

Chamling writes to Rajnath Singh, spells out benefits of Gorkhaland

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 JUN:

Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling, in a letter addressed to Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh, has pleaded with the Central Government for a separate state of Gorkhaland, saying it would fulfill the Constitutional demand of the people of Darjeeling hills and also bring permanent peace to the region. A facsimile of the letter addressed to the Union Home Minister was posted by Mr Chamling in his official Facebook account yesterday. The letter is dated 20 June, 2017.



Introducing the letter, Mr Chamling details: "Right from the time of assuming office as the Chief Minister, I have raised the issue of formation of

a separate state of Gorkhaland at the National level several times. I have strongly advocated the long standing demand of the people of the Darjeeling

Hills at all times and spoken about it in different social, cultural, literary meetings, conferences and conventions that I have attended in the country and abroad. As immediate neighbors, we Sikkimese, wish them well forever; and pray that their hopes and aspirations are fulfilled. We have always been there for the people of Darjeeling Hills in times of need and we reiterate that they have our all-out support for the demand of separate state of Gorkhaland. Our good wishes and prayers are with them".

Meanwhile, in his rather long letter to the Union Home Minister, Mr Chamling points out that the three decades of agitation for statehood in the neighbouring Hills has "claimed over 1,000 lives and caused incalculable loss of property". He says that a "prolonged agitation" in the Darjeeling-Sikkim region would also pose a threat to national security because of the tiny Himalayan state's strategic location. Sikkim lies within three international borders with China (Tibet), Nepal and Bhutan, the

GJM leadership to resign from GTA Friday

DARJEELING, JUN 22 (PTI): In a bid to step up their stir for a separate state in the Darjeeling Hills, the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha leaders have to quit the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) Friday. "Today we have decided to resign from the GTA. The resignations will be submitted to the principal secretary of GTA," GJM general secretary Roshan Giri told PTI. The GJM supremo Bimal Gurung, who is in hiding, will also put in his papers. He said the GTA has been turned into a "farce" by the West Bengal government and the GJM and the people of the hills will fight for the single agenda of a separate Gorkhaland. The GJM's decision to

resign from GTA comes two days after the all party meeting in the hills where it was decided that the party will withdraw from the tripartite GTA Accord. In the June 20 meeting all the 14 influential political parties and public organisations of the hills had unanimously declared their support to the longstanding demand for a separate Gorkhaland state in north Bengal. The GJM is spearheading the agitation for a separate state and its indefinite shutdown, which has paralysed hit the normal life in the hills, entered its eighth day today. The GJM has been ruling GTA since 2012 and its five-year term is set to expire this year.

Traffic along NH10 near normal, but stranded tourists still around



KESANG DOMA
BHUTIA
GANGTOK, 22 JUN:

Around 40 buses arranged by the State Government and many other vehicles, both private and taxis, traveled to Siliguri from Gangtok and vice versa today. The last bus out of Gangtok for Siliguri left the SNT Depot at 2 p.m. today. There were no more buses scheduled for the day. And yet, a visit to the

ticket counter at the Depot revealed that there were still many tourists milling around, hoping that some arrangement would be made for them to make it in time for their flights and trains the next day. Siddharth Malhotra of Delhi who was at the SNT Depot with his family hoping that they could move out today, informed that they had joined the queue at SNT at 5 a.m. this morning. And they

still could not get a seat on any of the around 40 buses that departed from here for Siliguri today. The line ahead of them was already that long. The mass of tourists waiting in a line of quiet desperation since as early as 5 a.m. without any clarity as to the chaos they have found themselves in. Despite waiting for an arduous amount of time and the Department doing everything

in its power to redress the situation, things have not really panned out as well as they should have for people spending their holidays in Sikkim. The Sikkim National Transport (SNT) Gangtok, Sikkim is going out of its way to accommodate the stranded tourists providing as many as 30-40 buses daily, including the buses from the pharmaceutical companies and other undertakings.



The first bus leaves at around 6 in the morning and the last bus at 2 p.m. Even after the scheduled hour for last bus to Siliguri, the tourists refused to budge, staying put in desperate anticipation that something will work out for them. The only alternative to this endless wait is to board a handful of service cabs which ferry passengers at their own risk if they have missed the police escorts provided by West Bengal police in batches to traffic from Sikkim at 8 a.m and 11 a.m

from Rangpo, and at 2 p.m and 5 p.m from Siliguri. The confusion and consternation imposed on tourists and commuters is unfortunate specially since there is no real trouble on the highway, just a lot of fear-mongering. In fact, the highway saw very heavy movement of vehicles today and one of the SummitTimes correspondents travelled from Siliguri to Kirney near Melli and back and did not come across any picketing or heckling along the way.

Failed, but the peace initiative should continue

SUDIPTA CHANDA
SILIGURI, 22 JUN:

The first step by the West Bengal government towards a peace initiative for the tense Darjeeling hills failed to make an impression on Thursday. Conversely, the Gorkhaland demand earned a friend anew in the Sikkim chief minister Pawan Chamling also on the day. Understandably it did not augur well with the West Bengal government, which in a guarded way reminded persons holding constitutional positions to act responsibly. The diametrically opposite events of Thursday add a new touch to the ongoing Gorkhaland movement. Its impact will be felt in one form or the other in future. Meanwhile, the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) has reportedly decided to repudiate the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) on Friday. Would that signal the end of the GTA struck in a tripartite agreement between the Centre, West Bengal Government and GJM on July 18, 2017?

In that event, would the state government appoint an administrator to run a representative-less GTA till its tenure and thereafter? And, if so, would the agitating parties accept its authority? Questions such as these now gain precedence. The West Bengal government convened an all-party meeting in Siliguri on Thursday as a peace initiative in relation to the Darjeeling situation. No political party from the hills attended the meeting, which is not surprising. But that the Congress, BJP and the Left Front constituents also chose to skip the meeting is unusual. Not that any of those supports the Gorkhaland cause or a violent movement, but political compulsions often take precedence over social obligations. Thursday displayed it once again. Thursday's peace initiative, although it should have come much earlier, may have failed to earn the desired response from the political parties, but it is a step in the right direction. Yes, it was disregarded, but there is no room for frustra-

tion. The effort should be kept up to bring back peace in the hills. The GJM's decision to dump the GTA is probably the most significant development in Thursday's mix of events. The police administration has slapped its leaders Bimal Gurung, his wife Asha Gurung and Binay Tamang with cognizable offence related to the deaths of people during the hostilities. The GJM reads the charge as another move to keep the leaders on the run. The charge would surely be contested in court, but for now it has riled the agitators. What turn the step develops into is another serious source of worry. If the GJM finally walks out of the GTA, it would be fulfilling a major demand of political parties like the GNLF and Jana Andolan Party (JAP), who have extended conditional support to the GJM. Their other significant demand is for the GJM to withdraw its three MLAs from the West Bengal Assembly. Will the GJM toe that line too? The political circle is abuzz with the question.

Dalit leaders believe parties playing dalit card

NEW DELHI, JUN 22 (PTI): While the plot for a mega dalit versus dalit fight is being scripted in Delhi's power circles, activists belonging to the marginal community are grappling with the caste identities of the two protagonists. "The NDA's candidate is more of an RSS pracharak than a dalit leader or activist or anything from the community," said dalit activist and Magsaysay Award winner Bezwada Wilson. Wilson said the candidature of Ram Nath Kovind of the NDA was a "long term plan of the BJP" to effect changes in the Constitution and send a "signal" to the people that they could do "anything" they wanted to. "After they got Yogi Adityanath as the Uttar

Pradesh Chief Minister, atrocities against the minority communities have increased. His appointment was a message to these communities. Now, with Kovind, they are trying to send a similar message: We can make an RSS pracharak the rashtrapati of this country," Wilson said. Dalit writer and ideologue Chandrabhan Prasad said he found no resonance among dalits for Kovind, holding that the NDA's move to select a dalit candidate as President was an effort to split dalit votes. "It has been the BJP's strategy to divide the dalits," he said. By putting up Meira Kumar, who is from a different dalit sub-caste, turn to pg03

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Two booked under SADA

GANGTOK, 22 JUN: Two cases under Sikkim Anti Drugs Act, 2006 were filed on 21 June at Melli Police Station. A 25-year-old man from Melli Bazaar and a 31-year-old resident of Melli Chalisey were both booked under SADA in two different cases. Altogether 326 capsules of Spasmaproxyvon tablets were recovered from the accused persons. Both the accused persons were brought in by police personnel deployed in patrol duty.

Two suspected of peddling brown sugar arrested

GANGTOK, 22 JUN: A 19-year-old and a 29-year-old residents of Jorethang, South Sikkim were booked and arrested under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 for being in possession contraband substances which the police suspected to be heroin or brown sugar. The accused persons were intercepted by the police personnel on patrol duty. During a formal search conducted by the police in front of independent witnesses the police recovered 29 pouches of brown colored substances. The substances were sent for chemical analysis after which the accused persons were arrested.

SDF celebrates Sampurna Kranti Diwas

NITESH R PRADHAN GANGTOK, 22 JUN: Sikkim Democratic Front celebrated the Sampurna Kranti Diwas at the party headquarters in the Capital today in the presence of party president and a galaxy of leaders from the party including Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Chairpersons and various office bearers of the government and the party. Addressing the gathering, Speaker KN Rai enlightened about the formation of the party. "We didn't form the party just to overthrow the party in power at the time. We came with an ideology and programmes for the welfare of the State," said Mr Rai. Minister DT Bhutia, who also addressed the gathering, said that the party was a "revolution for peace and development". Party president, Pawan Chamling, wished all the members on the day and also remembered all the members who have contributed to the formation and growth of the party. Reminiscing on the struggle, he said, "We were even ready to face bullets. It was through



people's wishes that our party went to be the party of governance. There was a paradigm shift in Sikkimese society," he added. He, however, said that the revolution is not

over yet. He added that within the party there are "anti democratic" people who are impeding the development of the state. He urged all party members to work sincerely for the State and to take forward the revolution "as it is still on". He also advised all members that SDF is a democratic party and members should serve the public as servants and not rulers. "People get angry with leaders and ministers because of undemocratic thought. We are a government for the public," he stressed. He further stressed that politics is all about patience and sacrifice. Highlighting that environment protection is a key concern of the government, he asked all to plant 10 saplings during the forthcoming 10 Minutes to Earth programme. Announcing the Ranipool-Gangtok monorail, he added that the plan is to further link Pakyong airport and Rangpo. He also added that all the roads are being carpeted with Rs 375 crore sanctioned under MNREGA and additional Rs 100 crore for village roads.

He announced the construction of a Golf course near the capital along with India's biggest library in Gangtok. About the upcoming Panchayat election, he highlighted that sitting Panchayats who have performed well will be re-fielded and ticket will be distributed to mature individuals with ideology and integrity. On the Karmapa issue, Mr Chamling said that the Karmapa will be able to visit the State soon. He further informed that Limboo-Tamang communities will be getting their 5 seats in the State Assembly and the process is in its final stages. On the Gorkhaland issue in Darjeeling hills, Mr Chamling said that many people from the Hills have died for the country and that the area fulfills all the criteria to be a separate state. Adding that Nepali is a constitutionally recognised language, he said that there is nothing wrong in Nepali speaking Indians demanding a separate state.

NYK youth convention organized at Mangan

WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 22 JUN: Nehru Yuva Kendra [NYK], North district, organized a district and neighborhood youth convention at Mangan Community Hall on 21 Jun. Sub Divisional Magistrate-Mangan, PW Lepcha, attended the programme as chief guest along with resource persons, Chief Medical Officer-North, Baron Subba, Patanjali Yog Pith instructor-North, TO Lepcha, Managing Director-Dairy Development, BB Subba, District Youth Coordinator-NYK North, NT Sherpa, Child Development Project Officer-Mangan,



L. Donka, Bank Manager-Canara Bank, Nawang Bhutia, and Deputy Director from Department of Economics, Statistics, Monitoring & Evaluation [DESME]. Child Development Project Officer, Ms Donka, while addressing the gathering, spoke on 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme and informed about the works being carried out under this scheme. She further addressed the importance of girl child and women in society and their roles

in social activities. Bank Manager-Canara Bank, Mr Bhutia, informed about various schemes being launched under Prime Minister Yojana. He added that Canara Bank-Mangan has provided more than 100 unemployed loans to make the youth and small businessmen self reliant. Managing Director-Dairy Development, Mr Subba, encouraged people towards dairy farming, organic farming and self employment. For any kind of support, one can visit his office for consultation, he added. The CMO-N informed about IEC initiatives.



