are" and Zayn replies, "You don't know me." The cops search through the singer's briefcase and find nothing but clothes, and compare his

hand tattoos with the tattoos of the person they're after. They eventually realize they have the wrong guy and let him go. "I know who you are" and Zayn replies, "You don't know me." The cops search through the singer's briefcase and find nothing but clothes, and compare his hand tattoos with the tattoos of the person they're after. They eventually realize they have the wrong guy and let him go. The singer then gets into a high-speed chase in his Jaguar with another group of bad guys as he races to be by his girl's side.

Malik's character makes a clean getaway through a hole he dug in the ground of a house and reunites with his girl and they drive away together. Although Sia did not appear in the video, her vocals are on fire!!!

ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



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BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



ARIES: You might find it hard to get going. Aries. Taking direction could rub you the wrong way, especially if you're set on doing something different. Communicate your ideas and how you want to approach things rather than let irritation get to you. Your approach will be better received if you leave emotions out of it. You may even get kudos for staying calm and collected.

TAURUS: You might feel cheerful and generous today. Taurus. Helping others will probably suit you, and matters will move along smoothly. If there are outstanding projects from earlier, tackle them first. It's an opportune time to get caught up on challenges. Don't hesitate to lend a

hand if you're approached or notice someone in need. This will benefit them as well as you.

GEMINI: Make an effort to connect with someone you miss today. Gemini. Even if it feels painful at first, you'll feel a lot better once you do. Pick up the phone, write a note, or send an email. Let the person know you miss and care about him or her. Expressing yourself is often far better than stuffing your feelings. The person may be missing you just as much.

CANCER: Today may be a time of heightened reasoning and judgment for you. Cancer. What a great way to get things done! Pull out unfinished projects and get going. Tackle

issues or problems that have surfaced recently by facing them directly. Make the most of this day's energy by thinking about ways to do things more efficiently. Be confident that you can handle anything.

LEO: Feed your mind today. Leo. The day's energy supports growth and expansion, so why not see about learning about something you're interested in? Challenge yourself by reading or taking a class. There are plenty of online subjects to engage you. Find something that interests you that you can do in your own time.

VIRGO: You're more into socializing today than anything else. Virgo. This could be great providing you

don't have a heavy workload. See who's available and go for it. If you need to get something done, you'll have to resist the temptation to chat too long. Use breaks for this and keep your focus on getting done what you've taken on. There's always the evening to get together with friends.

LIBRA: Don't be surprised if you getting back into the swing of things more slowly than usual today. Libra. Not every day starts off with a bang, so don't be too hard on yourself for this. Just take things slow and easy. If you have a deadline, consider asking for a short extension. Pushing yourself to get things accomplished can leave you feeling even less productive.

SCORPIO: Don't be surprised if you getting back into the swing of things more slowly than usual today. Libra. Not every day starts off with a bang, so don't be too hard on yourself for this. Just take things slow and easy. If you have a deadline, consider asking for a short extension. Pushing yourself to get things accomplished can leave you feeling even less productive.

SAGITTARIUS: Chatting with your loved ones may be more appealing to you today than any other day. Sagittarius. It may be important to curb this desire if there are many things that need your attention. If you're at home, don't spend all your time on the phone or loaf-

ing. Consider tending first to things that need to get done. Socializing will be far more enjoyable without guilty feelings about what you should be doing.

CAPRICORN: Capricorn, you can expect to feel a little more energetic today. In fact, you may run circles around everyone. What a great way to start the day. Head out with the confidence that you can easily handle anything that comes your way. Take time to enjoy the company of others as much as possible. If there are meetings on the agenda, handle them right away.

AQUARIUS: You might feel like doing something different today, Aquarius. Everyone needs a break

from the regular grind and this is a good time to try something new. Perhaps you feel like varying your routine. If this is your day off, you might spend the day doing whatever strikes your fancy. Try a new wardrobe style. Go to a movie. Do something to spice up your life today.

PISCES: Start your day writing in a journal. Pisces. This provides an avenue to communicate and connect with your inner being. Things you need to do, ambitions, and even challenges can appear while you're writing, providing a map that you can follow. Even if starting is difficult, stick with it. The words will come if you give it a chance. It can make your day much easier.