



DRAKE, RODDY RICCH AND MEGAN THEE STALLION LEAD THE 2020 BET AWARD NOMINATIONS
pg 08

WHAT AFTER CASHING IN?

pg 04

AFTA FILM AWARDS PUSHED TO APRIL 11, FOLLOWING OSCARS CHANGE

pg 08



SummitTIMES

Vol 05 | Issue 157 | Gangtok | Wednesday | 17 June 2020

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

All inmates at Kyongsa quarantine facility test negative

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 JUN:**

A total of 183 new samples were tested in the Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory at STNM Hospital on Monday. These included 113 samples from quarantine facility of Kyongsa in Gyalshing, West Sikkim, and all tested negative, informed Health Department DG-cum-Secretary, Dr Pempa Tshering Bhutia in his daily

health bulletin on Tuesday.

The Kyongsa quarantine centre, it may be recalled, had been declared a containment zone after four people lodged there had tested positive for COVID-19 recently.

He further informed that samples of four positive patients from the isolation ward were also tested on Sunday but all tested positive again. He added that these samples were of a Mumbai re-

turnee who returned on 01 June and of three Delhi returnees who returned on 25 May.

"If they had tested negative then we would have conducted their repeat test within 24 hours and discharged them if they tested negative in the repeat test. But after being tested positive they will be kept for some more days under observation," he said.

He informed that there are

64 active cases in the State and four have already been discharged after testing negative in repeated testing.

Dr Bhutia informed that 54 patients are admitted in the isolation ward and 04 at Triage facility of STNM hospital and 13 were admitted at Ayush Hospital in Gyalshing, West Sikkim.

Likewise, 558 vehicles and 968 passengers were screened at Rangpo and Melli check-

posts on Monday. A total of 103 persons have attended the flu clinic, which includes 23 at STNM hospital, 28 at CRH Tadong, 25 at East and 27 at West Sikkim.

He informed that 73 people returned to Sikkim on Sunday in which 70 were from East Sikkim and 03 from North Sikkim. It is informed that total number of returnees so far is 6,961.

SKM laughs-off SDF demand for President's Rule



**SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 16 JUNE:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party spokesperson, Jacob Khaling, today rejected the Sikkim Democratic Front demand for President's Rule in Sikkim as the "Joke of the Year."

He asserted that to make such demand in a peaceful state like Sikkim was an insult to the people's mandate.

SDF had made the demand contending that the law & order situation in the state had deteriorated under the SKM Government. SDF spokesperson, JB Darnal, it may be recalled, had recently been assaulted.

Mr Khaling contended that while the SKM government was working to protect the people of Sikkim from COVID-19, the SDF was keeping busy trying to mislead and instigate the people with false allegations and imagined issues.

He was responding to allegations made by SDF

spokesperson, MK Subba on Monday.

Responding to a query, Mr Khaling stressed that SKM had no hand in the recent attack on Mr Darnal. He stated that the police was investigating the matter and that he was confident that they will get to the bottom of the issue.

He cast aspersions on the claims of the assault as well and commented that it was very suspicious that Mr Darnal has not provided any details about his attackers.

He also claimed that SDF leaders have been inconsistent in the claims about the attack and countered that he will not put it past SDF to hurt its own people to defame the SKM Government.

He, in turn, demanded that before SDF accuses anyone of violence, it should discuss the more than 20 political murders and more than 1000 political attacks that took place during 25 years of SDF government.

CM participates in video conference with PM

GANGTOK, 16 JUN (IPR): Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang participated in a video conference called on by the Prime Minister with Chief Ministers of 21 States to discuss the situation emerging post-Unlock 1.0 and plans for combating the pandemic.

A PowerPoint presentation was presented by Secretary, Ministry of Health on the impact of lockdown on COVID-19 outbreak and the way forward.

