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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**FOR THE VETERANS:** An ex-servicemen rally-cum-medical camp was held in Kalimpong on Saturday and was attended by around 800 veterans. Various facilities were extended to the ex-servicemen which included free medical camp comprising of check up by medical specialists and distribution of medicines, registration for Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme [ECHS] and provision of canteen [CSD] facilities. [turn to pg 5 for detailed report]

## SKM slams Govt for delay in Gyalshing college construction

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 24 FEB:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has slammed the Human Resource Development Department [HRDD] over the non-completion of construction work of Gyalshing Degree College.

Last year, the state government had assured to complete the construction of Gyalshing Degree College in time, however, there are no signs of this happening any time soon, the party has said in a press release.

The party's General secretary in-charge of West District, Loknath Nepal, along with party workers visited the construction site of Gyalshing College today and



returned to accuse the state government and HRDD of abandoning the construction.

At present, more than 700 students are enrolled in the college which is running in rented premises.

SKM has further alleged that the SDF government is playing with the

future of students adding that students who are enrolled in the college are mostly from economically weaker sections.

The party has urged the state government and concerned department to complete the construction work at the earliest.

## Tourist season attracting conmen

**NITESH R PRADHAN**

**GANGTOK, 24 FEB:**

Tourist season in Sikkim is not only attracting visitors but conmen as well. Two taxi drivers have recently filed a police complaint against a man impersonating as a tour operator who took advance money from them and later disappeared.

Even in the past, there have been such instances of conmen, in the disguise of travel agents

and brokers, fooling drivers and tourists alike.

One concerned driver, Pritam Singh, states that while such incidents bring a bad name to the tourism industry in the State, it also inadvertently affects their business.

He has appealed to the citizens to be vigilant of such elements which give the entire tourism industry a bad name.

Sikkim with its recent successes in tourism and agriculture industries

has now earned fame as an eco-friendly destination. Coupled with active participation of the population, tourism is now a vibrant industry serving many families their bread and butter.

Cases of tourists being conned and fooled are quite common but now even taxi drivers are falling prey to swindlers.

"We will have to stay alert, cautious and not leave any loopholes," says hotelier, Lee Pradhan.

## CS assault: Delhi L-G briefs Rajnath Singh

**NEW DELHI, FEB 24 (PTI):** Delhi Lt Governor Anil Bajjal today briefed Home Minister Rajnath Singh on the tussle between AAP government and its bureaucracy in wake of the alleged assault on Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash by party MLAs at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence, an official said.

During the 30-minute meeting, the L-G apprised the home minister on his interactions with the government's bureaucrats, which complained about the alleged high-handedness of the MLAs, and a delegation of Delhi's ruling party, which conveyed to him about the non-attendance of officers in regular meetings, the home ministry official said.

Bajjal briefed Singh on the Delhi Police action following the alleged assault on Prakash, the official said.

This was for the first time that the L-G met the home minister after the incident on Monday night at Kejriwal's residence, which has created a huge controversy.

Yesterday, Union Minister of State for Home Hansraj Gangaram Ahir had hinted that the Delhi chief minister may be questioned by the police in connection with the alleged assault on the chief secretary.

"Whosoever it may be, the police will question all those in whose presence the incident took place," he had said.

## India chapter of Football For Peace launched

**MUMBAI, FEB 24 (PTI):** Manchester United legend Nemanja Vidic and Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh recently launched the India chapter of Football For Peace here.

FFP's iconic 'Peace Match' is likely to be held in Delhi later this year, the non-profit organisation said.

"Football has been a great unifying force across the globe. The FFP has been using football diplomacy to bring people together by promoting peace and the virtues of inclusion since its inception," Vidic said during the launch here yesterday, a media release said.

"We have organised peace matches at many iconic locations, including at the Vatican, the Eiffel Tower and the Big Ben. We have begun the process of organising India's match at the Parliament (premises) in New Delhi," said British South Asian footballer Kashif Siddiqi, co-founder of the FFP movement.

FFP, which is supported by the English Premier League and the UK Foreign Office, will identify 10-12 cities in the country as part of its Cities for Peace initiative, the release said.

"Close to 1,600 kids in the age group of 7-14 years will be selected in each of these cities. They will be part of a year-long project, which will include 60 per cent classroom education and 40 per cent football training. Once we reach 5,000 kids, we will declare it a City of Peace," Kashif said.

## MB Gurung sworn in as Chief Information Commissioner

**ARPAN PRADHAN**

**GANGTOK, 24 FEB:**

The oath taking ceremony of the newly appointed State Chief Information Commissioner was held here at Ashirvad Bhavan in Raj Bhavan, Gangtok today.

The newly appointed CIC, MB Gurung, was sworn in by Governor Shrinivas Patil in the presence of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling.

The ceremony commenced with Secretary of the Department of Personnel, Administration, Reforms and Training [DOPART] reading the appointment order issued by the Governor.

The swearing-in ceremony had the presence of Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Chief Secretary, Chief Administrator, Secretaries of various departments, Senior Police Officers,



Principal Secretary to Governor, Mayor, other dignitaries and guests of Raj Bhavan.

The CM also congratulated Mr Gurung for being appointed as the CIC and offered khada.

Other guests present

for the ceremony also offered khadas and congratulated Mr Gurung.

After the ceremony, the appointment letter was signed by the Governor and handed over to the CIC of the State.

Mr Gurung who is a

retired Secretary in the Government of Sikkim will serve as CIC for a term of five years.

It may be mentioned here, Sikkim State Information Commission was established in the year 2006 under the RTI Act.

## History Created: Aruna becomes 1st Indian Gymnast to win World Cup medal



**MELBOURNE, FEB 24 (PTI):** Aruna Budda Reddy today created history by becoming the first Indian gymnast to win an individual medal at the Gymnastics World Cup as she clinched a bronze in the women's vault event here.

The 22-year-old Reddy, who hails from Hyderabad, scored 13.649 average points to win the bronze at the Hisense Arena here.

Tjasa Kysleff of Slovenia won the gold with a score of 13.800 while Emily Whitehead of Australia took the silver with 13.699.

Another Indian in the final round, Pranati Nayak finished sixth with a score of 13.416. The sport of gymnastics has a series of World Cup events in a year and they are second in importance after the World Championships.

"Aruna is now the first and the only Indian to have won a medal in the World Cup and we are proud of her," Shantikumar Singh, secretary of a faction of Gymnastics Federation of India, told PTI.

Dipa Karmakar, who finished fourth in the 2016 Rio Olympics in women's vault event, has won a bronze each in the Asian Championships and 2014 Commonwealth Games but not at the level of a World Cup.

This was Aruna's first international medal through she has taken part at the 2013 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships, 2014 Commonwealth Games and 2014 Asian Games and the 2017 Asian Championships.

Her best international performance before today's feat was the

sixth place finish at the 2017 Asian Championships vault event. In all the other international events, she could not go beyond the qualification stage.

Aruna will also contest in the final round of the floor event tomorrow. In other events, Rakesh Patra finished fourth in the men's rings event. He is still in the fray for the final round of the parallel bars tomorrow.

The 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games and 2-14 Asian Games bronze medallist Ashish Kumar will also feature in the men's vault event final round tomorrow after he finished sixth in the qualifying round.

Sixteen countries are featuring in the World Cup series event this year across two days of qualification with the top eight teams athletes on each apparatus heading to the finals.

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# Opposition joins BJP dharna against corruption

**SAGAR CHETTRI**  
**GANGTOK, 24 FEB:**

Youth wing of State Bharatiya Janta Party, Bharatiya Janta Yuwa Morcha [BJYM], started its dharna here in front of the District Administration Centre [East] in Gangtok today. The youth wing of the party is staging this two-day dharna to protest against corruption and to demand the CBI investigation in the State.

Besides the participation of the state president, DB Chauhan, and other senior leaders and workers of BJP Sikkim Pradesh, the first day of the dharna also witnessed the participation of leaders from other political parties and members of social organisations.

In his address, BJP state president, Mr Chauhan, stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a mission to make India a corruption free country and the State-unit of the party has also been working on the

same line by raising its voice against corruption in Sikkim.

"We want to send a message to the state government that BJP will not compromise on the issue of eradicating corruption from the State," he said.

He stated that the state-unit of the party is in constant touch with the Centre on the issue of corruption in the State. Mr Chauhan mentioned that the recent Income Tax raid on the property of a senior contractor of Sikkim was initiated by the Centre. He added the State will witness more such raids in the future.

"BJP is on a mission to end corruption, suppression and exploitation soon from the State. So, we would like to urge the youth and people of Sikkim to support the party in this mission as these are not just issues of the BJP but of the entire people of Sikkim," he said.

BJYM president, Lat-



en Sherpa, lashed out at the state government on various issues. He urged the youth to come together to work in the interest of Sikkim.

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha acting president, Kunga Nima Lepcha, blamed the ruling party for financial and political corruption in the State.

He stressed that everyone needs to be united in order to make Sikkim a corruption-free State. He also appreciated the initiative of BJYM president, Mr Sherpa.

SKM chief coordinator, Sonam Lama, stated that all opposition parties in the State are totally against the ram-

pant corruption in the State. He also appealed to all opposition parties to come together to fight against the ruling government to eradicate corruption. He urged the BJP president to request the Centre for CBI investigation in the State.

Sikkim Subject Committee vice-convenor,

Nawin Kiran Pradhan, stressed upon the need of CBI investigation to control corruption.

One BJP member, Birbal Subba, alleged that the ruling party has just given assurances regarding Assembly seat reservation for Limboo and Tamang but has not been taking any serious action.