Singtam for Gorkhaland

YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 22 JUN: In support of the Gorkhaland demand, Gorkha Janmukti Morcha party members, residents of Singtam including members of Singtam Drivers Association and Daragaon Suraksha Samiti along with students, teachers, parents and shopkeepers of the area took out a candle-light rally from Aadarshgaon to Shanti Nagar today.

Mega blood donation camp at Kumrek

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 22 JUN: Lions Club of Rangpo [Gateway of Sikkim], Marwari Yuva Manch-Rangpo and Indchemie Health Specialists Private Limited will be organizing a Mega Blood Donation Camp on 27 Jun at the Indchemie unit complex in Kumrek, East Sikkim, in memory of Late Chabilal Sharma, an active member of the club who passed away a couple of years ago. A meeting-cum-aware-



ness programme was organized for the same today in Kumrek and Rangpo, a press release informs. Attending the meeting were club president, VK Nigam, secretary, Rakesh Agarwal, founder president, Mangil Jain, director, Pramod Prasad, MYM president, Sunita Agarwal, and others. The team has appealed to all the residents of the area, NGOs, clubs and associations to support the mission. Furthermore, Indchemie Human Resource head, Arvind Singh, has assured to extend support to the camp.

Intl Yoga Day at Mangan

MANGAN, 22 JUN: Mangan district, North Sikkim observed International Yoga Day at Mangan Senior Secondary School auditorium today. The programme was organized by NHPC stage IV HEP in coordination with District Administration, Patanjali Yog Pith and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan. Patanjali Yog Pith instructor, North Sikkim, explained the benefits of Yoga and demonstrated several Yogasanas.



ChamlingwritestoRajnath...

contd from pg01 CM explains to the Home Minister. He also said that the creation of Gorkhaland state will also restore permanent peace and prosperity in the region and Sikkim will also be hugely benefited by it. Besides, he said, Sikkim has been suffering "untold loss owing to the recurring blockage of its one and only lifeline NH-10, during the last 30 years of Gorkhaland agitation". "The blockage of the transportation of essential goods and general unrest causes unmanageable inconvenience. What is more, the atmosphere of uncertainty along the NH10 poses great threat to lives as well. Sikkimese students

studying in Darjeeling and the rest of India, along with people needing medical treatment, have no option but to take this tension-ridden highway to travel to their destination," he details. Citing the martyrdom of several Gorkha people during the freedom movement, Mr Chamling writes, "The martyrdom of the Gorkha freedom fighter, Major Durga Malla has been duly recognized by the installation of his statue outside the Indian parliament." Mr Chamling also cites the examples of Damber Singh Gurung and Ari Bahadur Gurung saying that they both were among the members of the Constituent Assembly.

"The fulfilment of the constitutional demand of the people in the Darjeeling Hills which is deeply connected with national identity of the Indian Gorkhas will provide long-awaited justice to their patriotism, which has been second to none," the Chief Minister has said. He also reminds the Union Minister of the Resolution passed by the Sikkim Legislative Assembly and sent to the Centre in 2011 in support of Gorkhaland and seeking a permanent solution to the "pressing and longstanding problem of the people of Darjeeling Hills which would not only be in the interest of the region but also of the entire nation".



SEPARATED BY A BANDH

In the midst of all the uncertainties of travel and supplies caused by the indefinite strike in the neighbouring Darjeeling Hills sits Govind Kumar, 17 years old, currently managing a vegetable corner for his brother at Lall Bazaar, Gangtok. He would however rather be home in Bihar by now. His school is about to reopen after the summer break. He has been spending the past five summer holidays at Lall Bazaar so that his brother could travel home and spend some time there. Only once his brother returns to Gangtok can Govind return to his school as well. But that is not happening because travel has become uncertain and expensive for most people. The brothers are stuck on either side of the indefinite strike, and even though the highway is open for Sikkim, travel have been made uncertain for lay people by those who control movement here. Be that as it may, he now waits for his brother to return so that even can return to his classes.

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Gangtok on Friday, 23 June

Temp: 25°C / 18°C
Forecast: Cloudy; an evening thunder-shower followed by a little rain late.
Sunrise: 04:41 AM
Sunset: 06:34 PM

Flood situation remains grim in 4 districts of Assam

GUWAHATI, JUNE 22 (PTI): Over 38,000 people are affected by floods in four districts of Assam, including Kamrup (Metro district which comprises Guwahati, where one person died today after being electrocuted.

Chief Minister Sarbajit Sarma reviewed the flood situation of the state, with Darrang being the worst affected district, official sources said.

One person identified as Dulal Malakar was killed after being electrocuted during flash floods in Guwahati this morning following incessant rains since last night.

The rains have caused floods in the capital city with water-logging in Zoo Road, R G Baruah Road, G S Road, Nabin Nagar, Anil Nagar and parts of Hatigaon, Ganeshguri, Hedayetpur and residential quarters of MLAs in Dispur.

Many schools declared a holiday today as buses could not ply and exams postponed in some others as school buildings going under waist-deep water, officials said. Water logging caused massive traffic snarls in the city, inconveniencing many.

Flood situation in three districts of Lakhimpur, Darrang and Karimganj remained critical with 38,000 people

turn to pg05

Dr Ghanashyam Nepal conferred 1st Parvati Gurung Smriti Puraskar

SUMMIT REPORT NAMCHI, 22 JUN:

The first Parvati Gurung Smriti Puraskar was conferred on litterateur, Dr Ghanashyam Nepal, in a programme organized by Srijanshil Sahitya Lekhan Manch, Jorethang, at the conference hall of State Institute of Rural Development-Karfectar in South Sikkim on 21 Jun.

The programme started with a prayer session as a mark of tribute to Dr Lalit Rai and a two-minute silence was also observed for the martyrs of the ongoing Gorkhaland agitation.

Literary figure, Rudra Poudyal, attended the function as chief guest along with chairperson of the programme, Rastaman Rai. The theme song of Srijanshil Sahitya Lekhan Manch-Jorethang, composed by LB Basnett, was presented by members of the Manch during the programme.

President of SSLM-Jorethang, Tika Gu-



rung, in his welcome note, informed that the event is being conducted in memory of his Late mother Parvati Gurung. The programme is held on 21 Jun as his mother had passed away on this day, he added.

The introduction of Dr Nepal along with the details of his contribution to Nepali literature and the books penned by him were presented in brief to the gathering of literary personalities, officials, teachers, students and other invited guests.

The Parvati Gurung Smriti Puraskar was

handed to Dr Nepal by the chairperson, chief guest and president of SSSLM-Jorethang. The award included a citation, shawl and a cash prize.

Dr Nepal expressed his gratitude to SSSLM-Jorethang and its president for bestowing him with such respect and award constituted in memory of his Late mother. He added that the value of an award depends on why the award has been constituted and since Parvati Gurung Smriti Puraskar is based in the memory of a mother,

therefore, it holds special importance and value.

Speaking on the development of the society through literature, he said that the society needs to work for the overall development of children which includes literary development and for this he cited the need for more writers who write for children.

On the importance of literature in a person's life, he stated that studying literature helps in making an individual a good human.

Furthermore, Dr Ne-

pal urged everyone to develop the ability to love their language.

The jury members who selected the recipient of the first Parvati Gurung Smriti Puraskar include Dr Krishna Raj Ghataney, Jay 'Cactus' and Shiv Kumar Nepal.

The daylong programme also featured poem recitation and presentation of solo songs by members of SSSLM-Jorethang along with an inter-school debate competition which was held between St Francis School-Jorethang and Jorethang Senior Secondary School.

Jorethang Senior Secondary School won the debate competition and its student, Phurba Sherpa was adjudged as the best speaker. The participants of the winning and runner up team were presented with certificates and trophies accordingly. The invited guests were also presented with souvenirs during the programme.

Seven Secy level officials transferred

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 22 JUN:

The State Government has issued transfer orders of seven high ranking officials from the Special Secretary to Secretary level today.

Principal Secretary of Labour Department and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department, Dr K Jayakumar, has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary-Science & Technology Department.

Special Secretary-cum-Commissioner, Commercial Taxes Division, Finance, Revenue & Expenditure Department, Dipa Basnet, moves on deputation as Secretary-cum-Commissioner, Commercial Taxes Division under FRED.

Special Secretary of Department of Personnel AR & Training, Public Grievances, Kapil Kumar Basnet, has been posted as Secretary of DOPART & PG and Pay Revision Committee while Tenzing Gelek, will continue to hold the additional charge of Commissioner-cum-Secretary, DOPART & PG.

Special Secretary, Urban Development & Housing Department, TW Khangsarpa, has been transferred and posted as Secretary of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department.

Special Secretary-cum-Project Director, State Investment Programme Management & Implementation Unit, under UD&HD, LP Chettri, has been transferred and

posted as Secretary of Labour Department.

The Ecclesiastical Affairs Special Secretary, Karma Tenzing, moves on deputation as Secretary of Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission while Secretary of SSERC and Sports & Youth Affairs Department, SD Shakal, will now be holding the charge of S&YAD as Secretary.

Special Secretary of Development Planning Economic Reforms & North Eastern Council Affairs Department, Sonam Y Lepcha, has been posted as Secretary-DPER&NECAD while Principal Secretary, Vijay Bhushan Pathak, will continue to hold the charge of Development Commissioner-cum-Principal Secretary of DPER&NECAD.

Dalit leaders believe..

Contd from pg01

"the opposition has walked right into the BJP's trap", he said.

"In the 27 years that I have worked as a dalit activist, I have never heard of Kovind's work with the community," said Prasad, adding that Kumar's identity as a dalit had greater acceptance in the community.

Like Wilson, Prasad, too, questioned Kovind's "dalit identity".

"Violent incidents have taken place across the country against dalits after this government came to power. Has Kovind ever spoken out," he asked.

Incidents have been reported from Mirchpur in Haryana, Una in Gujarat, Ahmednagar in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh -- Kovind's home state -- has been a major flash-point with dalits being attacked in Mainpuri, Unnao, Sambhal and Saharanpur.

Professor M P Ahirwar, a dalit professor at the Banaras Hindu University, said when the government had "failed to speak up" on atrocities against the community, its nomination of a dalit as a presidential candidate "reeked of hypocrisy."

NSUO to conduct peace march on LT issue

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 22 JUN:

Nationalist Sikkim United Organisation [NSUO] has announced a peace march in the Capital on the Limboo-Tamang Assembly seat reservation issue on Sunday. The rally will start at 1 p.m. from Titanic Park and will walk up to Zero Point and conclude at Bhanu Park.

This was informed during an NSUO press conference, which was addressed by its coor-

dinators, DK Pradhan and Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha. The organisation has also expressed its objection to various points included in the Ministry of Home Affairs circular proposing increase in the number of Sikkim Assembly seats from 32 to 40 and seeking views and suggestions from various stakeholders.

Speaking at the conference, Mr Pradhan sought clarity on the definition of 'other communities and open'

mentioned in the draft proposal. He also asked for clarification from the Centre and the State governments on the same.

While mentioning that Sikkim has just 380000 voters and 7096 sq km area, he asked how the State plans to create 8 more constituencies. He also objected to other points mentioned in the draft proposal.

Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha informed that the organisation has already

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ITBP Sikkim felicitates Sikkim U-19 football teams

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 JUN: Indo Tibetan Border Police, Sikkim has organised a felicitation programme for Sikkim boys and girls teams for their outstanding performance in the recently concluded second phase of Oorja U-19 Football Talent Hunt Tournament held at Jammu in Jammu & Kashmir on 21 Jun at Sector headquarter, Tadong. The State teams reached Gangtok on Wednesday.

Sikkim boys team became the champions of the tournament after



defeating Assam in the finals by a lone goal, while the girls team stood came in third after defeating

Himachal Pradesh 4-0. Karishma Rai of Sikkim was adjudged as the Player of the Tournament

in girls football.