The positive outcome of the lockdown was highlighted, duly giving credit to community participation, awareness, Jan Andolan initiated (behaviour change) which restricted the spread of the disease to a great extent. The continuous decline in the growth rate of cases and death rates in the country was also reflected.

Further, the current challenges were highlighted in view of the phased-wise unlocking considering that India is one of the most populated countries in the world. Checking the spread of the disease, new areas getting affected by the movement of people, rise of cases by 2 ½ times in the last 14 days, 31 new



districts from the North-East States reporting new cases, 59 districts in 8 States reporting a surge of COVID-19 positive cases are some of the growing challenges.

The presentation emphasized on continued focus on surveillance and containment, notifying containment zones, active house to house case finding, strict perimeter control, comprehensive contact tracking, adequate testing, community involvement for containment zone management, treatment of cases as per protocol, quarantine facilities in rural areas and appropriate behaviour, informed citizens, confident commu-

nity, community awareness on social distancing, promoting homemade masks, Do Gaj ki Doori, frequent hand washing, respiratory hygiene and sanitation, emphasis on precautions for elderly and comorbid.

Thereafter the States provided feedback, suggestions and support for an effective plan for further phased unlocking in the country.

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi reiterated that we need to realize that the fight is not over and hence be extra careful, alert and work in cooperation to combat the disease. He informed about trying to save every life and mentioned

that the recovery rate is over 50% in the country.

He pressed on the need to focus on both life and livelihood, improving health infrastructure, testing and tracing as well as increasing economic activities. He expressed that timely decisions taken to combat the pandemic have been effective in containing its spread in the country.

The Prime Minister acknowledged the views and suggestions put forth by the States and thanked them for their continuous support in the fight against the pandemic which has been successful to a great extent as compared to other countries in the world.

Aviation fuel price hiked by 16.3 pc; petrol up 47 paise, diesel by 93 paise

NEW DELHI, JUN 16 (PTI): Jet fuel or ATF price on Tuesday was hiked by 16.3 per cent while petrol price was increased by 47 paise per litre and that of diesel by a record 93 paise on the back of firming international oil rates.

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was hiked by Rs 5,494.5 per kilolitre (kl), or 16.3 per cent, to Rs 39,069.87 per kl in the national capital, according to a price notification by state-owned oil marketing companies.

This is the second straight increase in ATF price this month. Rates were hiked by a record 56.5 per cent (Rs 12,126.75 per kl) on June 1.

Simultaneously, petrol and diesel prices were hiked for the 10th day in a row.

Petrol price in Delhi was hiked to Rs 76.73 per litre from Rs 76.26, while diesel rates were increased to Rs 75.19 a litre from Rs 74.26, the price notification said.

In 10 hikes, petrol price has gone up by Rs 5.47 per litre and diesel by Rs 5.8 a litre.

Rates have been increased across the country and vary from state to state depending on the incidence of local sales tax or VAT.

The hike in diesel rates is the highest daily increase since the state-owned fuel retailers started daily revision in rates in May 2017.

Tuesday's increase in petrol and diesel price marks the 10th straight day of rise in rates since oil companies on June 7 restarted revising prices in line with costs, after ending an 82-day hiatus.

The freeze in rates was imposed in mid-March soon after the government hiked excise duty on petrol and diesel to shore up additional finances.

Oil PSUs Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) instead of passing on the excise duty hikes to customers adjusted them against the fall in the retail rates that was warranted because of fall in international oil prices.

The June 1 hike in jet fuel price had come after seven consecutive reductions in rates since February. ATF price in Delhi before the reduction cycle began in February was Rs 64,323.76 per kilolitre, which got reduced to Rs 21,448.62 last month.

COVID vaccine at least a year away, say scientists

SHAKOOR RATHER

NEW DELHI, JUN 16 (PTI): Vaccine design is still an empirical, trial and error process and a preventive against COVID-19 could be at least a year away, say scientists as information on developments in therapeutics to combat the infection flows in a steady trickle from across the world.