## Hastkala Sahyog Shivar organized at Kaluk

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 24 FEB:**

Office of the Development Commissioner [Handicrafts], Marketing & Service Extension Centre, Gangtok, organized Hastkala Sahyog Shivar at the Community Hall in Kaluk, West Sikkim today. Area MLA, Karma Sonam Lepcha, and District Collector, West, Kapil Meena, inaugurated the camp, a press release informs.

Handicrafts Promotion Officer, Shashikant Gupta, in his address said, "This office is committed to elevate socio economic condition of handicrafts artisans by providing financial assistance under various developmental and welfare schemes. In order to bring the benefits of these schemes at the door step of the artisans, the Ministry of Textiles is organizing Hastkala Sahyog Shivar as a pan India Initiative."

Assistant Director [Handicrafts], DK Khawaja, informed that during the Shivar camp, the participating handicraft artisans from clusters at Kaluk have received various services like awareness about MUDRA scheme,

issuance of Pehchan Card [Artisans Identity Card], awareness about handicrafts helpline centre [1800-208-4800], Pradhan Mantri Jivan Jyoti Bima Yojana & Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Direct Benefit Transfer, Public Finance Management System, Geographical Indications of Goods [Registration and Protection Act].

During the programme, NGO Darpan Portal of office of the DC Handicrafts and enrolment under IG-NOU/NIOS courses were discussed. Live demonstration of wood carving and cane & bamboo crafts were also done.

The Shivar was attended by 136 rural artisans who also received the Pehchan Card [Artisan ID Card].

The release informs that this ID card can be used to avail the benefits of the schemes run by Government of India and will make it easier for artisans to participate in any domestic & international handicrafts fairs/events sponsored by DC [Handicrafts].

## ITBP cleanliness drive in Pengong

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 22 FEB:**

The 11th Battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, under the guidance of its Commandant, Rajesh Kumar Tomar, organized an awareness generation and community mobilization programme under the banner "Swachhta Hi Sewa" at Pengong in North Sikkim today, a press release informs.

Unit personnel of the 11th Bn cleaned various places of Pengong and its surrounding areas with the participation of the general public.

## Sawley archers lift the archery trophy in Aritar

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 24 FEB:**

Archers from Sawley, West Bengal, lifted the Late Lachi Maya Gurung Memorial Archery Trophy held at Pangu Ground in Aritar, East Sikkim, on 23 Feb, scoring 44 points against 37 points of Sikkim United.

This was the ninth consecutive year of the Late Lachi Maya Gurung Memorial Archery Tournament organized by Sports Association of Aritar [SSA] in the memory of the mother of the Chairperson of Denzong Agriculture Cooperative Society Ltd [DACCS], former MLA, Chujachen



constituency, Purnan Kumar Gurung, Minister of Forest

Environment & Wildlife Management Department, Tshering Wangdi

Lepcha, attended the final match of the tournament as chief guest.

## Mukul Roy appointed convenor of panchayat panel of Bengal BJP

**KOLKATA, FEB 24 (PTI):** BJP leader Mukul Roy was today appointed as the convenor of the panchayat committee formed by the West Bengal BJP leadership to look into the upcoming rural polls in the state.

BJP sources said the party wants to utilise the organisational skills of Roy in the polls and being the convenor of the panel, he will call the shots.

"Mukul Roy was appointed as the convenor of the party's panchayat committee. (Former MLA) Shamik Bhattacharya was appointed as the co-convenor," state BJP general secretary Sayantan Basu said after a panchayat conference of the party.

Roy, once the second in command in the ruling Trinamool Congress, had switched over to the BJP last year.

"From selecting candidates to choosing the mode of campaign, everything will be decided by Roy. We hope to put up candidates in all the panchayat seats across the state," a senior BJP leader said.

The BJP, which is aspiring to become the main opposition in the state, held a panchayat conference in the city to look into various organisational aspects of the party.

The rural polls would be held later this year.

## Nearly 1000 bottles of Nepalese liquor seized in Bihar, one arrested

**ARARIA (BIHAR), FEB 24 (PTI):** Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB) personnel here today seized nearly 1,000 bottles of Nepalese liquor, worth about Rs six crore, and arrested one person in this connection.

Acting on a tip-off, an SSB team nabbed a local resident Dinesh Kesri from Amagachhi border outpost, Deputy Commandant Mukesh Kumar Gautam said.

Kesri, who entered the Indian territory from Nepal, was being followed by a number of persons carrying a huge sack full of liquor bottles who fled upon spotting the SSB personnel, leaving the contraband behind, Gautam said.

The sack contained a total of 991 bottles of liquor manufactured in Nepal, worth Rs 5.95 crore, he added.

Kesri and the liquor bottles have been handed over to the Sonamoni Godam police station for further action, the SSB Deputy Commandant said.

Sale and consumption of liquor has been completely banned in Bihar by the Nitish Kumar government.

SSB, a paramilitary force, is entrusted with the responsibility to guard country's International borders with Nepal and Bhutan.

## Legal awareness and health camp held at Kitam

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 24 FEB:**

District Legal Services Authority [South] and Taluk Legal Services Committee [South] in co-ordination with the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority organized a Legal Awareness Camp and a Health Camp in co-ordination with Namchi District Hospital at Senior Secondary School, Kitam in South Sikkim today, a press release informs.

The aim of the programme was to spread awareness about welfare legislations and schemes and strengthen the community's access to the schemes being implemented by the Legal Services Authority and other Departments of the Government.

It also aimed at identifying and connecting people to welfare schemes to ensure that benefits of the welfare schemes are passed to the eligible people. The programme also looked

upon understanding legal needs of the people and addressing legal problems of the people by giving appropriate legal advice.

The camp was launched by Chairperson, DLSA [South], Jyoti Kharka.

During the camp, information booths were set up by various departments namely Legal Aid Clinics by Panel Advocates and Para-Legal Volunteers, SJE&WD and RMDD, Childline and HIV-AIDS awareness booth by Dristi NGO, HCHS&FWD [Health camp for senior citizens], Police assistance booth by the Jorethang Police Station [Mission Jyoti Flame of Fearlessness] and Tourism Department [Kitam Bird Sanctuary].

The attendees visited the booths and interacted with the officers and representatives of the departments to address their problems and to procure appropriate ad-



vice and guidance.

Doctors from Orthopedics, ENT, Medicine and Psychiatry departments conducted the health camp. A psychologist was also present to apprise the public on mental health.

Further, documentaries on Lok Adalat, Mediation and Domestic Violence were also shown to the attendees.

Also present were Secretary, DLSA [South],

Sonam Denka Wangdi, Panel Advocates, Officers from Social Justice Empowerment & Welfare Department, Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, Gram Vikash Kendra Namchi, Police Department, Zilla Panchayat and Panchayat President of the Kitam Manpur GPU, Para-Legal Volunteers, ASHA Members and Tourism Department [Kitam Bird Sanctuary].

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# SummitTIMES

## Rectify Roles

### Take political deliberations beyond rhetoric and attempt real engagement

One hears frequent complaints that “virtues” of accountability, transparency and decency have become almost alien to the political culture, but when was the last time you heard of the electorate holding the feet of their leaders to the fire and demanding accountability [at least in delivering on the roles shouldered on them by the people]?

Mudslinging, unrestrained criticism of opponents and the total lack of accountability for what one does or says have become an almost routine phenomena in what goes by way of ‘politics’ now. Although not unique to Sikkim, it is the trend here that should concern everyone here. The last election was some years ago and the next is on the anvil and the manifestos have since been returned to the cold storage. Meanwhile, the favourite whipping horses are being flogged afresh with an angle decided by which political alignment is driving the comments. It is obviously the lack of a clearly thought out ideology among political parties, both national and regional, about their plans for Sikkim which forces them to choose rhetoric over logic or significance. While this might work for the charged times of election campaigning, people tire of these shenanigans in the more peaceful 5-year reprieve that they get in between. Even the recent acquisitions of RTI and PILs are now losing their potency to generate even interest, let alone involvement, because of their ad-nauseam duplication and, one may add, misplaced priorities. While the tools of democracy and its institutions are available to all, even if they are ‘misused’ to pursue political and/or political ends, when the public domain gets proliferated only by such noises, the real issues stand at risk of getting sidelined... important debates remain uninitiated.

For example, the now rested but at one time obsessive single-minded pursuit of the Opposition to make corruption charges against the Chief Minister stick, came at the price of reducing the challenge of corruption to an individual. It failed at many levels to address the real challenge of corruption in the system, many times at the cost of important public issues getting ignored. Central Direct Taxes, for example, have been in the news of late, but if one were to go over the past deliberations on the issue, apart from the State Government and the ruling party, this issue has still not engaged the interest of other players in the political front. Without such involvement, consensus will not be possible.

There are also several special schemes and initiatives underway in the State, which, if monitored properly [through scrutiny by the Opposition and social vigilance by the people], could deliver exceptionally generous results. Initiatives like capacity building, CMRH, REDRH, CATCH, to name a few, have the potential to be more than sops or token efforts if they received wider attention and stock-taking. This has not happened, exposing these schemes to avoidable compromises and again, the occasional name-calling.

Unfortunately, even the post earthquake reconstruction efforts remained sans Opposition interest. The ruling front, on the other hand, should display more maturity in how it handles allegations or the media’s penchant for sensationalism. It has to also accept that “healthy criticism” is just a euphemism. There is no healthy or unhealthy tint to criticism; at least not on the part of the critic, it is just criticism. It is up to the subject of the criticism to decide in which spirit it is taken. The ruling party has been awarded a handsome mandate by the people and the only awkwardness for it in the Legislative Assembly is of its own making. As far as the people are concerned, even if they appear distant in their refusal to jump to the government’s defence against allegations, they have handed the present dispensation the complete responsibility of governance and left no room for excuses. Should the ruling and the Opposition choose performance over rhetoric [no matter how eloquent] and public interest over score-settling, it would benefit a lot and the Sikkimese would profit the most. Any takers?