An ITBP press release informs that now the Sikkim boys team will

participate in the third phase of the tournament scheduled to be held from 08 to 25 Jul at New Delhi.

The release informs that players were welcomed by Commandant AK Phool and other officials of 13 Bn ITBP. The programme was also attended by State Youth Development Board Chairperson, KP Dahal, Sports & Youth Affairs Secretary, SD Dhakal, and Additional Director, Kamal Chettri and Sikkim Football Association president, Menla Ethenpa.

Two-day Shakti Puja for Gorkhaland at Deorali



ARPAN PRADHAN GANGTOK, 22 JUN:

Support for the Gorkhaland demand has been pouring in from all over the country and different parts of the world. Sikkim has also been supporting the demand and various organisations from the State have successfully organised protest rallies in support of the cause.

Similarly, hoteliers, tour operators, locals and main line taxi drivers along with the people of Deorali, organised a two-day Grand Shakti Puja here at Siliguri taxi stand in Deorali on 21 June.

The puja that concluded to-

day had various Pandits reciting Hanuman Chalisa and performing other rituals for the martyrs of the Gorkhaland protest.

Speaking to SummitTimes, Suraj Pradhan, one of the organisers of the puja who runs a hotel in Deorali, said that the main objective of the puja is to pray for the people of Darjeeling and all the Gorkhas living world-wide.

"We have prayed for strength to all the Gorkha people in their fight for their land and their constitutional rights," said Mr Pradhan.

He has urged Sikkimese people to unite in support of Gorkhaland.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE DEPARTMENT 'OF FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

'Regulate sabji prices to combat manufactured inflation'

Sir,

This is with respect to a rising concern that people across Sikkim have regarding the issue of "manufactured" inflation in the prices of all the essential and non essential commodities coming from our neighboring state of West Bengal and nearby regions, not only in the capital city of Gangtok but also in the districts and the sub-districts of Sikkim.

It has been noticed that the prices of vegetables and related commodities brought to Sikkim from Siliguri and nearby places are sold at exorbitant rates which is hurting the pockets of the common man in Sikkim. For example, if the price of onion is Rs. 8/KG in Siliguri (non mandi), the selling price in Sikkim is close to Rs. 28. Even if you take into account the rates of transportation, labour as well as all the other rates, the net profit that a shopkeeper would keep would not be less than 150%.

In real terms, there is absolute "loot" which has been blatantly going on in Sikkim for the past several years and a solution has to be brought out at the earliest. Also, the prices of food grains and essential commodities skyrocket when there is a strike or any natural calamity in the National Highways. Understanding that strikes or natural calamities would have adverse effects on every aspect including the prices of commodities, but in

Sikkim, even during times of calm and peace, the prices of commodities are ultra expensive which is certainly unaffordable for many Sikkimese families.

As a concerned citizen, I would request the department to deliberate on three aspects -

1. The initiation of a regulated wholesale fruits and vegetable market in Gangtok and other districts as soon as possible
2. Each Fair Trade Licensed shop across Sikkim should write the rates of commodities that has been approved by the department on a weekly basis
3. Strict action to be taken against shopkeepers who overcharge customers

Sir, this is an open secret that the prices of commodities are inflated by the vendors and that the common people are the ones who are suffering from this plight while the ones who are selling are harvesting dividends on the common man's expense.

Therefore, it is requested for your esteemed department to kindly look at ensuring that the prices are regulated, a regulated mandi established and that there is respite for the common man across Sikkim who has to face the brunt of manufactured inflation each day of his life.

Yours Etc

Dewaker Basnet
[rcvcd over email]



SIKKIM HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

AWWAS BHAWAN, CHURCH ROAD, GANGTOK

No: 759 (SHDB)/ 2017-18/165

Dated:22.6.2017

AUCTION NOTICE

Sealed Quotation are invited from interested parties for sale of stocked materials along with Kutcha Ekra Structure at SHDB's site at Setipul, East Sikkim belonging to Sikkim Housing & Development Board, on an "as is where is" basis.

The parties may inspect materials at site in presence of Board's official (Contact No: 9593612409) at any working day in between 10AM to 4PM before submission of the quotation. Quotation should reach the office of the undersigned on or before **12 noon of 05.07.2017** to be opened at **12:30PM** on the same day in presence of such bidder(s) who may be present. The highest bidder should deposit the full amount within 3(three) days from the date of opening/ approval of the quotation.

The Secretary, Sikkim Housing & Development Board reserve the right to declare the auction null and void without assigning any reason.

SD/-
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.

Make Corruption a Dirty Word Again

Let's stop finding excuses to justify it

Corruption is clearly not a dirty word any more. Almost everyone has been at either the receiving end, or the bribing end of this social exchange and this dilutes the disdain one would expect for this permanent feature of "official work". The supporters of corruption assume that it is in fact beneficial. This goes with "greasing the squeaky wheel" or simply "grease money" argument. As a 20th century thinker put it: "Had corruption not been beneficial it would never have been so common." On a more serious note though, the problem with the "beneficial" argument of corruption is that the benefit is limited to a few, and what is worse, this comes at the cost of the larger community. Moreover, corruption aggravates the issue of haves and have-nots and hurts the poorest of the poor, since, once bribing becomes routine, they get cut off from even the due processes because they do not have "show money". A study by the World Bank has revealed that "grease money" does not speed up the bureaucratic delays to iron which out most people offer bribes; instead it creates more hurdles on the way.

The firms that pay more bribes are not necessarily efficient, rather they are more likely to spend more, not less, management time with bureaucrats negotiating regulations, and face higher, not lower, cost of capital, the World Bank report details. The reason behind this is simple to understand. Bribes are designed by the bureaucrats to extract rents [for the rules they sit on]; therefore, more bribes call for more regulations so that more rent can be extracted. This is also the reason why we say corruption breeds corruption.

No matter how much we play around with words, fact remains that corruption has an element of perverse incentive. It not only rewards the cheater but also penalises the honest thereby decaying the whole system. While there are those who might still argue that the problems of corruption are "too big" or "too pervasive" to be solved by the effort of an individual or an individual agency, the society has tackled many bigger problems to let this one continue without a fight. It is time the people started priming themselves to deliver this malaise the knock-out punch. Once they are so convinced, they could also brainstorm the ways and means to achieve that goal as well.

MONALISA CHANGKIIA

The day after Shangwang Shangyung Khaplang breathed his last on in June 9, 2017, at Taga, Myanmar, I received calls from several colleagues from "mainland" India but just one Whatsapp message from a young Journalist from a neighbouring state asking me "where does the K faction go from here now? And the entire Naga freedom movement too?" And yes, an email from a news portal asking me if I would "be interested in writing a piece taking off from Khaplang's death? What does this mean for the Naga peace process? Will most groups gather around the NSCN (IM) now? What direction do you think Naga political aspirations will take now?" etc.

This could be taken as a breach of confidence but these are the same questions all of them asked. And, my replies would have also been made public. But that's not the issue ~ even ten days (at the time of writing this) after Khaplang died, we are asking the same questions in Nagaland too ~ and indubitably, so must the Governments of India and Myanmar, and their Intelligence agencies also.

Nobody can accurately answer the question "now what?" most of all because we are talking about an organization of which we know only what it wants us to know ~ and that goes for all similar organizations for whom secrecy and opaqueness is their strength and best defense. Moreover, the success of guerilla warfare hinges on stealth so even if such organizations are very hospitable towards Journalists et al, they will reveal only what they want to. This is even more pertinent because such organizations consist of tribals and hospitality is one of the most defining tribal traits ~ besides all tribals are loathe to divulge our "kitchen affairs" in front of guests. If it weren't the case, there would have been no speculations by Journalists, who have gone to such organizations' camps, interviewed the leaders and wrote articles, features and books on them, about who after Khaplang.

True, Khango Konyak has reportedly taken over as Chairman of the NSCN (K) but somehow things within this group still appear to be quite fluid. Not surprisingly, because this group has members from two countries ~ India and Myanmar ~ and it would take some time to find a leader that would be acceptable to all, as was Khaplang. Also, it would take a long time to find a leader with the same, well almost, the same personality, stature and command, as Khaplang. And during this period of transition, anything and many things can happen ~ (a) it is possible that the several other such Naga groups would reach out to the NSCN (K) cadres, on both sides of the border; (b) Indubitably, the Governments of India and Myanmar, through their respective Intelligence agencies, would also work on reaching out to the new leadership ~ not least in-

dividual cadres; (c) let's also not forget that NGOs and civil societies in Nagaland had already approached the NSCN (K) to come to the negotiating table much before Khaplang passed away ~ possibly and probably such efforts are now intensified and the results could surprise us all; (d) possibly also now with the passing away of the old, so to speak, the NSCN (K)'s new leadership could totally



Shangwang Shangyung Khaplang (April 1940-9 June 2017). What next? This question is being increasingly asked in the wake of his passing away

change strategies that could alter the face of insurgency movements in the Northeast ~ either ways.

The list of possibilities are endless and so anything or many things can happen in the next few months that could and/or would impact on "peace" particularly in Nagaland and rest of the Northeast.

Then again, while the official mourning period, by all Naga tribes ~ normally five to seven days for men ~ is over, let's not forget that the NSCN (K) is still in mourning for the passing away of not just their organization's tallest leader but also of one of the tallest Naga leaders in the history of the Naga political movement in the modern period. Even the younger generations of Nagas have heard of Khaplang ~ much more than they did of AZ Phizo. Now, while strategies are made and future plans discussed during the period of mourning, decisions are normally never finalized at this time ~ so, only time holds the answer to "now what?" or "what next?" And it would be futile to speculate on the answers for there are circles within circles to understand the rationales of why insurgent groups operate the way they do or the ways of "national movements". And these circles have a lot to do with much more than the political ~ after all, we existed centuries before conflicts such as insurgency and militancy emerged, which are not even a century old.

Older conflicts of histories, ideologies, politics, cultures, traditions, religions, beliefs, superstitions, lore and legends of tribal societies are harder to understand, analyze and deal with through alien modern concepts such as democracy and its institutions, unthinkingly imposed post-Indepen-

dence, on ancient societies which have their own trajectories of democratic concepts and practices. Also conflicts entrenched in tribalism, conflicting aspirations and interests, cultural diversities and dreams and schemes of tribal hegemony, besides power struggles at varied and various levels of society, perhaps due to multiplicity of existing value-systems, are often forgotten and ignored, especially keeping in mind that these are the very same factors that also spawned insurgency and militancy, which can be understood and appreciated better if we consider that not only have tribal societies in the Northeast, especially Naga society, been rudely tossed from our subsistence economies into modern forms of economies but also our histories and cultures were unceremoniously hijacked at a certain point of time by alien forces and factors, which has disoriented us ~ spawning newer conflicts that have hitherto been ignored, neglected or simply brushed off as extraneous to the larger scheme of things of matters Northeast.

It must be underscored here that standing at the crossroads of the traditional and modernity, we are still unsure how to view and what to make of the rapidly-changing equations around us, locally, regionally, nationally and globally ~ and so we tend to look at them with suspicion, with trepidation and either retreat into a form of passivity or react defiantly.

The entrenched impact of such a situation calls for an in-depth study of the psychological profiles of our peoples, which have shaped our histories, economies, politics, cultures, traditions, and laws, which have also simultaneously shaped our psychological profiles over the centuries. Today we may be a kind of by-product of western or modern orientations by way of education and the technological revolution increasingly reaching our remotest areas but our people are also products of ingrained traditional cultures and concepts. Add to that our inability and/or unwillingness to shed our biases and prejudices, and generally our traditional and cultural viewpoints (often self-centered) of the world thereby unwittingly imprisoning ourselves to the 'dominant' politics, economics, cultures, ideologies, often made out to be the 'dominant aspirations' of our peoples, which do get internalized.

There are no easy answers that can be given in a few minutes' sound/"print" bytes. But then sound/"print" bytes are not, and cannot be, the intent of journalism. Hence to all these questions, I have only one answer: I'm a Journalist, not a Soothsayer.

[The writer, a journalist and poet, is Editor, Nagaland Page. This article was originally published in the Assam Tribune and is reproduced here by arrangement with the writer]

'Cow economics' is killing India's working class

AFROZ ALAM
theconversation.com

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Indian Parliament for the first time in June 2014, his inaugural speech focused on integrating and protecting India's Muslims.