While quelling the buzz of a quick breakthrough, the scientists also hold out hope that the process might be cut short by a few months if testing approvals and scale-ups in manufacturing happen simultaneously.

According to the World Health Organisation, 10 candidate vaccines for COVID-19 are in the clinical evaluation and 126 are in the preclinical stage.

Preclinical development is a stage of research during which important feasibility, iterative testing and drug safety data are collected, while clinical trials are research studies performed on people.

There are different broad strategies by which SARS-CoV-2 vaccines are being developed the world over, explained immunologist Satyajit Rath.

While all are well-known strategies -- some almost two centuries old and some almost two decades old -- none are 'guaranteed' to yield a usable vaccine, the scientist from the National Institute of Immunology (NII) in New Delhi told PTI.

Vaccine design still remains mostly an empirical, trial and error process, rather than an innovative knowledge-driven one. This is why, while any of these approaches is being put through trial and error, it remains a 'vaccine candidate' rather than a 'vaccine', he added.

According to Robert Gallo, director of the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland in the US, What's being confused -- and scientists and politicians are contributing to the confusion -- is the difference between a candidate and a vaccine."

He was speaking at a virtual meeting earlier this month when scientists at the University of California (UC) Davis and from other institutes in the US gathered to lay out a full picture of the complexities of developing and distributing a COVID-19 vaccine -- which they generally agreed won't happen until some time in 2021.

"We are not expected to return to a fully normal life until a vaccine is developed. But how long will that take? UC Davis Chancellor Gary S. May asked in the meeting.

About a year, maybe more, was the consensus.

In India, where the number of COVID-19 cases on Tuesday rose to 3,43,091 and the death toll to 9,900, scientists agreed with their counterparts abroad

With at least six Indian companies

working on a vaccine for COVID-19 and the Serum Institute of India last week announcing a deal with the company Astra Zeneca to supply one billion doses of vaccine for low and middle-income countries to combat the coronavirus, the buzz has been growing louder.

"We finally have a deal signed with @AstraZeneca, to exclusively manufacture their product for India and @gavi countries, up to a billion doses annually. This will ensure supply and access to all Indians," Adar Poonawala, the CEO of the Serum Institute, tweeted on June 13.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged USD 15 million as India's contribution to the vaccines alliance GAVI at the Global Vaccine Summit hosted by the UK.

But that does not translate into a vaccine anytime soon, scientists said.

My guess for that is, not before the middle of the next year, Rath said.

However, he noted that the time estimates might be pruned by a couple of months with simultaneous movements on testing-approval and manufacturing scale-up, and also by exception-shortcuts from regulatory authorities.

He explained that there are several challenges that will arise once such vaccines are ready to go into the market, since 'going into the market' and going

into the 'public health system' are not the same thing.

Questions will remain on the 'availability' at a large scale, especially to the poor.

One limitation, of course, is the scale of manufacturing. Huge numbers of doses will have to be manufactured in very short times to reach everyone. A number of governmental and non-governmental organisations are trying to set up industrial partnerships to address this issue," he said.

A second issue, the scientist said, will be the cost of vaccines, with the linked issue of intellectual property rights.

A final issue, he noted, is of actual implementation and delivery of vaccination.

"The resources and the technical-administrative structures needed for such a vaccination campaign are massive. It is not clear if any national governments have the understanding and the practical commitment to them. That might end up being the biggest roadblock of all, Rath said.

Umashankar Singh, assistant professor, Biological Engineering, IIT-Gandhinagar, said he is hoping a candidate vaccine may be available by the end of 2020, even if it is for a limited set of the population.

Two facets of vaccine production, in his view, need to be considered mass production of the lab product

and also ensuring that the product is actually effective enough to justify mass production.

There are other challenges too, he said, adding that there is evidence for a range of virulence, variable infection rates and asymptomatic infections and emergence of multiple strains.