**WRITE US:** Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/indecent language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence.

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ASIT K. BISWAS, CECILIA TORTAJADA  
& MARTIN STAVENHAGEN  
*theconversation.com*

Urbanisation has been a well-established trend in the 20th and 21st centuries. However, depopulation and deurbanisation in some countries and numerous cities are becoming serious problems for which no good solutions exist at present.

People have steadily moved from rural to urban areas to improve their standard of living as well as quality of life. In 1950, 30% of world population was urban. A century later, 66% of people are expected to live in urban areas. In terms of absolute number, difference is stark. In 1950, 746 million people lived in urban areas. By 2046, it is estimated to be over 6 billion.

Not surprisingly, the global attention has focused on this rapid century-long urbanisation processes and their social, economic and environmental implications. In contrast, deurbanisation receives limited attention. If one searches “deurbanisation” in Google, the response is “Did you mean: urbanisation?”

#### REASONS OF SHRINKING CITIES

Deurbanisation happens for three main reasons. First, when fertility rate of a country dips below 2.1, its total population starts to decline and so does its urban population. Fertility rates in South Korea are now 1.17 and in Japan 1.44. Without immigration, a fertility rate of 2.1 is needed to have a stable population. If current trends continue, Japan’s population is expected to decline from 126.5 million at present to 88 million in 2065, 51 million by 2115, and to zero by around 3000!

Second, in many cities, jobs in different sectors like manufacturing and mining are disappearing. Between 1950 and 2010, many American cities lost population: St Louis (62.7%), Cleveland (56.6%), Pittsburgh (54.8%) and Cincinnati (41.1%).

Third, some cities have lost population due to resource depletion or technological changes. Yichun, a city in north-east China, close to the Russian border, was transformed from a sleepy to a bustling town due to unsustainable logging. Later during 2012-2016, Yichun lost 12% of population after its natural resources depleted.

#### LESSONS FROM CHINA

China’s voracious appetite for natural resources to fuel its unprecedented continuous economic growth over the past three decades has meant that some 500 billion tonnes of resources, ranging from coal and iron ore to gold, have to be mined every year. Resource exhaustion and environmental degradation have contributed to rapid depopulation in many urban centres.

China’s National Development and Reform Commission has reported that 50 of China’s 390 mining towns have already exhausted their resources that can be economically extracted. This has left three million people jobless, affecting an additional 10 million

people.

The Commission has given 44 cities the official status of being “resource depleted”. These cities are receiving Central Government funding to rejuvenate and restructure their economies by increasing employment opportunities and improving environmental conditions. More cities will earn this distinction unless natural resources management and environmental protection policies measures are formulated over a long-term basis.

Technological development and economic considerations can also contribute to deurbanisation. For example, Khulna, Bangladesh’s third largest city grew 20-fold between 1950 and 2000. Then as the jute industry declined, it lost more than 150,000 people (11% of the population) during 2001-2011.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE AND SHRINKING CITIES



Parts of the world are grappling with the urbanisation problem but some other parts experience the opposite: their city is shrinking.

Throughout history, as population increased and urbanisation took place, all types of infrastructure for water, energy and transportation had to be built to meet the steadily expanding needs. All societies have had centuries of experience on how to expand infrastructural requirements. Considerable expertise and technology were developed to meet these advancing needs.

What we are facing now is a different type of problem that’s becoming increasingly familiar in both developed and developing countries. How can shrinking cities downsize the existing infrastructure that has already been built as well as to find a usable financial model for operating and maintaining them?

Take Leipzig, Germany. During the post-1990 period, numerous buildings were renovated, water-efficient toilets and showers were installed and piped water and waste water facilities were increased by 50%. Consequently, leak detection and repair received priority, and water tariffs were increased to finance the necessary infrastructure expansion and modernisation. All these contributed to major changes in people’s perceptions of the importance of water conservation.

The system which was initially designed to pro-

vide 200 litres of clean water per person per day dropped to only 92 litres. Fewer users, increased efficiency and less water demand by industries dramatically reduced water demands from 700,000 m3 to only 165,000 m3/day. This meant Leipzig now has a water demand of mid-1940s but a supply network which is significantly above what is needed.

This has created new types of challenges. Lower demand means water stays in the pipes for longer periods increasing the risk for bacterial growth and microbial contamination, and thus health problems. Lower water use means lower waste water generation. This contributes to sedimentation in sewer pipes because low flow velocities. Thus, clean water has to be used to flush the sewer system periodically for proper maintenance.

Leipzig’s water utility is facing higher operation and maintenance costs, and also higher long-term investment costs for restructuring the water system, with a declining consumption and revenue.

Another problem is that the unexpected but serious financial pressure is forcing the utility to focus on possible technical fixes due to lower domestic and industrial water use. This means lower priority to proper operation and maintenance practices will negatively impact long-term sustainability of the utility.

In countries like Japan and South Korea and numerous cities are currently facing similar problems in downsizing their current infrastructure availability to meet reduced demands from their citizens and industries. Prosperous cities like Singapore now has to consolidate schools since the number of students have declined. All the resource depleted cities of China will have to consider how best to balance their infrastructure with decreased demands.

This is an issue that needs urgent attention from policy makers and researchers, especially in countries and cities where deurbanisation have become a more serious problem compared to urbanisation. While urbanisation is a very important consideration which all developing countries need to manage urbanisation efficiently, a significant number of cities in these countries are witnessing depopulation, and finding they have constructed more infrastructure than they need and can manage.

This is an issue that both policymakers and academics have not given enough attention in the past. Within the next decade we have to find cost-effective solutions. It will not be an easy task but appropriate solutions must be found which must be sustainable in operational and financial terms.

[Asit K. Biswas is Distinguished Visiting Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore; Cecilia Tortajada is Senior Research Fellow, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore; Martin Stavenhagen is Climate, Energy and Water Policy Consultant, National University of Singapore]

## It’s getting harder to prosecute politicians for corruption

PETER J. HENNING  
*theconversation.com*

The high-profile corruption case against New Jersey Sen. Robert Menendez was recently dropped by federal prosecutors after a five-year investigation into gifts and campaign contributions given to the senator by a friend who wanted political help.

The trial had ended in a hung jury. Prosecutors then decided they did not have enough evidence to prove corruption and decided not to try Menendez again.

That decision had its roots in another failed corruption case against a prominent politician, former Virginia Republican Governor Bob McDonnell – a case whose resolution before the U.S. Supreme Court has made it manifestly more difficult for prosecutors to prove political corruption.

The Supreme Court described the events that sparked McDonnell’s 2014 bribery prosecution as “distasteful,” comprising “tawdry tales of Ferraris, Rolexes, and ball gowns.”

Nevertheless, the justices struck down McDonnell’s convictions in a lower court for accepting over US\$175,000 in gifts from a businessman who wanted help from the state. They unanimously found that the Justice Department had overreached in prosecuting him.

How could actions that look so corrupt not be a crime?

The answer lies with the Supreme Court’s increasingly narrow definition of public corruption, including the crimes of bribery and extortion.

**CONSTITUENT SERVICES OR BRIBE?** I teach at Wayne State University Law School and wrote “The Prosecution and Defense of Public Corruption: The

Law and Legal Strategies,” a comprehensive volume on the federal law of corruption.

The McDonnell case signals an erosion of federal corruption laws. I contend that this ruling effectively allows elected leaders to do favors for donors while raking in bountiful campaign contributions or gifts from them – with little fear that they might cross the line into illegality.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the opinion for the Supreme Court in the McDonnell case. He explained that the real concern was not McDonnell’s tawdriness. It was “the broader legal implications of the Government’s boundless interpretation of the federal bribery statute.”

Roberts warned of the danger of viewing too broadly what constitutes an “official act” that can be exchanged for a bribe. That broad view, he wrote, could mean elected officials risked being convicted of crimes when they simply help out people who contribute to their campaigns.

Not every act that helps donors is corrupt, wrote Roberts.

“Conscientious public officials arrange meetings for constituents, contact other officials on their behalf, and include them in events all the time,” he wrote. “Representative government assumes that public officials will hear from their constituents and act appropriately on their concerns.”

#### A NEW, LIMITED STANDARD FOR CORRUPTION

What’s the net result of the McDonnell decision?

It is that buying access to elected officials is, in most cases, not a crime.

To prove a bribe after the McDon-

nell decision, federal prosecutors must show more than just general efforts to aid a favored contributor. A conviction requires proof that the official committed an act that goes to the core of their office, like voting on a bill or approving a new policy. An official act, wrote Roberts, “must involve a formal exercise of governmental power.”

Short of that, steps like arranging a meeting or passing along recommendations to an agency head will not be enough to constitute corruption. That’s because these are not considered “official acts,” according to the Supreme Court ruling.

Prosecutors had evidence that McDonnell got gifts and loans from a businessman who wanted special treatment from the state for a nutritional supplement he was developing. But, after the Supreme Court’s decision, the Justice Department decided it no longer had enough evidence to retry McDonnell on the corruption charges.

The McDonnell decision directly affected the corruption prosecution brought against Menendez.

Menendez denied the prosecution’s contention that he had put pressure on federal agencies to take actions to benefit a friend and donor to his election efforts, saying he and the man, physician Salomon Melgen, were just friends. Over the years, Melgen had given Menendez many valuable gifts. Charges against Menendez were dismissed after a jury could not reach a verdict in his first trial. Prosecutors then decided not to try Menendez again.