"Even the third generation of Muslim brothers, whom I have seen since my young days, are continuing with their cycle-repairing job," he said, referring to one of the many menial jobs to which Indian Muslims are often relegated. "Why does such misfortune continue?"

But instead of "bring[ing] about change in their lives," as Modi promised, his government has made life harder for India's Muslims by cracking down on the leather and beef industries.

IMPACT ON MUSLIM AND DALIT LIVELIHOODS Muslims and Dalits (the marginalised group once known as "untouchables" in the Hindu caste system) are among the poorest in India, and they have very little access to property. By tradition and due to a lack of other opportunities, many work in the leather sector, which employs 2.5 million people nationwide.

Over the past three years, this trade has increasingly made Muslims and Dalits the targets of so-called cow vigilantism ~ attacks perpetrated by Hindus on cow traders in the name of religion. And legislation adopted in May, which amends the 1960 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, is set to victimise these populations economically.

Among other changes, the new rules mandate that cows, camels and buffalo may be sold to farmers only for agricultural purposes, not for slaughter.

In the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, one out of every 1000 work in cow-related industries, including slaughterhouses and the leather industry. The town of Kanpur recently saw several slaughterhouses close down, putting out of work over "400,000 employees linked to leather industries", according to a Reuters report.

The supply of local hides has declined precipitously, leading to a decrease in Indian sales of leather and leather products. From April 2016 to March 2017, total leather exports dropped 3.23% from the previous year, to US\$5.67 billion from US\$5.9 billion.

India also does enormous trade in meat. In 2015,

the main market for its buffalo meat was Vietnam, which buys up US\$1.97 million worth of it, followed by Malaysia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Last financial year, annual production was estimated at 6.3 million tonnes and exports totalled US\$3.32 billion, according to a report in the Economic Times. That's down from US\$4.15 billion the year before. In Uttar Pradesh alone, attacks on cow related-businesses have already triggered losses of US\$601 million on the state's export business.

COERCIVE MEASURES

States have also introduced several coercive measures aimed at people in the cow businesses. Uttar Pradesh, whose chief minister is a right-wing Hindu fundamentalist, leads the measures.



Illegal slaughterhouses have been at the core of the debate in recent months following a government crackdown in March 2017, as non-compliant facilities struggle to adapt to complex regulations, including locating shops at specific distances from religious places, getting appropriate documents from several administrations or particular freezers.

On June 6 2017, the state issued a new directive to punish cow slaughter and illegal transport of dairy animals under the National Security Act and Gangsters Act, effectively criminalising traders.

This has encouraged harassment of Muslims and Dalits in Uttar Pradesh. Even in the Muslim-majority village of Madora, residents are encouraged to denounce those who engage in slaughtering cows by the promise of a INR50,000 (US\$1000) reward.

On the west coast state of Gujarat, cow slaughter is now a non-bailable offence, punishable with life imprisonment, meaning that people who kill a

cow will serve the same time as a murderer.

Central Jharkhand and other states ruled by Modi's BJP party have begun applying similar laws. The national government is also currently considering a petition to give cows an Indian identity card similar to those issued to its citizens.

IN THE NAME OF THE COW

These new rules have reinforced the impunity of criminal groups that burn down Muslim and Dalit businesses, terrorise cow traders and brutally beat or kill people. Rebranding themselves as animal activists, cow vigilantes exploit the sanctity of this animal in Hinduism to commit violence, with the tacit endorsement of state and national governments.

The violence has impacted both legal and illegal traders (bulls and buffalo are not included in new regulations), generating panic among flayers, contractors, truck drivers, traders, daily wage earners, who are now abandoning their posts out of fear. The majority are Dalit or Muslim.

Hindu slaughterhouse owners, on the other hand, have been largely spared by the wrath of cow vigilantes and onerous regulations. Of the country's 11 largest meat-exporting companies, eight are Hindu-run.

FLOURISHING AND PARADOXICAL BEEF TRADE None of this will help already-tense Hindu-Muslim relations in India, nor does it seem to bode well for Modi's "Make in India" initiative to boost the country's economic production.

According to the campaign website, the government hopes to increase leather exports to US\$9 billion by 2020, from its present level of US\$5.85 billion, and bring the domestic market to US\$18 billion, doubling its current value.

To do so, the government says it will focus on maintaining India's comparative advantages in production and labour costs and ensure the availability of skilled manpower for new or existing production units. But that may be hard when Muslim and Dalit workers are being systematically singled out and harassed.

Can Modi's government really afford a crackdown on cow economics?

[the writer is Associate Professor and Head, Department of Political Science, Maulana Azad National Urdu University]

Book traces Delhi's journey through printed maps

NEW DELHI, JUN 22 (PTI):

The siege of Delhi, structures during World War II and key memorials, roads and market-places these are some of the interesting aspects brought to light in a new book which presents an exquisite study of the maps of Delhi, from the onset of the 19th century till the maverick plan of 2021.

In "Maps of Delhi", Italian architect Pilar Maria Guerrieri seeks to show the development of the city's planning, the diversity of its cartography and the impact that foreign influences have had upon it.

Published by Niyogi Books, it is billed as the first organised collection of the maps of the city, an illustrated cartographic history of the capital.

Each map has been described individually, elaborating on its idiosyncrasies, aesthetic details, and rich historical information.

The author says the collection enables a study of the territory as such, and further helps in understanding the relationships between its individual parts while facilitating an analysis of the morphologies that developed within.

The maps indicate varying purposes: military intelligence and strategy, tourism, complex irrigation or sewage schemes, plans outlining prodigious developments, projects and colonies.

The book includes a chronology of ancient and modern hand-drawings as also digital maps of the city. The evolution of planning and architecture, which unfolds through the maps, mirrors the political, social, and historical progression of the capital.

The maps indicate varying purposes: those of military

intelligence and strategy, in which the shrewd and vigilant martial strategy of the British, employed in their encounters with Indian forces is illustrated; tourist maps emphasising the sight-worthy monuments, plans outlining prodigious developments, projects or colonies; and of course an abundance of survey maps illustrating the status quo of the territory.

Among the maps is one that seems to have been printed as a sequence of prints and was possibly used for military operations.

"The map, as such, depicts the siege of Delhi and was certainly printed after Delhi was re-captured by the British on 22nd of September, 1857, since the grave of General Nicholson and 'the spot where Gen. Nicholson was shot' are marked," Guerrieri says.

"Possibly commissioned by Sir Archdale Wilson of Delhi as a preventive measure or a tool for further strategic use, this map of Shahjahanabad precisely positions and labels the various battalions and batteries by their placement as well as their respective commands," she writes.

Noted architect and urban planner A G Krishna Menon writes in the book's foreword, "Today when digital Google maps and satellite photographs are easily available and have transformed our visual imagination of the geography of a city, we begin to realise through books like this, how the beauty of printed maps and the many forms of pleasures and insights they offer when they are physically handled have been elided in public consciousness, thus diminishing an important attribute of the city they represent."



WB govt's absentee employees in hills to face pay cut

KOLKATA, JUNE 22 (PTI): The West Bengal government employees in Darjeeling hills, who failed to attend to their regular duties owing to the indefinite shutdown by Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM), will face pay cut.

The finance department has also decided to send showcause notices to them and the employees will be required to explain the reason of their absence, sources in the state secretariat said today.

The showcause notices would ask the employees who absented from their work during the agitation to explain as to no action be taken against them for their unauthorised absence.

Those who do not respond to the showcause notice would be liable to disciplinary actions, the sources said.

Incidentally, soon after GJM had called the indefinite bandh from June 12, the Mamata Banerjee government had issued a notification stating that government offices situated in Darjeeling and Kalimpong will remain open and all employees should report for duty each day.

The absence of employees on that day will be treated as 'dies non' which will constitute a break in service of the employee and no salary will be admissible unless such absence is covered under permissible grounds, the notification issued by the state government had stated.

Karnan taken to hospital, sent back to correctional home

KOLKATA, JUN 22 (PTI): Arrested former Calcutta High Court judge C S Karnan was taken to hospital today after he complained of chest pain and was returned to Presidency correctional home (jail) when doctors found nothing "alarming".

Earlier in the day, Karnan was flown in from Chennai after he was found hiding in Coimbatore by a team of West Bengal CID who arrested him.

"He was taken to the state-run SSKM hospital from Presidency correctional, where he was lodged, after he complained of chest pain in the evening. He underwent several round of ECG and other tests to ascertain whether he was having any problem," a CID police officer said.

"Nothing unusual was found in his medical tests and therefore he was sent to back to the correctional home," the officer said. Karnan had been evading arrest since the May 9 Supreme Court order awarding him a six-month jail term for contempt of court.

Karnan, who earned the dubious distinction of being the first sitting high court judge to be awarded a jail term by the apex court, had retired from service on June 12 as a fugitive.

BJP in catch-22 on Gorkhaland issue

**PRADIPTA TAPADAR
DARJEELING, JUN 22 (PTI):**

With the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha spearheading an agitation for Gorkhaland, its alliance partner BJP was in a catch-22 as it could neither come out openly in support of a separate state nor afford to oppose it.

The BJP, which had twice won the Darjeeling Lok Sabha seat in 2009 and 2014 with GJM's help with the promise of sympathetically looking into the demand of the Gorkhas, was now facing the heat as the party could not clear its position on the demand for Gorkhaland.

The dilemma within the BJP has not gone down well within the rank and file of the Darjeeling district unit of BJP.

"Our party (BJP) is in a dilemma as it can neither oppose the demand for Gorkhaland nor support it. Supporting the demand for Gorkhaland means losing support in the plains, where we would be termed as anti-Bengali. But if we do not support the demand for a separate state, then we will lose our support in the hills," BJP district general secretary Shanta Kishore Gurung said.

Gurung had recently participated in a pro-Gorkhaland protest organised by the GJM and had extended his support to a demand for Gorkhaland.

Gurung slammed the BJP central unit saying, "The party is taking the Gorkhas and their sentiments for their own ethnic identities lightly."

Gurung's comment comes in the backdrop of BJP state president Dilip Ghosh and national secretary Rahul Sinha clearly opposing the demand for Gorkhaland. Even the central unit of BJP has not cleared its stand on this specific issue.

"The party needs to come out clean on this issue as it is sending out a wrong message to the masses. Our party cadres in the hills are angry with us and threatening to leave the party and join GJM," a senior district BJP leader told PTI on condition of anonymity.

Another top BJP leader said, "The absence of BJP MP SS Ahluwalia from the hills during the unrest has sent out a wrong message and if the party keeps on delaying in announcing its decision,

then it will be very tough to maintain a hold on our cadres in the district."

The BJP district leadership's apprehension of losing support due to its lack of clarity on the issue of Gorkhaland was also shared by GJM MLA Amar Singh Rai who said, it was "really unfortunate" that BJP, which had promised to create a separate state of Gorkhaland if it came to power, had completely taken a U-turn on this issue.

"The BJP central leadership is not coming out clean, the BJP MP from Darjeeling was absent when the entire hills were burning. Do you still expect the people of the hills to trust BJP?" Rai questioned.

Both the Trinamool Congress and the CPI(M) have criticised the

BJP for "exploiting" the sentiments of the Gorkhas for their "vested" political interests.

"The BJP, just for the sake of winning one seat, made false promises and now they are facing the heat," senior CPI (M) leader Ashok Bhat-tacharya said.

"Instead of blaming our (state) government for the unrest, the BJP should come clean and say whether they want a separate state of Gorkhaland or not," senior TMC Minister Gautam Deb told PTI.

When contacted BJP national secretary Rahul Sinha said, "We are not in favour of a separate state. We want this unrest and violence to stop immediately and all the stakeholders should sit together to solve the problem."

Warnamala Pariwar just made learning alphabets fun

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 JUN:**

Kalimpong-based Warnamala Pariwar is now ready with its Warnamala project to teach Devanagiri alphabets and script through the medium of music, song and animation.

After consistent hard work of five years, Warnamala Pariwar has finally completed its dream project of a 15-minute long Warnamala animation. Apart from Nepali Warnamala, this animation also features poems in the form of songs of renowned poets like Laxmi Prasad Deokota, TB Thakuri and Aarti Rai.