The uncertainty posed by these issues is likely to throw spanner in the works towards mass production of vaccines. This vaccine development is like chasing a moving target, a target we don't know well enough. The question we should be asking is, even if a vaccine were to be available, how long would its effectiveness last?" he told PTI.

Singh noted that the emergence of a vaccine may or may not allow real protection against a rapidly evolving pathogen, but it would certainly allow us a psychological relief of being immune to the virus.

"That would allow us to move on to the issues of economy, social interactions and ease of governance, he said.

Even if by end of the year 2020 a candidate vaccine gets regulatory approval, mass production and supply chain is going to be a challenge, added an Indian virologist who didn't wish to be named.

If it is a single dose vaccine, the world will need at least eight billion doses, a task that might several months and maybe years. If it is a two dose vaccine, the challenge becomes bigger.

Summit Times
in Nepali
f <https://www.facebook.com/SummitTimesSikkim/>
Watch our Nepali broadcast every evening on Facebook at Summit Times Daily Page. Please like, Share, Comment and let us know we can improve.
Thank You!

One Nation, One Ration Card scheme will strip Sikkimese of their special status, Cong alleges

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 JUN:

The Congress has advised the SKM Government to keep itself better informed about Sikkim's unique status within the Union of India and not allow the Centre to dictate dilution of the special status accorded on Sikkim by Article 371F of the Constitution of India. In the Congress crosshairs is the "One Nation, One Ration Card" initiative of the NDA Government, which, it believes, is a move towards "One Nation, One Citizen," something which will strip Sikkimese of their special identity.

Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee president, Bharat Basnet, alleged that the ONORC scheme of was a process towards the One Nation One Citizen design.

He asserted that the scheme was a direct attack on Article 371F so the State government should rise above opportunistic politics and take stand against the scheme in the interest of Sikkim and its people.

Addressing a press conference here this morning, Mr Basnet criticized and condemned the statement attributed to UDHD Minister, Arun Uprety, who likened the One Nation One Ration Card scheme to an ATM – a provision which will allow ration-card holders to withdraw rations from anywhere in the country.

Mr Basnet stated that the Article 371F was not demanded by the people or political parties of Sikkim but was given by the Congress party to the people of Sikkim.



He added that ONORC was a move towards One Nation One Citizen regime and hence a direct attack on the Article 371F.

"We cannot be generalized with other citizens of the country as we are not at par with them due

to the special provisions given to Sikkim and its people by the Article 371F. Even the BJP leadership has accepted that Sikkimese are not at par with other people of the country during discussions on CAB and demonetization," he expressed.

The SPCC president stressed that the SKM government should stand for the mandate given to it by the people of Sikkim. He asserted that if SKM was not able to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people then it should leave office.

CJM directs SHO to register complaint against Pataal Lok as FIR

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 JUNE:

Chief Judicial Magistrate [East], on Tuesday, directed the Sadar Thana to register an FIR on the basis of a complaint lodged against web-series, Pataal Lok. The CJM order was on a petition filed by Arun Limboo and Prakash Gurung on 08 June contending that the series had offended them and the Nepali community and has sought directions that their complaint be taken as an FIR and their allegations investigated.

Speaking to media persons, counsel for the petitioners, Nawin Kiran Pradhan, said, "We decided not to sit silent on the indecent and racial slur made against the



Nepali community in the web-series and registered our objection to it."

He further informed that they had lodged a complaint at Sadar Thana on 23 May itself requesting the police to take strict action against the makers.

When the thana refused to register their complaint as an FIR even after they approached the SP [East], they decided to approach the CJM.

Mr Pradhan explained that the CJM passed the order today directing the SHO to

register an FIR and have the case investigated to determine whether the dialog in question causes promotion or enmity between different groups on the grounds of race and language, or whether, commission of the this act is prejudicial to main-

tenance of harmony.

He added that the order also states that investigation is also warranted to ascertain if the alleged insult was committed to provoke breach of peace or even create or promote enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes or to entice any class or community or person to commit any offence against any other class or community.