**POLITICAL SYSTEM RUN BY MONEY** Our election system revolves around campaign contributions, both in Congress and increasingly at the local and

state level. And politicians doing favors for donors is not new.

The Supreme Court recognized as much in *McCormick v. United States*, a 1991 decision. A West Virginia state legislator had faced prosecution after demanding campaign contributions from a lobbyist who wanted help for his client.

Justice Byron White wrote, “Money is constantly being solicited on behalf of candidates, who run on platforms and who claim support on the basis of their views and what they intend to do or have done. Whatever ethical considerations and appearances may indicate, to hold that legislators commit the federal crime of extortion when they act for the benefit of constituents or support legislation furthering the interests of some of their constituents, shortly before or after campaign contributions are solicited and received from those beneficiaries, is an unrealistic assessment of what Congress could have meant by making it a crime...”

But the power of money to get donors political access and influence has expanded with the whittling away of corruption laws. I believe that because of the Supreme Court’s erosion of limits on many kinds of campaign contributions, our current means of financing campaigns has devolved into a form of legalized bribery. Donors pour money into races to get officials who will support their favored goals.

When the officials deliver, the money keeps rolling in. One example: After passage of the tax bill in December, conservative billionaire Charles Koch and his wife gave nearly \$500,000 to

**turn to 05**



Army organises ex-servicemen rally in Kalimpong

SUMMIT REPORT  
KALIMPONG, 24 FEB:

The Indian Army under the aegis of Striking Lion Division, Kalimpong organized an ex-servicemen rally-cum-medical camp in Kalimpong today. Approximately 800 veterans along with their families attended the programme.

The rally was conducted with the aim to strengthen the traditional bond and solidarity amongst serving and retired soldiers in general, understand their problems and improve awareness on current policies and facilities concerning veterans and their families. Veer Naris, widows, veterans of World War II, war wounded and senior citizens above 80 years of age were also felicitated during the event.

The programme commenced with the address by General Officer Commanding, Striking Lion Division, Major General MK Sagoch, who also distributed financial aid to widows of ex-servicemen.

Various facilities were extended to the ex-servicemen which included free medical camp comprising of check up by medical specialists and distribution of medicines, registration for Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme [ECHS] and provision of canteen [CSD] facilities.

Large numbers of ex-servicemen are settled in remote regions and have limited access to current pension policies which is why Centralised Pension Processing Cells of Banks and Record Offices were setup wherein their representatives noted down the grievances of the ex-servicemen. Their grievances were also addressed by representatives of Gorkha Records Office, Ghoom and Zilla Sainik Board, Kalimpong.

During the event, District Magistrate, Kalimpong, Dr Vishwanath, who attended the programme as chief guest, interacted with the ex-servicemen and their families.



Meghalaya's most-wanted militant killed in encounter

SHILLONG, FEB 24 (PTI): Security forces today shot dead Meghalaya's most-wanted militant and self-styled chief of the outlawed Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) in an encounter in East Garo Hills district, the police said.

The encounter of Sohan D Shira, who carried a reward of Rs 10 lakh on his head, came after NCP candidate Jonathone N Sangma was killed in an IED attack, suspected to be carried out by the GNLA in the same district on February 18.

Following Sangma's death, counter-insurgency operations had been stepped up in poll-bound South and East Garo Hills districts.

Acting on inputs regarding probable movement of some armed GNLA cadre in Dobu area, counter-insurgency forces were pressed into

service, a senior police officer involved in the operations told PTI.

He said the encounter took place around 11 am in Achakpek village near Dobu, in which Sohan was killed.

East Garo Hills Deputy Commissioner Ram Kumar said inquest on the body of the slain militant was on and necessary formalities would follow.

Earlier this week, Meghalaya Director General of Police S B Singh had said, "There are credible leads that are being obtained about the involvement of the group (GNLA) in Sunday night's carnage (Sangma's killing)."

NCP candidate Jonathone N Sangma and three others were killed in an IED blast triggered by militants in the Samanda area of East Garo Hills district around 8 pm on February 18.

Mysterious object with Chinese writing found in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, FEB 24 (PTI): A mysterious object with Chinese writing on it has been found in Kamle district of Arunachal Pradesh, about 100 km inside the Indian territory, police said today.

A few villagers stumbled upon a partly burnt white box, wrapped in a cloth-like material with Chinese writing on it, on Wednesday last. It was found stuck in a tree, Superintendent of Police of Kamle, John Pada, told PTI on the phone.

The SP, Range Forest Officer Bunty Tao and a few officers trekked for five hours to Repari village, located at a height of 3,642 feet, to retrieve the object after woodcutters informed them about it.

The box opened up on hitting the tree and the black device inside was visible. The lower compartment probably contained a battery to power the device during flight, he said.

It had a powdered substance connected to wires, the SP said, adding it could be a meteorological equipment.

Director General of Police Sandeep Goel said they were trying to ascertain what the object was.

Siliguri student makes drone for dengue prevention



SMRITA KHAWAS  
SILIGURI, 24 FEB:

Siliguri Municipal Corporation today organized a rally that commenced from Baghajatin Park to spread awareness on Dengue in Siliguri. SMC Mayor, Asok Bhattacharya, attended the programme along with supporters.

One Standard XI student of Margaret



School, Rajib Ghosh, who made a drone for surveillance of areas for prevention of Dengue, also participated in the rally.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Bhattacharya said, "This is a great achievement for us that our youth are moving forward towards development with their innovative initiatives. Today Rajib Gosh made a drone to prevent dengue in Siliguri. The drone is being used on a trial basis. We will see what can be

done with that in future."

Expressing his happiness, Rajib Ghosh said "I made the drone to keep an eye on the surrounding areas where people cannot reach easily like roof tops, high buildings, etc to ensure that there is no stagnation of water where mosquitoes can breed. I was inspired to make the drone through YouTube videos."

Bodh Gaya blast: Fifth JMB operative arrested from Murshidabad

KOLKATA, FEB 24 (PTI): The Kolkata Police has arrested a suspected member of terrorist outfit Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) for alleged links to the Bodh Gaya bomb case, a senior police official said today.

The man, in his early 20s, has been identified as Nur Alam and was picked up from Dhuliyon in West Bengal's Murshidabad district yesterday, the official said.

Alam is a resident of Kamat village in the district and has been involved with the terror outfit for sometime, the police official said.

On January 19, two high-intensity bombs were recovered from Bihar's Bodh Gaya town during Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama's

visit. An explosion-like sound was also heard the same day although it has not been established by the police if it was a bomb.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Alam, along with four other members of the terror outfit, had visited Hyderabad to meet some senior leaders of the JMB in November, the official said.

In January, the Kolkata Police Special Task Force (STF) arrested four others in connection with the Bodh Gaya bomb case.

According to the police officer, the accused has a garments business and he recently began selling Islamic books.

We are looking into his role in the terror outfit. We are grilling him, the officer said.

Petrol pump robbery culprit arrested

SUMMIT REPORT  
SILIGURI, 24 FEB:

Police has arrested one Md Sayed Harej Ali hailing from Janakpur in Assam in connection with the robbery that oc-

curred at a petrol pump in Burdhan Road, Siliguri on 12 Feb.

DCP Zone I East, Gaurav Lal, has informed that police seized a car and Rs 30,000 from the

accused. The total loot amounted to Rs 14 lakh. ACJM Court today sent him for 10-days police remand. Three other accused are still absconding.

Speeding Bolero runs over students in Bihar, 9 killed, 20 injured

MUZAFFARPUR (Bihar), Feb 24 (PTI): At least nine children were killed and about 20 injured when a speeding Bolero lost control and ploughed through them outside a government school building on the outskirts of the city today, police said.

The heart-rending incident occurred under Minapur police station area, about 10 km from the district headquarters, when the

school got over and the children were returning home.

"The incident took place at Ahiyapur-Jhapaha in Minapur police station area of the district where a Bolero ran over the children who were returning to their homes after the school was over," Vivek Kumar, Superintendent of Police, Muzaaffarpur, told PTI.

He said "all the injured, said to be around 20 in number, have

been rushed to the Shri Krishna Medical College and Hospital for treatment. The condition of some of them was stated to be critical".

Meanwhile, RJD MLA from Minapur, Munna Yadav, who rushed to the spot after the mishap, alleged that the driver of the vehicle was "definitely inebriated. There has been no control on consumption of alcohol despite the state government's claims of prohibition".

It's getting harder to prosecute politicians for corruption

cond from pg04  
House Speaker Paul Ryan's PAC.

In my opinion, the Supreme Court majority's decisions on corruption have demonstrated little concern about the corrosive effect of the decisions on the public's faith in their government. In Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission in 2010, the court struck down limits imposed on corporations to make "independent expenditures"


on behalf of candidates because they "do not give rise to corruption or the appearance of corruption."

According to Justice Anthony Kennedy's majority opinion, "the appearance of influence or access will not cause the electorate to lose faith in this democracy."

After years of the Supreme Court narrowing even minimal protections against public corruption, the U.S. now has a system where what

looks like bribery and corruption to the public is, in most cases, not illegal. Our political leaders are no longer kept in line by federal corruption law. They do not need to worry that if they bend over backwards to accommodate a donor's wishes, it could spark a bribery charge.

[the writer is Professor of Law, Wayne State University]



**RANGPO MUNICIPALITY**  
**RANGPO NAGAR PANCHAYAT**  
**EAST DISTRICT, RANGPO, SIKKIM**  
Email: rangpo.municipality@gmail.com

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are invited from the Individuals, Registered Cooperative Societies based in the jurisdiction of Rangpo Nagar Panchayat for the Bazaar Contract and Car Parking for the financial year 2018-2019.