Warnamala Pariwar was founded by Deoashish Mukhia in the year 2005. He is a graduate in music from Vishwa Bharati San-geet Bhawan, Shantiniketan in West Bengal.

The organisation has a band made up of underprivileged children from Rambhi Bazar on the national highway. The organisation has been working with these students to spread the message of learning through music.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Mukhia, mentioned



that this project will help children learn the Devanagiri script in a much more fun manner and pointed out that if introduce in the schools, it would not only help students learn but also encourage computer use among them.

"After lots of research and hard work of many people, the project has finally come into existence.

Music is a very effective way of learning," he said.

Mr Mukhia informed that the recording was done at Psalms Studio in Gangtok while a group of young artists, students and experts worked together on the animation.

"We have planned to visit schools with our project and will also share our project with the people through social media within this week. We have also planned to take our project to the international level," he said.

He shared that seeing the success of Devanagiri project, people are urging them to start similar projects for other languages as well.

Mr Mukhia expressed his gratitude to all the people from Sikkim and other parts for their support and contributions towards the completion of the project. He especially thanked Tashi Wangyal, Lokesh Sharma, Chetan Raj Shrestha, Bikash Chamling, Nareish Shrestha, Reena Rai, Roshan Pradhan and others from Sikkim for their immense support and encouragement for the project.

NYK district-level Youth Convention at Gyalshing

GYALSHING, 22 JUN (IPR):

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Gyalshing conducted a district-level 'Youth Convention' at the auditorium hall of Gyalshing Girls Senior Secondary School on Wednesday.

Marathon Man, Amar Subba attending the function as the chief guest.

"The future of our nation relies on how we nurture our youth to be responsible citizens of the society," Mr Subba said in his address.

He further mentioned that suicide, drugs and alcohol were 'enemies to a bright future'.

Resource person, Dr D.K Gurung highlighted the different schemes of the government for the youth. Child Development Project Officer (West), H.B Shanker spoke on women's empowerment, adolescents and child care.

Police Inspector (Gyalshing), Mahendra Pradhan spoke about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, (POCSO), Cigarette and other Tobacco Products Act, 2003, (COT-PA) and Sikkim Anti Drugs Act 2006, (SADA).

United Nations Children's Fund Coordinator, Dr Mahesh D Patial gave a lecture on medicine and health related issues during disaster or natural calamities while Prajapati Sharma addressed the gathering on tuberculosis

Nepal drugs watchdog asks Patanjali to recall six medicines

**SHIRISH B PRADHAN
KATHMANDU, JUN 22 (PTI):** Nepal's drugs watchdog has asked Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurveda to recall six Ayurvedic medicines after they were found to be of "substandard quality" following microbial tests.

The Department of Drug Administration, in a public notice, said six Ayurvedic medical products made by Divya Pharmacy in Uttarakhand, were found to be substandard during inspections at various outlets and tests on specimens.

The medicines which failed the microbial tests are Patanjali's Amla Churna, Divya Gashar Churna, Bahuchi Churna, Triphala Churna, Aswagandha and Adviya Churna, the notice said.

"The batch of medicine which were inspected by the department are found to have contained pathogenic bacteria," an official of the Department told PTI.

The Nepalese drug authorities have urged the stakeholders not to sell or prescribe the use of these six medicines with immediate effect.

A source at Patanjali Ayurveda Kendra in Kathmandu, the sole distributor of the products in Nepal, said the medicines have not been banned but restriction was imposed on the sale and use of certain batch of the medicines that failed lab test.

"We will immediately recall the medicines if found substandard," he said.

Flood situation...

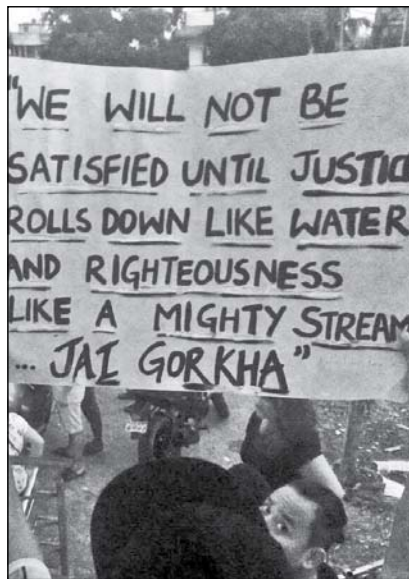
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reeling under the impact of the deluge that overran human habitation and crop land, an Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) report said.

Animals and poultry have also been affected by the floods, particularly in Sonitpur district, the ASDMA said.

Reviewing the flood situation of the city with officials of the district administration and power department, Sonowal directed to constitute a joint team of district administration, Guwahati Municipal Corporation, Assam Police, SDRF and APDCL to check and identify all vulnerable points and carry out necessary rectification works immediately and submit compliance report to him within seven days.

Six persons had died during the June 13 flash floods in the city.



Methibari protests with poetry

SILIGURI, 22 JUN: A rally with a difference in support of Gorkhaland was held at Methibari on the outskirts of Siliguri today where poets took centre stage, reciting poems which were applauded by the gathered crowd. The rally was organised by the Youths of Methibari. Funds were also collected for the treatment of people injured during protests in Darjeeling.

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PROTEST RALLY AGAINST WB GOVERNMENT AT SUKHNA

SILIGURI, 22 JUN: A huge protest rally against the West Bengal Government and in support of the Gorkhaland demand was taken out in Sukhna near Siliguri today.

NSUO to conduct peace march on LT issue

contd from pg01

sent its objection and suggestions to the Ministry with all supporting documents. He mentioned that the peace rally will also condemn these points mentioned in the draft. He urged po-

litical parties and people from Sikkim and Darjeeling to participate in the peace march.

NSUO alleged that the increase in number of Assembly seats may dilute Article 371F which safeguards the

rights of people of Sikkim. The organisation has demanded that the government reserve LT seats under the provisions laid down in Article 371F.

NSUO has further alleged

that the Centre and State will be responsible for any unrest that may arise in the State on the LT issue. The Centre and the State should not amend a single comma from Article 371F, they added.

Kutse Shegu

The Kutse shegu of late Palden Yeshey Lepcha who left for heavenly abode on 11th of May 2017 falls on **28th June 2017 [Wednesday]**. All the relatives well wishers & friends are requested to join us for offering prayers to the departed soul at our residence at **Pamrang Gaon, Upper Tathangchen, Chandmari, Ganton, East Sikkim**. We take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude towards those who extended their support during the time of bereavement.

(Daughters) Mrs. Dikrit Ongnu Lepcha, Mrs. Padma Lhanzey Lepcha, Mrs. Passang Choden Lepcha, Mrs. Sonam Choden Lepcha and Hissey Shalden Lepcha. Tenzing Wangyal Lepcha (grandson) contact No.8768727413/ 9609868265.



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Out of action since Rio, Dipa to also miss World Championship

NEW DELHI, JUN 22 (PTI): Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar, who has not competed since her historic fourth place finish in the Rio Olympics, is all set to miss the World Gymnastics Championships as she is recovering from a knee surgery.

It is another setback of sorts for the 23-year-old who also missed the Asian Championships earlier this year due to the anterior crucial ligament (ACL) injury.

She had undergone the surgery in April and her rehab will take at least six months before she can resume training. The World Championships will be held in Canada in October.

"There is not much you can do in case of an injury. It is frustrating as an athlete but I won't call it a setback.

Though it is surely a challenge," Karmakar told PTI on Thursday.

Karmakar, who is camping at the IG Stadium in presence of her coach Bisweshwar Nandi, has started jogging but can only think about training once six months of rehab is over.

Coach Nandi said that her ward will not be competition ready for the World Championships and therefore the focus shifts to the Commonwealth and Asian Games next year.

"I would not want that she goes to worlds for mere participation. And it won't be possible for her to be fully ready for the big event," said Nandi.

"Coming back after an injury is a challenge but then you also have to keep in mind that you can get injured also in the competition. Like it happened with one of the participants in Rio. Gymnastics is a dangerous sport at all times," he said.

As she is not competing, Karmakar said she is using the time to work on fitness and completing her studies.

"I gave one MA exam last year, now I am preparing for another," said the diminutive athlete.

Asked about the age factor in the sport since she is losing out on crucial time due to injury, Karmakar said: "One of the gymnast who took part in Rio was 43 years old. So if she can do it, I can too."

Problems? What problems? Ronaldo on target in Portugal win

MEANWHILE, MEXICO SEND NEW ZEALAND PACKING

MOSCOW, JUN 22 (AFP): Cristiano Ronaldo brushed aside his off-field problems by scoring the winner as Portugal edged out hosts Russia 1-0 at the Confederations Cup on Wednesday, before Oribe Peralta gave Mexico a come-from-behind 2-1 win over New Zealand.

Ronaldo's eighth-minute header in Moscow gave Portugal their first win in the tournament and victory over New Zealand on Saturday would secure a semi-final spot.

Goals from Peralta and Raul Jimenez saw Mexico move top of Group A later in the day, above Portugal on goals scored, and knock New Zealand out of the competition.

Ronaldo let his football do the talking after the recent tax-evasion accusations that have left his Real Madrid future uncertain, with his second man-of-the-match performance following Sunday's 2-2 draw with Mexico.

The forward said Portugal were worthy winners after surviving a second-half Russian fight-back.

"We're very happy, it's the first time Portugal have won in Russia.

The team played very well against a side playing at home with the support of their fans. But we were better, we had more chances," he said.

Ronaldo is accused by Spanish authorities of having evaded paying 14.7 million euros (USD 16.5m) in tax and has been summoned to appear in court next month in Madrid.

But he was all smiles, escorting a young mascot in a wheelchair out onto the Moscow pitch before netting his first Confederations Cup goal.

Portugal's win came at a cost though, as Borussia Dortmund defender Raphael Guerreiro had to be helped off on 65 minutes with a suspected broken leg.

"He was hospitalised and we think he broke his leg," said Portugal coach Fernando Santos.

Guerreiro's towering cross from the left flank hung in the air and found Ronaldo, who rose at the far post to head back across Igor Akinfeev.

Only a superb one-handed reflex save from Akinfeev, who made his 100th international appearance, stopped Andre Silva's bullet header just after the break.

The hosts were unlucky not to force an equaliser after a string of

chances in a strong second-half display. Defender Georgy Dzhikiya headed narrowly over the bar from the game's final corner in added time.

Later on Wednesday, Mexico needed second-half goals by Benfica's Jimenez and Peralta to grab victory over New Zealand in a bad-tempered match at Sochi.

Juan Carlos Osorio's side now just need a draw against Russia in Kazan on Saturday to be sure of reaching the semi-finals.

The Kiwis' superb first-half display and Chris Wood's shock goal rattled Mexico and a tense match boiled over with a mass brawl in the dying stages. The match turned when Porto midfielder Hector Herrera came on for the second half and Mexico's attacks started to flow.

"I am proud of what my team did, it's normal to have to suffer at this level, but we deserved to win," said Osorio. We know how to adapt to different opponents."

New Zealand coach Anthony Hudson had vowed they would bounce back after Saturday's opening 2-0 defeat by Russia and his team were true to his word.

"Everyone is incredibly disap-



pointed in the changing room and we feel we should have got more," said Hudson.

The Oceania champions took a shock lead when Clayton Lewis threaded his pass between two defenders to Wood, who coolly fired home on 42 minutes.

After Herrera's introduction, Javier Aquino forced New Zealand keeper Stefan Marinovic into a

left-handed save, before Giovanni dos Santos fired over.

Mexico equalised when Aquino broke down the left flank and passed to Marco Fabian, who squared for forward Jimenez to fire home on 54 minutes.

And Peralta hit the winner in the 72nd minute when Aquino pulled the ball back for the 33-year-old to find the net.

WBO sanctions Vijender vs Zulpikar bout for 1st week of August

NEW DELHI, JUN 22 (PTI): World Boxing Organisation (WBO) has sanctioned WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title and WBO Oriental Super Middleweight title between Vijender Singh and Chinese Zulpikar Maimaitali in first week of August in Mumbai.

Vijender is current WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight champion Singh while Zulpikar is WBO Oriental Super Middleweight Champion.