"We are very hopeful that the Sadar Thana will soon register the case to investigate the matter and issue notices to the directors and producers of Pataal Lok," Mr Pradhan said.

He also congratulated the petitioners for having come forward and approached the court on the matter.

The COVID Diaries: Eat Organic, Stay Healthy, Keep COVID at bay

KESANGLA D LHASUNGA (KDL) & BISHNU P SHARMA

Although first detected in the year 2019, but the year 2020 will be remembered as the COVID year in the history of mankind. When the entire world was yet to acclimatize to the lockdown, one young man from a small Himalayan town also called the Abode of Tathagatha Tsal, Rabong, South Sikkim left the comforts of his luxurious home in search of a solution that the lockdown will have to the farmers of his State. Yes the entire world is on the verge of recession and our country is no exception but only time will tell the exact economic impact the lockdown will have but at the same time lockdown has been very important to control the spread of COVID 19. Our state under the pragmatic leadership of Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) and with the support from the entire frontline warriors have been able to keep our state free from Covid-19 until the first case that was reported on 22.05.2020 from JNV Rabong quarantine facility. Our stranded fellow Sikkimese had appealed to the government to facilitate the homecoming process and so the process of homecoming was initiated. Here besides playing the blame game, we as responsible Sikkimese should realize that the stranded people had to travel from across the length and breadth of the country thereby crossing various red zones and here I conclude that the few cases of COVID 19 were inevitable. The Health Department has assured that they are well equipped and prepared to deal with the COVID 19 infection.

Meet Karma Choda Bhutia an alumni of North Point Darjeeling and YMCA Delhi where



he completed BA in English and Masters in Mass communication. A social activist and businessman by profession started his journey on 03.04.2020 and visited the entire Barfung Constituency in South Sikkim on foot. During the first leg of his journey he visited Ranek, Lower Jarrong, Jugeything, Jogi Gaon, Mangchyak, Deythang, Selep, Aneythang. The second leg covered the villages namely Sada, Phamtam, 10th Mile, Bermolli, Upper Borong, Borong Hotspring, Polok, Lower Polok, Mangardalam, Sokaylakha, Tektam, Lower Namlung. The third leg covered the villages namely Khyongkha Gereything, Kkalem, Siming, Lingding, Bharla, Jhushingthang, Bering the final leg covered the villages Mangbrue, Lepcha Gaon, Lamaten, Lower Tingmoo, Bhirgaon Lingyong, Sangleybong, Tinkitam, Chekhim. Rayong Sardong, Sibek, Sagbari, Hingdam. The journey ended on 30.04.2020 wherein he had covered the entire eight Gram Panchayat Units comprising of 46 Wards under 09 Barfung Constituency, South Sikkim.

During his journey he provided relief materials to the villagers, interacted with them and understood the basic difficulties they were facing during the Lockdown. But during the entire journey he understood the one primary difficulty the villagers

were facing with regard to their organic agriculture produce. The organic agricultural produce that the villagers depended on was not getting the actual value and market they actually deserve. Mr Bhutia observed that only the Organic perishable vegetables are getting the right price whereas other non perishable organic produce are not getting organic prices. Here Mr Bhutia states that the overall non perishable agriculture is on decline and our states identity which once was Denjong "The Valley of Rice", now is under threat. This agricultural produce are branded Organic and the pricing and marketing is not justified is what Mr Bhutia concluded. So he collected data from all the villagers regarding the various agricultural produce from the entire GPU's under 09 Barfung Constituency, South Sikkim.

During the Lockdown period and post lockdown period Mr Bhutia has identified that the agricultural sector with an organic brand will be an important stimulus to revive our states economy. Besides the day to day consumables that come to our market from beyond state boundaries are produced using various colouring agents and pesticides which Mr Bhutia states does not have health benefits but it destroys our immune system. After the completion of his journey he identified Jarrong basti, South



Sikkim as his procurement and processing base wherein he has been procuring organic agricultural produce from all over the constituency and beyond.