The details of the contract and tender documents can be obtained from the Office of the Rangpo Nagar Panchayat at IBM, NH-10, Rangpo from 1.3.2018 to 8.3.2018 during working days from 10 AM to 3 PM.

First Date for the Sale of Tender Documents	1.3.2018
Last Date for the Sale of Tender Documents	8.3.2018
Last Date for Submission of Tender Forms	10.3.2018 UPTO (1300 HRS)
Date of Opening of Separate Tenders of Bazaar Contract and Car Parking by Tender Opening Committee	10.3.2018 (1400 HRS)

**CONTACT DETAILS : Municipal Assistant,78639-09396**

Sd-  
**MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**RANGPO NAGAR PANCHAYAT**



**SINGTAM MUNICIPALITY**  
**SINGTAM, SIKKIM**  
email : singtam.municipality@gmail.com

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are invited from the Individuals, Registered Cooperative Societies based in the jurisdiction of Singtam Nagar Panchayat for the Bazaar Contract and Car Parking for the financial year 2018-2019.

The details of the contract and tender documents can be obtained from the Office of the Singtam Nagar Panchayat, Singtam from 5.3.2018 to 12.3.2018 during working days from 10 AM to 3 PM.

First Date for the Sale of Tender Documents	5.3.2018
Last Date for the Sale of Tender Documents	12.3.2018
Last Date for Submission of Tender Forms	14.3.2018 UPTO (1300 HRS)
Date of Opening of Separate Tenders of Bazaar Contract and Car Parking by Tender Opening Committee	14.3.2018 (1400 HRS)

**CONTACT DETAILS : Municipal Head Assistant,94740-56128**

Sd-  
**MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**SINGTAM NAGAR PANCHAYAT**



# Onus on Mourinho to get Pogba performing for Conte clash

**MANCHESTER, FEB 24 (AFP):** Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho is under pressure to show a more daring approach and get the best out of Paul Pogba and Alexis Sanchez for a grudge match against Chelsea's Antonio Conte tomorrow.

Pogba hasn't completed 90 minutes in over a month after being dropped by Mourinho for Wednesday's 0-0 draw at Sevilla in the first leg of United's Champions League last 16 tie.

Despite avoiding defeat in Spain, thanks in large part to the heroics of goalkeeper David de Gea, Mourinho's ultra-defensive approach has drawn stinging criticism from pundits and sections of the United support alike.

The Portuguese reacted angrily when quizzed whether the club's two marquee signings of his reign in Pogba and Sanchez need more creative freedom to perform.

Sanchez's only goal in a United

shirt since joining from Arsenal last month came in bundling home the rebound after his penalty had been saved by Huddersfield goalkeeper Jonas Lossl.

Mourinho also has personal pride as well as vital points in the four-way race for three places in next season's Champions League at stake due to a roaring rift with Conte.

The two have exchanged multiple verbal jibes, most notably in January when Mourinho appeared to allude to a suspension Conte served in relation to match-fixing in Italy.

The Italian was later cleared of any wrongdoing.

"We can meet in a room to try to explain about these comments," Conte said at the time of his trip to Old Trafford, as well as labelling Mourinho "a little man."

**POGBA 'FANTASTIC' FOR CONTE**  
Conte was first to dabble in the war of words ahead of this weekend,

though, as he said he fully expects to see Pogba start on Sunday.

"We are talking about a top player, a fantastic player," said Conte, who coached Pogba at Juventus.

"My expectation is to see him on the pitch. If he stays out it will be better.

"Every coach has to find the right way to manage him. Pogba is showing at United he is a top player."

Pogba's role and the tactical battle between Mourinho and Conte could be influenced by the absence of Ander Herrera through injury.

Pogba replaced the Spanish midfielder after just 17 minutes in Sevilla to play in his favoured role on the left of a midfield three.

However, Mourinho used Herrera twice last season to virtually man-mark Chelsea dangerman Eden Hazard with very different results.

Herrera was sent-off after just 35 minutes as Chelsea edged an FA Cup tie 1-0 in March before United



responded by winning 2-0 Old Trafford in April.

Just four points separate United in second from Tottenham in fifth, whilst victory for fourth-placed Chelsea will move them level on points with their hosts.

"The run for a place in the Champions League is open, so we must pay great attention," added Conte.

"In this run there are many great

teams, and someone will have to stay out of the next Champions League."

Both sides could also feel the after effects of their Champions League exertions in midweek.

Chelsea have a slight advantage as they held Barcelona 1-1 at home on Tuesday, 24 hours ahead of United's trip to Sevilla.

And Conte has plenty of options to freshen up his starting XI after leav-

ing strikers Olivier Giroud and Alvaro Morata on the bench to deploy Hazard in an unusual central role.

Willian is likely to keep his place though after scoring and also hitting the woodwork twice against the Catalan giants.

"When you play this way, the coach doesn't have a doubt and you play," said Conte of the Brazilian's performance.

## Germans stun Canada, to face Russians in Olympic hockey final

**GANGNEUNG (SOUTH KOREA), FEB 23 (AFP):** Germany completed a shock run to their first men's Olympic hockey final Friday by dethroning two-time defending champion Canada 4-3, the fairytale squad advancing to a Sunday showdown for gold against the Olympic Athletes from Russia.

The Russians, seeking their first hockey gold since 1992, blanked the Czech Republic 3-0 to reach Sunday's championship contest, but were overshadowed by an unlikely German league all-star squad that collected their nation's greatest ever hockey victory.

"It's amazing. I can't believe it. It's like a dream. For us it's like, I don't know, best thing ever," Germany goaltender Danny aus den Birken said. "We have to realize we're playing in the final. I have to come down first to realize it."

"Who knows? If we keep fighting like this we have nothing to lose."

The Germans, familiar with one another from world championship play, are assured of an Olympic-best result -- their only prior medals being bronze in 1932 and as West Germany in 1976.

"We're just a bunch of hard-working guys who sacrifice for each other," said German forward Patrick Hager. "It's hard to believe. It gives you goosebumps."

Canada's nightmare defeat added to the misery of a hockey-mad nation a day after the women's team, seeking a fifth consecutive gold, lost the final to the United States in a shootout.

"They came out to play and we didn't," said Canada forward Rob Klinkhammer. "This was one of the biggest games we've ever played and there was no reason not to be ready. We let a big one get away from us."

The Russians, with players off the nation's two top clubs, hope to collect their first gold since the Unified Team won 26 years ago at Albertville -- just weeks after the breakup of the Soviet Union.

## Curious objects from India to help raise UK funds for elephant charity

**ADITI KHANNA LONDON, FEB 24 (PTI):**

A series of curious objects, including fertility symbols, collected by a British conservationist on his tours of India will help raise millions of pounds for a charity he founded to save the Asian elephant.

Mark Shand, the brother of Camilla Parker-Bowles wife of Prince Charles, had set up Elephant Family as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) dedicated to protecting the Asian elephant from extinction in the wild.

Mark Shand's Adventures and his Cabinet of Curiosities has been conceptualised as a multi-medium exhibition that captures the many journeys made by the writer and philanthropist, including many riding his Indian elephant named Tara.

While Shand passed away suddenly nearly four years ago, his daughter Ayesha is spearheading a new fundraising drive for the charity by putting up for auction some of the unique objects he collected on his travels as well as photographs of his



### ELEPHANT FAMILY

adventures by Indian photographer Aditya Patankar.

"Following his death in 2014, I inherited many of the photographs from his travels, and his cabinet of curiosities, and I looked for ways to understand and honour his exceptional life.

"My father collaborated with many artists in order to draw attention to the need to save the Asian elephant and their habitat," said Ayesha Shand, the co-curator of the exhibition.

Among the set of "curiosities"

on auction is an extensive collection of phallic fertility sculptures from tribes and villages across India and Indonesia.

They have been reimagined by being moulded in jesmonite from the originals by 48 artists, designers and illustrators, including Natasha Kumar, Philip and Charlotte Colbert and Jack Penny, among others.

The project included a collaboration with London-based mythologist and storyteller Seema Anand, who offered a sneak preview to her forthcoming book 'Arts of Seduction' based on the philosophies and the mythologies of the 'Kama-

sutra'. The exhibition, which opened earlier this month, was accompanied by a talk by Anand to contextualise the fertility symbols up for auction.

"The collection of Shands' fertility symbols, many of which he acquired during his travels in India, have a narrative that reaches far beyond the immediate physical aspect they are rooted in a mythology and philosophy that is both divine and terrestrial," she said.

"Much like the work of Elephant Family in the conservation of the Indian elephant, my work is based on the conservation and rehabilitation of India's ancient and medieval literatures and reintroducing them to society," she added.

The exhibition, with a total of 29 photographs and 101 original sculptures, is on auction via adventuresandcuriosities.com with all the funds raised ear-marked for the Elephant Family, which claims to have funded over 160 conservation projects and raised over 10 million pounds through public art events across the globe since 2002.

## Pune eye win to seal play-off berth

**PUNE, FEB 24 (PTI):** FC Pune City will look to seal a play-off berth when they take on a stuttering FC Goa in the Indian Super League (ISL) at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex here tomorrow.

Pune have won nine matches out of 16 so far and are placed in the second spot, below table-toppers Bengaluru FC with 29 points and a win or a draw will cement their position in the play-offs.

Goa, on the other hand, are placed in the seventh spot with 21 points and if they are able to beat Pune at the latter's home, they will jump to 24 points and remain in the hunt for the last four.

Pune had outclassed Jamshedpur FC (2-1) and blanked ATK (3-0) here but the hosts lost their last game at home against Kerala Blasters and they will be keen to erase the bad memories and come hard when they take on their Goan opponents.