Neerav Tomar, Promoter IOS Boxing Promotions said:"We are happy to know on WBO's decision sanctioning Asia's biggest battle between Vijender Singh and Zulpikar Maimaitiali. The sanction is in place and we can now move forward with Zulpikar's team SECA to finalise terms and lock-



ing the date and venue in Mumbai."

Speaking on one of the biggest fight night of Asia Leon Panoncillo Jr, Chairman WBO Asia Pacific said:"After reviewing fight records of both the participants, I am satisfied with their past results and therefore approved this unification bout of the WBO Asia Pacific/WBO Oriental Super Middleweight titles."

Both the WBO title holders are number one boxers in their respective country's India and China as they both remain unbeaten since the time they made their debut in the field of professional boxing.

With this fight both the boxers will put their respective titles at stake and it will be a double title fight.

The boxer that wins the bout will take home his defended title along with the

opponent's title, by the end of the bout he will have two belts on his name.

Vijender, who recently retained his WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title entered professional boxing in the year 2015.

Vijender has 8 wins under his belt with 7 of them being won by KO and 1 by Unanimous Decision. He has played 30 rounds, which puts him

a few rounds above his next opponent.

Vijender Singh won his maiden title last year in July after defeating Kerry Hope of Australia.

Later in the month of December the golden boy of Indian boxing was challenged by Francis Cheka of Tanzania for his title, which he gracefully retained.

The 22-year-old Chinese number 1 boxer Zulpikar Maimaitali, currently holds the WBO Oriental Super Middleweight Champion Title. He has fought 8 bouts with 24 rounds under his belt.

Zulpikar has won 7 bouts with no less than 5 KO wins and one draw. The Chinese boxer made his debut in the year 2015, and won the WBO Oriental Title last year in July by defeating Thomas Mashali of Tanzania by TKO.

League will bolster TT's growth in India: Madhurika

MUMBAI, JUN 22 (PTI): Leading Indian women paddlers, Madhurika Patkar and Monika Batra, believe that the Ultimate Table Tennis league, whose inaugural edition is to be held next month, will help the sport grow and benefit players.

"UTT will benefit the sport in India. I will be staying with other foreign players (during the tournament). When we stay together, we benefit in terms of confidence mentally, among other things," former national champion Madhurika told PTI today.

Madhurika, currently ranked number 3 in India who will be representing Dabang Smashers in the League, said she was not



specifically preparing for UTT but was focusing on next year's Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia.

"Honestly speaking we don't prepare for a particular tournament at this point. We as a (national) team are preparing for the next year's Commonwealth Games in Australia."

Sathiyam Gnanasekaran, Anthony Amalraj are Madhurika's Indian teammates in the UTT and all of them are playing currently in the Central Zone TT in Indore.

Madhurika pointed out that the emergence of leagues in India has benefited that particular sport, be it the Indian Premier League for

cricket or the Indian Super League for Football, through its live telecast.

"Likewise, UTT will benefit table tennis. Star Sports will broadcast the league and that will also help the sport to reach the masses," she said.

Some men table tennis players have said recently that the league could have been held over two months instead of from July 13 to 30 in three cities - Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai.

Reacting to their views, Madhurika said, "Presently, the league is for one month. We can take two leagues in one year".

Echoing similar views Monika Batra, who represented India in

the 2016 Rio Olympics, noted that the UTT was a great opportunity for all young players to play with and against good ranked players.

"This league will help a lot of players in India and table tennis will also be benefited. It is a good opportunity for players," said Monika, who will play for Oilmax Stag Yodhas, in the league.

The India junior no. 1 said she was excited to play with higher-ranked foreign players.

"It (UTT) is a good preparation for next year's Commonwealth Games. When we play with these foreign players, we will get to know each other and how they play and it will help us."

Kohli and Co start favourites vs WI despite Kumble fiasco

PORT OF SPAIN, JUN 22 (PTI): Captain Virat Kohli will look to put to rest, all the off-field controversies regarding Anil Kumble's controversial exit, as India gear up for the first ODI against a second string West Indies, here on Friday.

Ironically, it was the Caribbean Islands, where Anil Kumble's journey as the chief national coach started but within a year, the team is back without its coach.

Skipper Kohli, whose much publicised difference of opinion with coach Anil Kumble, has grabbed the headlines more than team's performance in the Champions Trophy, couldn't have asked for a more convenient opposition than the West Indies, which even struggled against minnows Afghanistan.

A cluster of big wins in the five-match ODI series and single T20 will help Kohli divert the unnecessary attention pinned on him with many ready to make him the 'fall guy' in the entire Kumble episode.

This will also be an occasion when Kohli will have complete freedom in team selection as batting coach Sanjay Bangar is not known for giving any tangible inputs save giving throwdowns to the senior players of the side.

With Jason Holder's men just about managing to draw the three-match ODI series against Afghanistan 1-1, there is no doubt that the current Indian team are a few notches ahead in terms of quality.

Even Kohli knows that well and with BCCI top brass backing him on the Kumble issue, the margin for error is very little for the Indian captain.

A 5-0 whitewash is something that is expected against a side that has a cumulative ODI experience of 213 matches between 13 players with skipper Holder as the most-capped player with 58 matches to his name. Compare it to a whop-

ping 776 matches collectively between Yuvraj Singh (301), MS Dhoni (291) and Virat Kohli (184), the stark contrast between the two sides is so very distinct.

For India, this series is also an ideal platform to test the team's bench strength.

With Jasprit Bumrah being rested for the series, it will be an ideal opportunity for the captain to check out Mohammed Shami, who did not get a game during the Champions Trophy.

The pacer has not played any official ODI since the 2015 World Cup semi-final post which he had multiple surgeries and played a few Test matches only.

Shami will be keen to regain his place in the ODI XI and West Indies gives him a proper chance to do so.

With Rohit Sharma also cooling his heels for this series, Kohli may be tempted to bring back Ajinkya Rahane at the top of the order. Rahane has not been in great form in limited overs of late but as a reserve opener, he might get a go.

The other option is to try out young Rishabh Pant, who has had the experience of opening for Delhi in domestic cricket.

Pant is an explosive player and can make good use of the first Powerplay when only two fielders are outside the 30-yard circle.

Also with the Indian selectors planning to groom him as Dhoni's successor, one might see him being given adequate chances.

The other youngster in the squad, chinaman Kuldeep Yadav may also fancy his chances after West Indies failed to read conventional leg-break bowler Rashid Khan.

Kuldeep may be tried in place of either Ravichandran Ashwin or Ravindra Jadeja -- both of whom have been ordinary during the ICC Champions Trophy.

Kamakhya temple closes for 4 days as Ambubachi Mela begins

GUWAHATI, JUN 22 (PTI): The famed Kamakhya Temple atop the Nilachal Hills here would be closed for four days from today on the occasion of the annual Ambubachi Mela.

The doors of the temple, one of the 52 Shakti peeths, are closed after routine rituals and prayers this morning and would reopen on the morning of June 26, Kamakhya Debottur

Trust's Doloi (priest) Kabindra Sarmah said.

The Ambubachi Mela, which also begins today, symbolises the fertility cult of Goddess Kamakhya, and the state government has made elaborate plans to make it a part of the country's spiritual and religious tourism circuit.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said the state govern-

ment has launched publicity and awareness campaigns in both national and international media and this has led to increased tourist inflow to the city for the Ambubachi Mela.

"Kamakhya Temple should be the source of light and enlightenment for the world and our government is going to make all efforts in this regard," he said.

He appealed to all the visitors to help the authorities in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene during and after the Mela in the temple premises.

The Kamrup (Metro) district administration has made elaborate accommodation facilities for the pilgrims at eight venues, Deputy Commissioner M Angamuthu said.

A detailed plan for secu-

rity and crowd management has also been put in place with CCTVs placed at important spots.

Following the direction of the Chief Minister, use of non-biodegradable plastic will be restricted in and around Nilachal Hill and "we will promote biodegradable and eco-friendly materials", he added.

Venkaiah wants cities to raise funds from local markets

MUMBAI, JUN 22 (PTI): Union Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu today said the municipal bodies should look at avenues to raise funds locally instead of expecting funds from the Central and state governments.

Naidu, who was in the city to attend the listing of the Rs 200 crore bond by the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), said there is enough money in the system but the local bodies need to tap them efficiently through various modes of funding.

"The listing of the PMC bonds marks urban revival in the country. This event is going to have a wider impact on urban development. The time has come when cities (local bodies) start



looking inward and raise money," he said.

PMC has raised Rs 200 crore by selling 10-year bonds at a coupon of 7.59 per cent. The issue was oversubscribed six times. The proceeds will

be used for a Rs 2,300 crore water project.

The minister assured that the Centre will fund any developmental project undertaken by municipal local bodies but it is necessary that they

should actively participate in raising resources for providing the necessary infrastructure and amenities to the citizens.

He, however, noted that the resources should be raised in the most

transparent manner.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that at least 10 cities should issue municipal bonds within a year. Other cities should now follow Pune and Ahmedabad," Naidu said.

Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Arjun Meghwal, who was also present at the listing, said the capital market's health is improving and cities should take the benefit of it and become self-sufficient in raising funds.

On the occasion, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said creating infrastructure should be perceived as a business model and local bodies should look at proper options with bankable proposition.

SEBI Chairman Ajay

Tyagi said local bodies need to be more disciplined in maintaining their accounts and system to make the bonds issued by them trade-worthy.

"They should have a proper credit system in place to ensure investor confidence in repayment of bonds," the Sebi chief said.

SBI Chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya said such bonds will reduce the dependency of the municipal corporations and improve their fiscal position.

"SBI Capital is assisting many government agencies in raising funds through various instruments," she said.

The benchmark Sensex today rallied 211 points to hit an all-time high of 31,494 at 1200 hrs.

NOTICE FOR CORRECTION OF NAME

I, **Shri Ben Kumar Sunwar** resident of 6th Mile Tadong, East Sikkim like to state that my legal son name is and should read as **"YOUNGAL SUNWAR MUKHIA"** instead of **"YOUNGAL MUKHIA SUNWAR"**, as was wrongly entered as **"YOUNGAL MUKHIA SUNWAR"** in his Passport no J6842618 issued by Passport Office, Kolkata.

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR VULTURE MORNING
Draw No:45 DrawDate on:22/06/17
1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 89L 49431 (Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 49431 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
12899 14653 23104 31237 37438
42111 50164 50806 66156 69608
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
03173 27669 29796 30349 32129
32761 81905 89001 93105 98934
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
2835 4041 5469 5862 6248 7485 8012 8296 9325 9931
5th Prize Rs.600/-
0069 2036 2471 2625 4224 5183 6397 6540 6545 7363
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0017 0067 0075 0086 0104 0293 0522 0525 0798 0836
1073 1075 1105 1134 1425 1448 1525 1554 1588 1635
1715 1733 1744 1758 1875 1910 2119 2185 2644 2692
2719 2771 2781 2878 3231 3235 3327 3338 3403 3690
3725 3783 3932 3959 4042 4044 4091 4160 4252 4538
4648 4671 4897 5175 5386 5601 5672 5857 5938 5971
6262 6433 6524 6525 6536 6557 6594 6719 6824 6899
6992 7033 7051 7074 7082 7103 7160 7234 7481 7527
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Trump's new idea - a 'solar wall' on Mexican border

WASHINGTON, JUN 22 (AFP): US President Donald Trump pitched a new concept to his supporters for the wall he intends to erect on the Mexican border: cover it with solar panels -- and use the energy to cover construction costs.

"Yes, we will build a wall," he told a crowd in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. "We have to stop the drugs from flowing in."

"I will give you an idea that nobody has heard about yet," he said. "The southern border. Lots of sun, lots of heat. We are thinking about building a wall as a solar wall.

"So it creates energy. And pays for itself."

"And this way, Mexico will have to pay much less money.

And that's good. Right?" quipped the president, whose initial pledge to make Mexico pay for



the wall has met with stiff resistance from America's southern neighbor.

"Think of it, the higher it goes, the more valuable it is," he enthused.

"Pretty good imagination, right? My idea!"

The US administration put out a call for proposals several months ago for the construction of the border wall, one of which -- submitted by a Las Vegas businessman named Tom Gleason -- involved using solar panels.

The Trump adminis-

tration has yet to make serious headway on the president's emblematic but hugely costly campaign pledge to build a wall on the Mexican border.