Further he has set up a packaging and marketing unit at Rabong, South Sikkim under the brand name SIKKOR (Sikkim-Organics) and the first batch of organic produce is ready for market. The primary motive behind this project of Mr Bhutia is to provide the farmers the right price for their Organic produce and provide our fellow Sikkimese with pure organic consumables which will boost their immunity system. Further he wants to publicize and market the brand Organic beyond state boundaries.

Mr Bhutia under the SIKKOR brand with the tagline "Your Immunity is Our Concern" has started marketing various organic products namely: Kalo Tudey aromatic rice, Dollo attay rice, Champhey rice, White Corn rice, Maize Flour (White, Red, Purple), Buckwheat Flour (Sweet/Sour), Millet Flour, Rice Flour, Smoked Haldi powder, White Butter Beans(Round, oval), Fermented Spinach (Gundruk), Kinema, Dal, Smoked Ginger dry, Smoked Ginger Powder, Dalley Smoked Dry, Dalle Smoked dry Powder, Kopi luwak coffee, perishable vegetables and others with a clear and loud message - "Eat Organic, Stay Healthy, Keep COVID at bay".

Contribution towards CM's Relief Fund

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 JUN:

Pema Choling Gumpa of Rangpo Chanatar under West Pendam Constituency, East Sikkim contributed Rs. 10,000 towards Chief Minister's Relief Fund, a press release informs.

The Gumpa committee has appreciated the government's decision of early lockdown and its success to control the COVID-19 pandemic in the state.



Measures taken by Social Justice Dept under Child Protection Scheme

GANGTOK, 16 JUN (IPR):

As the pandemic COVID-19 intensified in the country it was important that urgent measures needed to be taken on priority to prevent the spread of the virus in the Child Care Institutions (CCIs). Prompt and urgent action was taken by the Social Justice Department to pre-empt emergency and disaster situation arising with regard to children for State Care.

- The CCIs were instructed to keep adequate soap/hand wash/sanitizer available to the children, display caution notice of preventive measures, provide warm drinking water to all children and staff, not allow unnecessary outing, restrict visitors, check flu like symptoms at the nearest medical centre, co-ordinate with Doctor when required, carry out medical checkup for COVID-19 of all children and provide awareness and information on safety from the virus to the children.

- The advisory from the Ministry of Women and Child Development to discourage entry of visitors, ensure proper cleaning and frequent sanitization of the Homes, particularly of the frequently touch surfaces, regular washing of hand, covering of nose and mouth with bent elbow or tissue during coughing or sneezing, disposal of used tissues immediately was also propagated to the CCIs along with the list of DO's and DON'Ts.

- DO's included maintained personnel hygiene and physical distancing, wash hands

even if they are visibly clean with soap and water, or alcohol based hand drop. Maintained safe distance from person during interaction especially with those having flu like symptom, not to cough in the palm of hand, check temperature regularly, check for respiratory symptom, calls State Helpline No. from Child Line 1098 or Ministry Help Line at 01123978046.

- DON'Ts included do not shake hands, do not touch eyes, nose or mouth. Do not spit in public. Do not travel unnecessarily to any affected region, do not participate for large gathering including seating in groups, do not spread panic or rumor.

- COVID response committee for Child Care Institution has also been constituted

- Medical check-up of all children was instructed.

- Sanitization of all Child Care Institutions has been done.

- Sanitizer and face mask has been distributed to all CCIs.

- Online counseling training has been provided to the in-charge/house father/house mother of Child Care Institutions in co-

ordination with Health Department.

- Children are being given online counselling through WhatsApp, phone etc.

- Office Memorandum with Advisory has been issued by Social Justice and Welfare Department for the safety and security of women and children in difficult circumstances in the state during the lockdown period.