Pune have fired on all cylinders this season. Their star

striker Marcelinho has been in scintillating form and he would look to continue his role in the team.

Mid-fielders Diego Carlos, Baljit Sahni, Issac Vanmalsawma, Jonathan Lucca and new recruit Marko Stankovic have all put in impressive performances so far and would love to make sure the absence of suspended Emiliano Alfaro does not count tomorrow.

Goa, meanwhile, will take heart from Pune's previous home game here when they suffered a 1-2 loss at the hands of Kerala Blasters.

Goa boasts of custodian Laxmikant Kattimani and his role will be of prime importance if the Pune strikers have to be halted.

The visitors have forwards like Manvir Singh, Ferran Corominas and mid-fielders such as Madar Dessai, Edu Bedia, Manuel Lanzarote and they would look to come good tomorrow and dent Pune's chances to make it to the play-offs.

## IOC debates Russia's Olympic fate as clock ticks

**PYEONGCHANG, FEB 24 (AFP):** Russia's fate hung in the balance as the International Olympic Committee met today to decide whether to lift its ban for mass doping before the Pyeongchang Winter Games closing ceremony.

Russia's national Olympic committee were suspended in December over systemic drug-cheating that reached its apex at the Sochi 2014 Olympics.

The IOC allowed 168 Russians deemed drug-free to compete in South Korea under a neutral flag, but despite extensive vetting, two of them failed drugs tests. The IOC will decide in the next 36 hours whether the country can be readmitted. Officials have pointed out that a "partial" lifting of the ban is one option for the IOC.

The behaviour of the 168 Russian athletes over the past fortnight -- including the failed doping tests -- will form a major part of the considerations. The IOC was giving nothing

away on Saturday as its executive board met behind closed doors to pour over the observations of a special panel scrutinising the Russians.

"The executive board will hear and decide today on the basis of what they've heard from the panel what the next steps will be," said IOC spokesman Mark Adams.

The Russians are hoping that the ban could be lifted in time to parade their national flag for Sunday evening's closing ceremony at Pyeongchang Olympic Stadium.

On Friday, Russia's bobsleigh federation said female pilot Nadezhda Sergeyeveva had tested positive for a "heart medicine" which is on the World Anti-Doping Agency's list of banned substances.

It was dope-scarred Russia's second doping case in Pyeongchang, after curler Alexander Krushelnitsky was stripped of his mixed doubles bronze medal for taking the banned substance.

## Arsenal stand in way of Pep's first Man City silverware

**LONDON, FEB 24 (AFP):** Pep Guardiola is anxious to play down suggestions that winning his first piece of silverware for Manchester City in tomorrow's League Cup final against Arsenal would herald a period of dominance.

The former Barcelona and Bayern Munich coach takes his side to Wembley with the Premier League title virtually in the bag and a place in the

Champions League quarter-finals looking certain.

But despite City's dominance this season, Guardiola will be eager to get his hands on a trophy, even if it would have been fourth on the list of his priorities when the campaign began.

City are clear favourites to beat Arsenal but Arsene Wenger's men have made a habit of cup success in recent years, winning the FA Cup in

three of the past four seasons.

"Not even in Barcelona when we won the first title in the cup did I expect to win 14 titles in four years," said Guardiola, anxious not to over-burden his players.

Defeat for City could lead to a certain feeling of anti-climax at the Etihad as it would follow hot on the heels of their FA Cup exit at the hands of lowly Wigan Athletic -- ending their quest for an historic quadruple.

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# Money-laundering watchdog: Close N Korean banks

**PARIS, FEB 24 (AP):** The watchdog that monitors global and illicit misuse of funds cited North Korea as a top source of “ongoing and substantial” money laundering and terrorist financing, and urged countries to keep North Korea at arm’s length and close its banks.

A report issued by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) yesterday named nine countries with “strategic deficiencies,” including Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Tunisia.

Pakistan escaped mention, despite foreboding that it could be listed.

Pakistan was on the list from 2012-2015 and feared a return would deter foreign investment and hurt access to

international financial markets.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Islamabad, Mohammad Faisal, said at a news briefing earlier Friday that the US and Britain had jointly submitted a letter to the FATF nominating Pakistan for placement on a “grey list.” Faisal said most of the concerns raised by Washington had been addressed in 2015, and Pakistan was still working to take more measures.

The FATF said after plenary session that North Korea has failed to address “significant deficiencies” in its system to combat the ills that pose a risk to the international financial system.

The FATF report on North Korea came as President Donald Trump increased US sanc-

tions on North Korea on Friday, blacklisting scores of companies and ships accused of illicit trading with the pariah nation.

The Paris-based global watchdog that monitors measures taken by nations to combat money laundering and terrorism financing urged nations to be cautious about business ties and transactions with North Korea, taking “necessary measures to close existing branches, subsidiaries and representative offices of (North Korean) banks within their territories.”

Targeted measures and sanctions are aimed at protecting world financial sectors from involvement in money laundering or financing terror or North Korea’s nuclear programme.

Iran was singled out in the report, but the task force chose to maintain its

suspension of counter-measures.

Bosnia and Herzegovina was removed from the FATF list, judged to be in compliance with efforts to counter money laundering and terror financing. Pakistan, which had feared it would end up on a watch list, got a reprieve.

The report urged Iran to continue addressing items on a now-expired action plan to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, citing an eight-item “to do” list that includes freezing terrorist assets and adequately criminalising terrorist financing, including by removing the exemption for designated groups’ attempting to end foreign occupation, colonialism and racism.”

The FATF warned that that action could be taken in June against Iran if progress is not made.

## US imposes “heaviest-ever” sanctions on North Korea

**LALIT K JHA**

**WASHINGTON, FEB 23 (PTI):**

US President Donald Trump today imposed the “heaviest-ever” sanctions on North Korea’s shipping companies in a bid to prevent the reclusive nation from acquiring nuclear weapons and developing intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Trump in his remarks at the Conservative Political Action Conference said he hoped “something positive” will come out of the latest round of tough sanctions.

“North Korea - we imposed today the heaviest sanctions ever imposed on a country before,” he said.

“But hopefully something positive can happen. But that just was announced, and I wanted to let you know we have imposed the heaviest sanctions ever imposed,” Trump said soon after the Department of Treasury announced a series of tough sanctions.

“This action targets the deceptive shipping practices that have enabled the Kim regime to fund its dangerous weapons programmes,” US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told reporters at a White House news conference.

The latest American actions target shipping and trade companies, vessels and individuals across the world who are working on North Korea’s behalf, he said.

Mnuchin said the sanctions were against 27 entities, 28 vessels and one individual and added that

all of them were involved in sanctions evasion schemes.

These shipping and trade companies, vessels and one individual, totalling 56 designations are located, registered or flagged in countries all over the world, including North Korea, China, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Marshall Islands, Tanzania, Panama and Comoros, he said.

“Today’s actions will significantly hinder North Korea’s ability to conduct evasive maritime activities that facilitate illicit coal and fuel transports, and limit the regime’s ability to ship goods through international waters,” Mnuchin said.

The American action is part of the ongoing maximum economic pressure campaign to cut off sources of revenue that the North Korean regime derives from the UN and US prohibited trade to fund its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, he added.

The US is also issuing a global shipping advisory in conjunction with the Coast Guard and the State Department to put everyone on notice of North Korea’s illicit maritime tactics and underscore the significant sanctions risk of engaging in maritime business with North Korea, Mnuchin said.

“We are releasing new imagery of the deceptive shipping practices used by those who aid and profit from illicit trade with North Korea.

“These images from December 2017 reveal ship-to-ship transfers of fuel and other products destined

for North Korea in an attempt to evade sanctions,” he said.

Mnuchin said the sanctions shine a spotlight on the practices employed by the government of North Korea to falsify identifying information on ships, and conceal illicit cargo.

These sanctions evasion tactics are prohibited by the UN Security Council resolutions and we are fully committed to shutting down those who engage in trade with them, he asserted.

“Through today’s actions, we are putting companies and countries across the world on notice that this administration views compliance with US and UN sanctions as a national security imperative. Those who trade with North Korea do so at their own peril,” Mnuchin said.

The Treasury Secretary warned that the countries who do business with North Korea will not be able to do business with the US.

A senior administration official told reporters that these designations are a critical part of the US’ maximum pressure campaign to diplomatically and economically isolate North Korea.

“These actions represent the latest development in the coordinated, whole-of-government US effort to disrupt, deter and dismantle North Korea’s illicit maritime shipping activities that Pyongyang uses to skirt UN sanctions, and to fund its WMD programmes and delivery systems,” the official said.

## Jaitley slams regulators, auditors for PNB fraud

**NEW DELHI, FEB 24 (PTI):**

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today blamed inadequate oversight by regulators and auditors as well as sloppy bank management for the Rs 11,400-crore fraud at India’s second-biggest state-owned lender, and said if needed law would be tightened to punish fraudsters.

Speaking for the second time this week on the scandal enveloping Punjab National Bank, Jaitley slammed lack of ethics in certain sections of businesses and said multiple layers of auditing system chose to either look the other way or did a casual job.

Without naming either the alleged kingpin of the fraud, billionaire jeweller Nirav Modi, or PNB, he said it is “worrisome” that not a single red flag was raised when the fraud was

perpetuated. Also, worrisome is “top managements who were indifferent to what was going on or were unaware of what was going on,” he said at The Economic Times Global Business Summit.

There were “at least multiple layers of auditing system which chose to either look the other way or do a casual job. You had inadequate supervision,” he said. “Therefore, I think who did what, will eventually find out in the course of investigation.”