Under pressure from Democrats, the US Congress has so far refused to commit funding to the project, agreeing only to finance maintenance on existing parts of the border fence.

The real funding battle will play out starting in October, when 2018 budget negotiations begin in earnest.

Govt assessing feasibility of different time zones in India

NEW DELHI, JUN 22 (PTI): The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is conducting a study to assess the feasibility of having different time zones in the country.

The study is being conducted to give "scientific inputs" on the matter, DST secretary Ashutosh Sharma said.

Recently, Pema Khandu, the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh, had demanded a separate time zone for the northeast.

"The DST has been conducting studies on

this, looking at what is the potential of energy saving if you have two different time zones," Sharma said.

"One can actually save energy because the sunrise and sunset timings are different (in the country), but the office timings are one across the nation," he added.

The study is also expected to cover the overall impact, especially on the transportation system.

Leaders from the northeast region argue that a separate time zone, a long pending demand,

would increase daylight savings and efficiency.

One of the arguments is that early sunrise means that by the time they start their day, almost half the day has passed.

This means an early sunset which requires extra use of lights in both homes, offices and public places, hampering the productivity. Similar is the case with the archipelagos of the Andaman and Nicobar and the Lakshadweep where sunrise and sunset timings are different from the mainland.

At UN, India raises questions about source of terror funding

YOSHITA SINGH UNITED NATIONS, JUN 22 (PTI): In a veiled reference to Pakistan, India has asked the UN member states to find the source from where the "anti-government elements" in Afghanistan were getting weapons, training and funds to fight one of the biggest collective military forces in the world.

"We see a growing tendency of treating violence in Afghanistan as a routine occurrence. Brutalities by terrorist and criminal networks are ignored under the label of anti-government elements or a consequence of a civil and political conflict. In doing so, we appear to be failing in asking some crucial questions," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin said yesterday.

Mincing no words, Akbaruddin, speaking at a Security Council debate on Afghanistan, questioned where are these anti-government elements were getting their weapons, explosives, training and funding from.

"Where do they find safe havens and sanctuaries? How is it that these elements have stood up against one of the biggest collective military efforts in the world? How is it

that these elements collaborate with the world's most dreadful terrorists in killing and brutalising the Afghans?," he asked.

Akbaruddin's remarks appeared to be a veiled reference to Pakistan, which is accused by both India and Afghanistan of supporting, training and funding terrorist groups.

He also asserted that the international community should not differentiate between good and bad terrorists, as he admonished attempts to play one group against the other.

"The Taliban, Haqqani Network, Al-Qaeda, Daesh, Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and others of their ilk are all terror organisations, many of them proscribed by the UN. They should be treated like terrorist organisations with no justifications offered for their activities," he said.

With Afghanistan reeling from terror attacks targeting hospitals, schools, funerals, international development agencies and diplomatic missions in recent months, Akbaruddin said such attacks "seem to be aimed at sending a message to a nation trying to stand on its feet."

"Clearly, the international community is dealing in Afghanistan with

an adversary who is not averse to flagrantly violating international humanitarian and human rights laws; an adversary flush with resources, weapons and operational support; an adversary that has access to sanctuaries outside the sovereignty of Afghanistan," he said.

Akbaruddin lamented that the recent multiple crises inflicted on the war-torn country have again made Afghan territory attractive for criminal and terrorist groups, which seem well connected to international terror and crime networks that prey themselves on the resources of Afghanistan.

"This situation affects the security in South and Central Asian regions and beyond," he said. "The international community's collective inability and unwillingness to see the problem for what it is has inflicted huge costs on the people of Afghanistan."

He also criticised the Security Council for at times even shying away from condemning some of the terrorist attacks in Afghanistan. "Is it that they are far too many to keep track of? Is it because there is a threshold below which human lives lost to terrorism are not required to be addressed," he added.

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DERBY STURDY
Draw No:36 DrawDate on:22/06/17
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2nd Prize Rs.10,000/-
0891 3515 4312 4809 6495
3rd Prize Rs.5000/-
1913 5718 6666 8413 9075
4th Prize Rs.2,000/-
1350 4720 6209 6594 9718
5th Prize Rs.1,000/-
1666 2216 3574 4201 6817
6th Prize Rs.500/-
0041 0057 0129 0178 0233 0437 0609 0654 1326 1471
1513 1769 2035 2116 2367 2394 2497 2634 2661 2696
2705 2883 2993 3105 3277 3281 3325 3435 3762 3772
3778 3993 4856 4899 5484 5707 5734 5771 5885 5898
5905 5993 6839 6997 7463 7565 7592 7678 7748 7820
7853 7946 7979 7993 8132 8213 8233 8289 8393 8484
8547 8755 8771 8812 8849 8884 8966 9065 9076 9190
9217 9273 9624 9668 9712
7th Prize Rs.100/-
0018 0035 0036 0065 0086 0105 0110 0130 0206 0282
0295 0335 0365 0376 0431 0497 0503 0561 0563 0591
0601 0628 0639 0710 0714 0730 0756 0766 0779 0814
0821 0843 0928 0971 1012 1047 1048 1096 1163 1214
1244 1255 1257 1278 1285 1303 1310 1335 1367 1381
1383 1396 1409 1424 1430 1437 1442 1452 1511 1517
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2591 2641 2644 2676 2682 2765 2788 2807 2810 2827
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4182 4195 4241 4243 4300 4308 4314 4320 4334 4339
4352 4412 4418 4438 4449 4460 4474 4497 4545 4546
4626 4656 4699 4735 4750 4761 4764 4776 4829 4836
4853 4883 4925 4932 4933 4952 5007 5014 5062 5157
5175 5180 5185 5239 5301 5371 5374 5427 5428 5429
5486 5495 5515 5529 5532 5542 5554 5606 5671 5690
5692 5699 5704 5722 5753 5765 5847 5868 5890 5903
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6307 6355 6370 6385 6395 6435 6451 6511 6566 6575
6586 6627 6630 6651 6724 6738 6778 6792 6800 6818
6891 6892 6904 6913 6922 7010 7045 7085 7163 7210
7263 7287 7363 7364 7367 7374 7387 7402 7428 7451
7491 7516 7517 7537 7540 7568 7672 7641 7677 7680
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8119 8126 8201 8216 8257 8262 8268 8311 8325 8341
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8679 8692 8761 8818 8863 8870 8900 8912 8939 8952
8969 8992 8996 8998 9001 9048 9070 9074 9077 9104
9121 9123 9131 9206 9219 9220 9235 9253 9268 9271
9282 9283 9306 9316 9352 9357 9471 9476 9477 9493
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SINGAM TOPAZ MORNING	DEAR FAITHFUL EVENING
Draw time: 11:55 am onwards	Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards
Draw No:8 DrawDate on:22/06/17	Draw No:113 DrawDate on:22/06/17
1st Prize Rs.10 Lakhs/- 95C 29326 (Including Super Prize Amt)	1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 89A 32967 (Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.9,100/- 29326 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 32967 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-	2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
02178 43017 60532 65479 71210	13780 16091 28666 44650 44854
88873 93038 94130 94215 99513	49918 59110 67924 74902 99865
3rd Prize Rs.500/-	3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
0351 0441 2425 4221 5405 7394 8495 8660 8680 9306	00481 16342 19925 27887 28115
4th Prize Rs.300/-	48609 50090 52468 71421 75068
0689 0722 2390 3130 3930 5330 5772 5830 6648 8719	4th Prize Rs.1000/-
5th Prize Rs.130/-	2133 3828 4614 5231 7148 7281 7576 8709 8800 9150
0104 0197 0268 0277 0380 0398 0455 0488 0533 0562	5th Prize Rs.600/-
0885 0930 0996 1063 1182 1201 1333 1377 1468 1521	0456 2726 3107 4059 4141 4944 5429 5457 8015 9445
1747 1752 1884 1896 1979 2031 2045 2324 2513 2532	6th Prize Rs.250/-
2632 2707 2797 3014 3068 3598 4108 4131 4288 4303	0014 0207 0274 0331 0491 0723 0979 1020 1021 1240
4314 4341 4531 4553 4830 4922 4951 4958 4970 5003	1523 1558 1587 1582 2035 2053 2121 2124 2243 2337
5020 5251 5453 5458 5593 5606 5635 5685 5787 5789	2449 2771 3043 3258 3367 3445 3494 3496 3571 3638
5805 5834 6297 6344 6569 6683 6684 6786 6822 7025	3711 3882 3932 4227 4280 4322 4424 4539 4568 4619
7091 7194 7272 7310 7319 7446 7608 7721 7752 8011	4654 4736 4760 4882 4971 4977 4990 5220 5510 5514
8075 8240 8269 8501 8689 8697 9008 9016 9092 9172	5558 5621 5676 5877 5982 6054 6320 6375 6461 6845
9204 9288 9431 9435 9446 9552 9821 9879 9909 9987	6948 7012 7073 7134 7171 7210 7230 7400 7422 7443
Issued by: The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland. For Results, please visit: www.nagalandlotteries.com	7454 7517 7556 7977 8033 8073 8147 8181 8194 8204 8309 8485 8501 8544 8572 8581 8633 8917 8975 9016 9035 9290 9311 9337 9393 9458 9737 9767 9944 9967
KINDLY CHECK THE RESULTS WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE.	

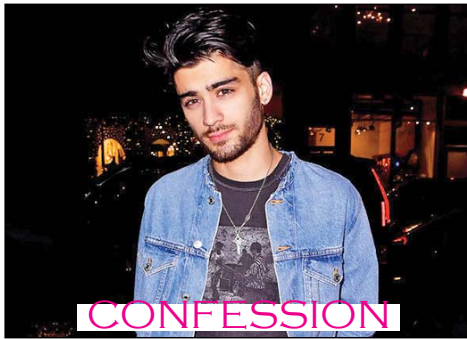
SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES	SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR SUCCESS	SINGAM ENERGY EVENING
Draw No:49 DrawDate on:22/06/17	Draw No:20 DrawDate on:22/06/17
1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 77K 89188 (Including Super Prize Amt)	1st Prize Rs.10 Lakhs/- 98G 74015 (Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 89188 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	Cons. Prize Rs.9,100/- 74015 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-	2nd Prize Rs.9,000/-
07031 07425 13695 22252 31399	10330 23842 30705 47060 54356
43477 54717 59282 61799 64449	63982 67921 69502 79051 98170
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-	3rd Prize Rs.500/-
20546 21872 34822 58903 69111	0011 0060 0844 1666 2894 4677 6286 8370 9446 9939
69680 70017 73291 76665 91237	4th Prize Rs.300/-
4th Prize Rs.1000/-	0922 1880 4359 4819 5228 6023 6227 6247 7399 8709
1359 1386 1658 2985 3769 4443 6807 8261 8543 9485	5th Prize Rs.130/-
5th Prize Rs.600/-	0021 0023 0265 0439 0461 0474 0485 0521 0584 0590
1842 2241 2892 3629 5429 5745 5755 6073 6857 9250	0892 0907 0919 1192 1394 1477 1500 1564 1656 1811
6th Prize Rs.250/-	2023 2175 2401 3056 3091 3113 3171 3313 3384 3429
0030 0139 0349 0352 0408 0559 0661 0692 0798 1178	3451 3468 3474 3565 3603 3615 3673 3802 3818 3866
1220 1429 1735 1852 2164 2374 2426 2603 2743 2757	3893 4106 4169 4226 4236 4261 4389 4460 4561 4649
2758 2853 3026 3042 3070 3166 3279 3317 3370 3473	4793 4874 4938 5053 5083 5168 5179 5315 5479 5522
3352 3592 3654 3844 4040 4056 4146 4155 4199 4340	5642 5693 5823 5939 6040 6154 6558 6710 6721 6758
4346 4448 4450 4547 4693 4825 4970 4991 5051 5064	6782 6849 6885 6872 6939 7000 7024 7062 7078 7105
5090 5560 5569 5596 5673 5935 5949 5972 6117 6268	7545 7811 7998 8004 8074 8099 8145 8144 8521 8631
6275 6370 6513 6576 6693 6779 6830 6805 6835 6871	8899 8865 8989 9057 9193 9340 9358 9393 9603 9839
6883 6951 6953 7029 7194 7205 7511 7598 7655 7819	Issued by: The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Deorali-737102 Please visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com
7898 7931 7976 8066 8212 8405 8449 8841 8873 8911	
8950 9007 9147 9294 9341 9356 9467 9528 9895 9984	
KINDLY CHECK THE RESULTS WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE.	

ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES	
BALA GANAPATHY	DHANU RASI
Draw No:95 DrawDate on:22/06/17	Draw No:95 DrawDate on:22/06/17
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- A 07124	1st Prize Rs.10,000/- A 06003
2nd Prize Rs.5,000/-	2nd Prize Rs.5,000/-
0486 1547 3750 4020 5725 6855 8279 8642 9703 9833	0692 1290 2652 2903 3128 3541 4435 4759 6662 8130
3rd Prize Rs.500/-	3rd Prize Rs.500/-
0357 0636 0966 2257 4093 4732 4856 4895 5788 5805	1379 2560 3817 4566 4869 5975 6353 7196 8424 9121
4th Prize Rs.250/-	4th Prize Rs.250/-
0364 0680 0681 2416 5461 6463 6738 7477 7870 8535	0490 1901 2222 3775 3809 4177 7301 8058 9537 9932
5th Prize Rs.100/-	5th Prize Rs.100/-
0968 3333 3992 4240 4482 5153 6469 7312 7346 7996	0344 0412 1023 2857 3574 3784 4110 5777 5859 7153
6th Prize Rs.50/-	6th Prize Rs.50/-
0189 1208 2178 2940 4054 4801 5673 6087 7215 8274	0023 1272 1993 3298 4273 5265 5940 6939 7860 9032
0223 1291 2183 2942 4182 4918 5679 6230 7331 8343	0119 1337 2105 3709 4297 5487 6038 7033 7935 9067
0406 1384 2299 3064 4205 5005 5689 6378 7481 8373	0283 1534 2226 3713 4378 5588 6045 7154 8020 9084
0447 1424 2324 3136 4207 5034 5737 6462 7494 8378	0520 1554 2372 3774 4055 5589 6080 7304 8300 9095
0696 1923 2389 3295 4425 5062 5851 6501 7645 8898	0534 1562 2699 3821 4687 5593 6296 7404 8349 9116
0814 1946 2592 3314 4501 5094 5852 6658 7819 9240	0782 1599 2670 3839 4942 5602 6592 7621 8372 9112
1053 1962 2668 3946 4582 5305 5871 6858 7831 9330	0850 1672 2987 3858 4959 5643 6707 7725 8378 9228
1061 2076 2688 3593 4725 5326 5907 6921 7950 9759	0963 1773 3269 3938 4898 5648 6797 7729 8631 9355
1165 2117 2874 3909 4748 5640 5993 7065 7952 9759	1088 1837 3273 4167 5000 5956 6882 7756 8739 9549
1177 2127 2905 3923 4749 5556 6058 7123 8095 9595	1269 1868 3291 4243 5114 5782 6916 7796 8981 9620
Issued by: The Commissioner, Arunachal Pradesh State Lotteries, Itanagar.	



HAMMING IT UP: Jon Hamm struck a pose as he attended the Baby Driver premiere in London recently.

ZAYN MALIK SAYS HE USED TO BE PROFILED AT U.S. AIRPORTS



What's that gentle, cologne-scented breeze? Could it be—the first whispers of Zayn's second solo album cycle? Indeed!

In a new interview with the U.K.'s Evening Standard, the former One Direction member born Zayn Malik talks about coping with his extreme level of fame, dating it-girl model Gigi Hadid, and designing a new capsule collection for Versace. His life sounds pretty damn sweet, but it wasn't always: When 1D were an upstart boy band first visiting the U.S., Malik says, airport security used to single him out for additional scrutiny because of his name and Muslim heritage:

"The first time I came to America, I had three security checks before I got on the plane; first they said that I'd been randomly selected, and then they said it was some-

thing to do with my name, it was flagging something on their system," he says. "Then when I landed, it was like a movie. They kept me there for three hours, questioning me about all kinds of crazy stuff. I was 17, my first time in America, jet-lagged off the plane, confused. The same thing happened the next time too."

His experience sounds exhausting, but in the interview, at least, Malik strikes a very conciliatory tone about the apparent racial profiling. "I don't think there's any benefit to getting angry -- it's something that comes with the climate," he says. "I understand why they've got to do it."

Oh, and about that new album: Malik is currently in New York finishing up the final songs. He's hinting at an upcoming world tour as well.



THIS WEEK'S TOP 10 SONGS ON BILLBOARD HOT 100

- 1) Despacito- Luis Fonsi & Daddy Yankee Featuring Justin Bieber
- 2) I'm The One- DJ Khaled Featuring Justin Bieber, Quavo, Chance The Rapper & Lil Wayne
- 3) That's What I Like- Bruno Mars
- 4) Shape Of You- Ed Sheeran
- 5) Humble- Kendrick Lamar
- 6) Mask Off- Future
- 7) Something Just Like This- The Chainsmokers & Coldplay
- 8) Stay- Alessia Cara & Zedd
- 9) Congratulations- Post Malone Featuring Quavo
- 10) XO TOUR Llif3- Lil Uzi Vert



23RD JUNE

WORLD HISTORY

1776: The final draft of Declaration of Independence was submitted to US Congress.

1894: Edward VIII [Duke of Windsor], King of England (1936), was born. He abdicated his throne to marry an American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

1902: Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy renewed the Triple Alliance for 12 year duration.

1931: Wiley Post and Harold Gatty flew in a single-engine plane, the Winnie Mae, from New York on a round-the-world flight and returned to New York in 8 days, 15 hrs, and 51 min.

1955: Walt Disney's "Lady and the Tramp," the first animated feature filmed in Cinema Scope, opened in theaters.

INDIAN HISTORY

1757: The famous battle of Plassey was fought between the English East India Company and the Nawab of Bengal Siraj-ud-Daulah. The

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

event is considered to be a cornerstone in the Indian history as after the battle the province of Bengal was annexed by the East India Company that was later on elaborated into the British Indian Empire. 1930: The Simon Commission recommended a federal India and the separation of Burma at London. 1946: Mahatma Gandhi advised Congress not to enter into an interim government but only into the Constituent Assembly. 1985: An Air India Boeing 747 'Kanishka' on its way from Montreal to London and then onwards to Mumbai, crashed into the Atlantic Ocean. This happened after a bomb exploded on board while the aircraft was at an altitude of 31,000 feet. All 329 on board the flight, including passengers and crew members, perished in this deadly air disaster.

GAME OF THRONES NEW SEASON 7 TRAILER PROMISES ICE, FIRE AND EPIC BATTLE SCENES



Look at the size of those dragons!

Blood flows and war is declared in the latest brutal Game of Thrones season seven trailer. An extended look at the Primetime Emmy Award-winning HBO and Sky Atlantic fantasy series' penultimate seasons paints a grim picture of what lies ahead in the Seven Kingdoms.

As Cersei and Jaime Lannister (Lena Headey and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau) plot to maintain their hold over King's Landing, they face imminent threats from Daenerys Targaryen (Emilia Clarke) at sea and Jon Snow (Kit Harington) in the North.

But threats to Jon Snow's reign as King in the North don't only come from the Lannister army. Kit Harington has hinted that any afterglow from Jon's resurrection has been fading fast. "I felt safe in season six because I thought it would be bad storytelling to kill me in the [same] season I'd been resurrected," he recently told in an interview.

"But as for seasons beyond six, it's back to business. He's in mortal danger like anyone else."

Because this is a shortened penultimate season of Game of Thrones, all but one of the upcoming episodes have extended running times... with the finale stretching to movie length!

what's TRENDING

The penultimate season of Game of Thrones is drawing nearer, and the battle is heating up. The second trailer for Season 7 shows the forces gathering for the ultimate showdown, and incorporates a warning that if Westeros' various factions fail to get on the same side, the Night King and his armies might prove victorious.

"Don't fight in the north, or in the south," warns Littlefinger (Aidan Gillen) as Sansa (Sophie Turner) walks away from what looks like Winterfell's godswood. "Fight every battle, everywhere, always."

It's followed by shots of characters—Cersei Lannister, Daenerys Targaryen, Jon Snow, Arya Stark—turning or moving toward the camera, as if to face what's coming, while Littlefinger himself lurks in the shadows. Swords are sharpened, gates are raised, dragons fly—in other words, shit is about to go down.

We close with a warning from Sansa, as a group of warriors form an outward-facing circle: "When the snows fall, and the white wind blows, the lone wolf dies, but the pack survives."

The trailer doesn't offer much in the way of revelations, but hey, it's more exciting than watching ice melt. Game of Thrones' new season starts July 16.

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- HOEST & REINER



"WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GO AND CANCEL OUT EACH OTHER'S VOTE?"

ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



ARIES: Today is a very expansive day for you, Aries. Your emotions can lead you into favorable situations with others. The pace of the day may seem a little slow, but this can be used to your advantage. Examine every detail with care and try not to leave any piece of the equation unaccounted for. You should enjoy a stable, caring mood that radiates out and draws others toward you.

THE DAY AHEAD

TAURUS: You may feel like you're coming up against a brick wall, Taurus. Your emotions are a bit stifled and you may find that you're more stubborn than usual. There is a large and beneficial force that you can tap into today, as long

as you keep your intuition open. The less you search for it, the more likely it will come to you. Something may spur you to act.

GEMINI: Smile at the world today, Gemini. Be thankful for the things you have and the people around you. Amplify the cozy, warm feeling inside and spread this love to others. This is a very expansive time for you in which you can get quite a bit accomplished if you set your mind to it. Radiate your true nature through every cell in your body and watch as the opportunities come your way.

CANCER: Today isn't the best day to play practical jokes, Cancer, so put away the disappearing ink.

Stick close to home. Find security in doing things you know how to do best. Hang a painting and cook a scrumptious dinner. You can inspire others with your smile, so use it. Don't get down if your thoughts aren't flowing well with the group. This is a sign that you should spend some time alone.

LEO: There may be a great deal of opposition in your way today, Leo, but try not to dwell on it. The key is to stay levelheaded and maintain a positive outlook. This is a day in which you can bring a great deal of balance to issues by understanding and respecting the other side. Have charity for those who are making sacrifices so that you may have a

more comfortable ride.

VIRGO: The pieces of today's puzzle may not fit into place, Virgo, and it's possible that you have no idea why. Don't stress over something you don't quite understand. The key to making things work out is listening. Adjustments will definitely be needed on both sides, but this can only happen if both parties are willing to open their ears and understand one another's perspective.

LIBRA: Today can be an extremely productive day, Libra. You're in a good space from which to work and this will aid you in all your endeavors. Today is also excellent for looking at some of the long-term trends moving through your

life now. Consider the next five or ten years and think about how your actions will affect your future. Plan ahead to get ahead.

SCORPIO: There may be a battle between old and new in your world today, Scorpio. A reserved and old-fashioned perspective has a strong hold on the prevailing sentiment. This feeling is likely going to hit you square in the face as you lean toward the unconventional and more revolutionary approach to life. See what sort of past lessons you can learn from as you build the future.

SAGITTARIUS: People may seem a bit stubborn today. Your powers of adaptation may be put to the test, Sagittarius. The people around you

are likely to call on your tender, sympathetic nature. Offer a nurturing ear and strong shoulder for others to cry on. Keep things low key and steady. The more grounded you are, the easier it will be to get along with the energy of today.

CAPRICORN: When you go up a flight of stairs, take one step at a time today, Capricorn. Skipping up the staircase two at a time could result in you falling back to the bottom. Trying to rush things today will leave holes in your projects. Finish jobs completely by making sure that every step is thoroughly taken care of. Don't ignore the details.

AQUARIUS: Today is a terrific day for taking the plunge or making

an investment, Aquarius. Luck and prosperity are in your favor, and you have the opportunity to make some very profitable financial decisions. Your intuition is right in line with what you need to do. Make the best deal possible and provide a fair and secure future for you and your investment.

PISCES: The key to being successful today is to maintain an air of stability. If others see you as too flighty and off the wall, they will hesitate about putting their trust in you. Make sure you do those things in your power that will help boost your clout. You will need this support from others later. Make a solid base to build on.