Nirav Modi, whose diamond creations have draped Hollywood stars such as Kate Winslet and Dakota Johnson, his uncle Mehul Choksi and firms linked to them are alleged to have acquired fraudulent letters of undertaking (LoUs) from one PNB branch in Mumbai be-

tween 2011 and 2017 to obtain loans from Indian banks overseas for which they were ineligible.

Investigative agencies have raided their properties and arrested bank employees and persons linked to his firms.

“Regulators have a very important function. Regulators ultimately decide the rules of the game and regulators have to have a third-eye which is to be perpetually be open,” the finance minister said.

“But unfortunately in the Indian system, we politicians are accountable, the regulators are not.”

Frauds call for tightening regulations where they are lacking, he said. “The law would be tightened further, if necessary, in order to find out where they (fraudsters) are and what is the extreme action

that law permits against such delinquent persons.”

Jaitley said Indian businesses have to realise that it has to develop a habit of doing ethical business. “Those who deviate from that cause must always remember that the consequences will not only be commercial and civil.”

Stating that unethical practices in lender-borrower relationship where borrowed money is not intended to be returned should end, he said the initial experience of insolvency and bankruptcy code, where recoveries are made from serial defaulters by selling assets, has been reasonably transparent and objective.

“I think when I speak in terms of ethical practices I think it is a significant problem in India,” he said.

## Several bombs set off around troubled Myanmar state, 1 hurt



**BANGKOK, FEB 24 (AP):**

One of several bombs targeting government offices and other places in Myanmar’s troubled Rakhine state exploded today, injuring a police officer, authorities said.

In all, three bombs exploded and three unexploded devices were seized in Sittwe, the state capital. One of the explosions was in front of a high-ranking government official’s residence, state police officer Aug Myat Moe said.

“There were three bomb explosions around 4 AM this morning where one policeman was slightly injured and we are still investigating crime scenes,” he said. Last month, local police fired at protesters in the ancient city of Mrauk-U, killing at least seven Rakhine Buddhists and injuring a dozen. A township administrator was later found slain in his car by the side of the road.

Communal violence in Sittwe in 2012 displaced more than 120,000 Rohingya Muslims now confined to camps outside of the city, where most Rakhine Buddhists remain.

About 700,000 Rohingya have fled northern Rakhine towns and villages since last August to escape a military crackdown.

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES	
MAHA SHIVARATHRI BUMPER 2018	
Draw No:3 DrawDate on:23/02/18	
1st Prize Rs.1.25 Crores/- B 68452	(Including Super Prize Amt)
2nd Prize Rs.10 Lakhs/- E 97109	(Including Super Prize Amt)
3rd Prize Rs.9000/- 2097 2906 5272 8059 9396	
4th Prize Rs.5000/- 2298 4961 9727 9833 9840	
5th Prize Rs.2000/- 4263 5486 5730 7788 9683	
6th Prize Rs.1000/-	
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3497 3885 3962 4090 4193 4216 4515 4666 4739 4921	
5077 5149 5652 5795 5974 6230 6321 6790 7052 7375	
7722 7757 7805 7850 8672 9315 9455 9461 9632 9710	
7th Prize Rs.500/-	
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0312 0342 0363 0396 0470 0504 0537 0657 0747 0855	
0883 0903 1000 1018 1032 1045 1071 1237 1240 1278	
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7895 7941 7949 7955 8158 8186 8215 8233 8251 8276	
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## At least 23 killed in multiple attacks in Afghanistan

**KABUL, FEB 24 (AFP):**

At least 23 people were killed and more than a dozen wounded in multiple suicide bombings and attacks in Afghanistan today, officials said, the latest in a series of assaults in the war-torn country.

In the biggest attack, Taliban militants stormed an army base in the western province of Farah overnight, killing at least 18 soldiers.

“Last night a big group of militants attacked an army base in Bala Buluk district of Farah. Unfortunately, we lost 18 soldiers, two soldiers were wounded. We have sent more reinforcements to the area,” defence ministry spokesman Daulat Wazir said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. Deputy provincial governor Yunus Rasooli said the authorities had sent a fact-finding delegation to Bala Buluk to investigate the assault.

In another attack, a suicide bomber detonated his explosives near the diplomatic area of Kabul during the morning rush hour, killing at least three people and wounding five

others, deputy interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi told AFP.

“At around 8:30 am, a suicide bomber on foot, well-dressed with a necktie on, was identified at a checkpoint. He blew up his explosives, killing three and wounding five others,” he said, updating an earlier toll.

A security source who requested not to be named said the explosion happened near a compound belonging to the National Directorate of Security (NDS), the Afghan intelligence agency. The NDS compound is located near the NATO headquarters and the US embassy.

“I was driving nearby when I heard a big explosion, the windows of my car were smashed. I saw several wounded people on the street near me,” a witness told Tolonews TV adding that security forces had since swarmed the area, closing off the main road leading to the attack site.

In December, a suicide attacker on foot blew himself up near the same compound, killing at least six civilians.

## MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

**LABHLAXMI VIRGO**

Draw No:3 DrawDate on:24/02/18
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 1645
2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 4757 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1179
4th Prize Rs.300/- 6199 5th Prize Rs. 205/- 1817
6th Prize Rs.100/-
1018 1037 1046 1056 1106 1147 1152 1164 1167 1173
1186 1187 1191 1192 1219 1234 1236 1240 1246 1286
1308 1317 1324 1358 1375 1405 1419 1445 1494 1496
1500 1505 1508 1530 1552 1570 1571 1572 1584 1613
1667 1670 1687 1695 1726 1742 1744 1755 1777 1796
1819 1828 1923 1944 1945 1972 2039 2042 2063 2101
2102 2122 2135 2180 2245 2247 2312 2332 2382 2393
2436 2482 2513 2536 2540 2573 2576 2581 2602 2652
2682 2796 2836 2887 2910 2945 2976 3027 3030 3076
3128 3130 3134 3191 3192 3213 3229 3250 3339 3432
3435 3534 3608 3618 3653 3658 3716 3754 3763 3789
3797 3826 3830 3845 3849 3853 3894 3906 3914 3916
3983 3987 3988 4007 4020 4076 4082 4089 4103 4120
4125 4140 4148 4158 4171 4175 4238 4246 4256 4302
4306 4311 4324 4357 4382 4386 4408 4491 4495 4527
4535 4546 4614 4666 4670 4684 4731 4738 4754 4783
4838 4879 4908 4928 4937 4939 4941 4956 4973 5013
5062 5074 5075 5127 5164 5196 5234 5257 5288 5298
5310 5347 5355 5364 5421 5485 5539 5594 5613 5675
5677 5684 5693 5697 5705 5717 5810 5827 5888 5916
5918 5934 5964 5996 6044 6096 6125 6155 6164 6173
6198 6239 6244 6253 6257 6266 6308 6314 6349 6351
6397 6426 6435 6473 6480 6517 6601 6617 6618 6691
6719 6750 6768 6792 6861 6875 6889 6908 6951 6969

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## ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES

**MUMBAILAXMI RAJA**

Draw No:3 DrawDate on:24/02/18
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 3092 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 1696
3rd Prize Rs. 1,000/- 5473 4th Prize Rs. 505/- 4619
5th Prize Rs.200/-
1000 1051 1141 1144 1191 1194 1201 1304 1351 1398
1503 1619 1642 1677 1688 1786 1842 1850 1859 1869
1935 1995 2094 2192 2206 2208 2238 2263 2301 2305
2324 2333 2341 2404 2412 2512 2517 2537 2746 2829
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3111 3159 3170 3213 3243 3271 3280 3468 3481 3489
3526 3719 3845 3992 3994 4007 4027 4053 4147 4154
4240 4282 4314 4336 4341 4439 4500 4749 4794 4855
4880 4891 4906 4910 5014 5099 5185 5258 5311 5319
5372 5466 5532 5577 5591 5599 5741 5779 5953 5999
6th Prize Rs.100/-
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1462 1495 1506 1515 1547 1548 1579 1580 1582 1620
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5769 5756 5780 5845 5855 5875 5904 5964 5991 5995

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Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards
Draw No:12 DrawDate on:24/02/18
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 95K 14864
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.9499/- 14864 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
16148 17768 29704 32711 58928
60322 70321 85315 86707 96143
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0121 0865 4353 4841 5607 5665 5733 7667 8365 8974
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0176 0418 0574 0920 1598 4566 6548 7433 8556 8933
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0107 0320 0393 0441 0529 0593 0605 0911 0977 0987
0996 1006 1013 1046 1069 1282 1474 1499 1595 1697
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3785 4059 4204 4269 4390 4432 4588 4642 4933 5019
5114 5196 5435 5538 5576 5613 5688 5812 5950 6010
6080 6765 6774 6798 6862 6981 6991 7079 7093 7177
7237 7370 7431 7438 7486 7535 7708 7886 7897 7962
8054 8057 8065 8444 8481 8562 8639 8641 8562 8736
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NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR PRIZED
Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards



# It was very awkward: Wahlberg on getting more pay than William

**LOS ANGELES, FEB 24 (PTI):** Actor Mark Wahlberg has admitted it was "very awkward" for him when he was paid more than his "All the Money in the World" co-star Michelle Williams for the film's reshoots.

It was reported that Wahlberg was paid USD 1.5 million while Williams made less than USD 1,000 for the reshoots with veteran actor Christopher Plummer, who had replaced Kevin Spacey in the film after allegations of sexual misconduct surfaced against him.

Wahlberg later donated the entire amount to the Time's Up movement and, now in an interview with Entertainment Tonight, said it was the "right thing" to do.

"It didn't take much to make the decision. It was just the right thing to do, you know? And Michelle is a fan-



tastic actress.

"It's not me who decides who gets paid what. Your value's based on what the marketplace dictates, and with that particular situation, it was very awkward," Wahlberg said.

The 46-year-old actor insisted that in the first he had

taken a "substantial pay cut" to appear in the film.

"It was like, you know what, we'll donate that and they need the rest of the money that I got paid to do it too, because I, like everybody else, did the movie to make the movie with Ridley Scott. I took

a substantial pay cut," he said.

After Wahlberg's decision to donate the money, Williams had issued a statement, saying she was happy that "the most powerful men in charge" listened and made an effort to bridge the pay gap.



## Margot Robbie feels her job is not 'glamorous'

**LONDON, FEB 24 (PTI):** Actor Margot Robbie believes her job is not "glamorous" as compared to her other friends' occupations.

The 27-year-old actor said she feels envious of her friends who work in offices and they get to slip into smart suits every day.

"I feel like my friends who work in offices have more glamorous jobs. They do their make-up, put on a tailored skirt and blouse and go to work. I go to work in my pyjamas and my Ugg boots and we are pretty much on a glorified construction site, sitting in the dirt on plastic chairs using Portaloos and eating fried food," Robbie told Metro newspaper.

"That's what acting actually is. Then a handful of times in the year you get to put on a designer dress and get glammed up," she added.

Robbie recently starred in the biopic "I, Tonya," which based on the life of American ice skater Tonya Harding. She has been nominated for the Best Actress Oscar for the role.

## Jennifer Lawrence had dropped out of school to pursue acting

**LOS ANGELES, FEB 24 (PTI):** Actor Jennifer Lawrence has said that she had dropped out of school when she was 14 to pursue acting.

In an interview with 60 Minutes Bill Whitaker, a sneak peak of which was released recently, the "Hunger Games" actor said she was not a "very smart" student during her school days and never fit in back home in Louisville, Kentucky.

"I struggled through school. I never felt very smart. And when I'm reading this script, and I feel like I know exactly what it would look like if somebody felt that way. That was a whole part of my brain that I didn't even know existed -

something that I could be confident in, and I didn't want to let it go," Lawrence said.

"I dropped out of middle school. I don't technically have a GED or a diploma. I am self-educated," Lawrence said.

The 27-year-old actor next plays a Russian intelligence officer who makes heartbreaking sacrifices at a young age in the new spy thriller Red Sparrow.

Asked whether she regrets her decision, Lawrence said, "No. I really don't. I wanted to forge my own path. I found what I wanted to do and I didn't want anything getting in the way of it. Even friends, for many years, were not as important to me as my career.



## Al Pacino plays Penn State coach in first full trailer for HBO's movie about Sandusky sex abuse scandal!

**H**BO has released the first full trailer for Paterno, with Al Pacino playing the scandal-plagued Penn State head coach. The clip introduces 'Joe Paterno, the winningest coach in college football history, before Pacino is abruptly asked: 'Dad, did you know about Jerry?'

The film centers on Paterno's free fall from grace amid his purported knowledge - and non-action - of Jerry Sandusky, who was sentenced to 30-60 years imprisonment after being found guilty of the sexual abuse of underage boys in 2012.

It also introduces Journalist Sara Ganim [Riley Keough] who pursued the case from the start.

"40 news organisations want to interview you," she is



told. "You're the only reporter that's followed this thing."

"She makes money by telling lies," one Sandusky defender accuses. "She doesn't have a good lie, she doesn't get a good paycheck." "Well it must not be a good lie cause it's a tiny f\*cking paycheck," she barks back.

The clip also shows Paterno coming under pressure to

quit his position. "You need to step down. You need to resign before somebody does it for you," he is told.

"I raised millions of dollars for this university. I have a staff and a squad that can win a national championship," he fires back. "You wanna fire me? Try it."

The trailer ends with Paterno's wife Sue [Kathy Baker]

providing him with an uncomfortable alibi.

"He went in the pool with the kids," she tells him. "Jerry did? Our kids? What are you saying?" he asks.

"I'm saying you couldn't have known," she replies. "Otherwise you wouldn't have let them go in the pool. Right?"

The film's director, Academy Award winner Barry Levinson, told Penn Live that the movie explores the juxtaposition between Paterno's once golden reputation to the idea he was the chief enabler to a serial sex predator.

"Joe Paterno was known as an honorable man, an educator, a humanitarian," the filmmaker told the outlet. "So trying to make sense out of what happened is, for me, the most

fascinating aspect of the story. What did he understand? What did he not understand?"

Levinson said that the film is only focused on the two weeks amid scandal's genesis in November of 2011, and leaves it to the viewers to draw their own conclusions on Paterno, who was nicknamed JoePa.

"The film lays out the elements of the story and leaves you to make your own judgment," he said. "There are times when you may feel one way, and times when you may feel a totally different way, and I think that's what makes the piece so compelling."

Pacino said that the question swirling around Paterno 'isn't just what he knew, it's what he did about it.

The Hollywood legend said he believes Paterno 'knew there were complaints' and 'rumors' about his assistant, who remains in custody in SCI-Somerset in Somerset, Pennsylvania.

"I don't think [Paterno] was very fond of Sandusky, for whatever reasons," he said. "I think there were other reasons."

Paterno 'did act upon' the rumblings he had heard and 'did say he thought someone should look into this,' Pacino noted.

"But a guy like Paterno, he's like an emperor, he's like a king. He didn't take up with it because it was out of his control, and I think this is a character who's used to control."

The film is slated to air on HBO later this year.



**BACK IN BLACK!** Pregnant Chrissy Teigen is supermodel chic as she rocks thigh-high leather boots and a \$3.5k Chanel shopping bag. She's expecting her second child with husband John Legend in June.

**ARIES:** Your creative nature will no longer be repressed, Aries! As you look around your home, you realize you feel the need to spruce it up a bit. Motivated by a desire to give dinner parties and invite family members who live far away to come for a visit, you get to work repainting, wallpapering, and maybe even sending that sofa out to be reupholstered. The final result will be fantastic. Aries. You'll be proud.

**TAURUS:** You've always had psychic ability, and today it's at a peak, Taurus. Perhaps not coincidentally, you're likely to be contacted by a close friend or lover from your past. He or she isn't calling to renew your relationship but rather for advice. Your heightened abilities today

make you the ideal confidant. Listen closely and advise what your heart tells you is right.

**GEMINI:** Prosperity is just around the corner, Gemini, if it isn't here already. All your efforts are about to pay off and in a big way. It may be that a big proposal gets accepted at work, or perhaps a manuscript that you've penned lands you a publisher. Your innate talent and good fortune combine to bring wonderful things your way. Enjoy this welcome change of events!

**CANCER:** There is passion in the air, Cancer, and you're convinced that you're the one electrifying the air around you. To be blunt, you can think of little else but sex today. Perhaps it's a result of working too hard for too long and not

taking the time to indulge your sensual side. Well, there's no time like the present. Why not invite a certain special someone for a home-cooked meal? Light a candle, open a bottle of wine, and see what happens.

**LEO:** You have an innate psychic ability that only needs some fine-tuning and strengthening for it to develop into a formidable power. Even now you sometimes find yourself reading other people's thoughts. This sensitivity gets you into trouble sometimes, but mostly it works to your advantage. In relationships, especially, you're able to put an end to hurt feelings before they evolve into something irreparable.

**VIRGO:** You surprise yourself by signing up for a group lesson

rather than a private one. This is unlike you; nevertheless, you find you enjoy the social interaction. Besides, whether you're learning cooking or rock climbing, it's always much more fun to learn with others. That way, you can learn from their mistakes and they from yours. It's bound to be a fun, adventurous day, Virgo. Enjoy it.

**LIBRA:** You've been working especially hard and you're beginning to wonder if all your effort has been for naught. A restructuring at work leaves you wondering just exactly where you fit in or if you even fit in at all. You may have a troubling few days, Libra, but will be relieved to learn that the higher-ups have big plans for you in the newly orga-

nized, streamlined company. **SCORPIO:** You're bubbling over with confidence and enthusiasm, Scorpio. Not surprisingly, those around you respond in kind. Your smile is contagious and you have people joking and laughing with you throughout the day. You'll have much success in whatever you do today, although group efforts will likely prove more rewarding. Romance figures prominently in the evening, so make the most of it! **SAGITTARIUS:** Your natural intuition and sensitivity will be heightened today, Sagittarius. You're able to read the thoughts and feelings of others and interpret them accurately. Alas, you can't use this skill as effectively on yourself. Some old issues

have reemerged, causing you some distress. These issues are blocking you in some way. You won't be able to move forward with your life until you resolve them once and for all. Perhaps a professional psychic could help. **CAPRICORN:** A new relationship is likely to form soon, and it will probably be with someone who's already in your life. Perhaps it's someone you knew in high school and you just recently got back in touch with, or perhaps a colleague at work suddenly begins to pay you a lot of attention. Romance is definitely in the air today, Capricorn, so keep your eyes open for subtle cues from the people in your life. **AQUARIUS:** Your head is somewhat in the clouds today, Aquarius. This isn't necessarily a bad thing;

it just means that it's difficult for you to get any work done. Much as you'd rather be elsewhere, you really do need to stay focused on the projects at hand. By all means, plan an exit strategy from the mundane routine of your day-to-day life, but don't expect to make your escape today. **PISCES:** Your heart and intuition will rule today much more than your mind. Trust what your instincts tell you, Pisces. If you're in a sales profession, you can expect the orders to come rolling in today, as your extrasensory perception helps you know your clients' needs almost before they do. Plan a romantic encounter with someone you love, and put your ESP to work on him or her tonight.