- Art and Creative Writing Contest for CCI children is being carried out with the topic- 1) Art topic-LOCKDOWN and 2) Creative Writing Topic-LIFE AFTER LOCKDOWN OR HOPE FOR A CURE.

- Daily Report and weekly report on the COVID status of inmates of CCIs are being sent to the Ministry. Alongwith it status report for inmates from Working Women Hostel, One Stop Center, Swudhar Greh, Ujjawala Homes, Women Helpline and status on and Supplementary Nutrition are being sent to the Ministry.

- Operation of children Homes has been included in the list of exceptions (emergency services) during the lockdown period hence, the CPS section, SJ&WD has been working through out.

Namchi Government College sanitized



NAMCHI, 16 JUN (IPR):

South District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) undertook sanitisation process at Namchi Government

College Quarantine Centre yesterday. The Boys Hostel building was sanitized by the team which was thoroughly supervised

by In-Charge, Saran Chettri and police personnel on duty. The building has also been sealed by the Administration till further order.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land 30x40 (3 Plots) available for sale at Tadong 6th Mile next to Harka Maya College. Flat Land no cutting required. Price 27 Lakhs (negotiable).

Contact: 9800201335

LAND FOR SALE

A land measuring an area for 50x32 1/2 at Roadside just below housing colony is for sale. It is just a one minute walking distance from Namchi bazaar taxi stand. Interested party may contact 9593373387 and 9434406761

LAND FOR SALE

An area measuring 1 acre at Sadam South Sikkim near Loretto Convent School at Gupti road. Price negotiable any one interested can contact: 78640-04501,62970-03235, 98320-48410

visit us at:
www.summit-times.com

In Bengal, hopes high for hilsa boom amid COVID-19 gloom

KOLKATA, JUN 16 (PTI): Bengalis are in for a pleasant surprise amid the COVID-19 gloom as fishermen, after a three-month hiatus, have exuded hope of a bumper yield of hilsa, known as "maacher rani" (queen of fish) in Bengal, given the dip in economic activities in the seas due to the lockdown.

With the arrival of monsoon, many of them have already ventured out with their trawlers, trying their best to lay hands on the prized "silver crop" -- a non-pareil delicacy that can be savoured when fried, smoked or cooked in mustard sauce.

"As there was near-zero commercial activity in the seas and rivers, and no industrial efflu-

ents were released into the waters during this three-month hiatus, fish breeding, which is common during this season, is bound to pick up pace.

"Since June 14, several fishermen have set sail. The catch is expected to be higher this time compared to the last two years," Sunderban Development Minister Manturam Pakhira told PTI on Tuesday.

The Ganga meets the Bay of Bengal near Sunderbans in South 24 Parganas district and the confluence happens to be the breeding ground for hilsa, which moves upstream from the seas to the rivers around this time of the year.

A matured fish spawns 10 to 12 lakh eggs, of which a small

fraction hatches.

Most of the 12,000 big trawlers in the Kakdwip belt of the district are expected to hit the seas over the next few days.

"We can give you an approximate figure of the yield after 15 days. One thing is for sure, there was barely any vessel movement during the lockdown. It reduced water pollution and aquatic life remained largely undisturbed. So we are expecting a bumper hilsa yield," Pakhira said.

General secretary of the Kakdwip Fishermen Association Bijan Maity said anything between 32,000 and 35,000 metric tonne would be considered a good catch.

"Last year, the yield

did not cross 12,000 metric tonne due to factors such as pollution and late arrival of the monsoon. We are positive that this year will be different. Amid the lockdown, works such as maintenance of trawlers and repair of fishing nets were put on hold. Hence, some fishermen are taking time to venture out," Maity said.

Claiming that several "unscrupulous" fishermen flout the April-May ban on trawling to rake in more moolah, Maity said this year, however, not many could do that as strict restrictions were in place.

Unlike the last two years, the fish will be bigger in size and probably tastier, he added.

The oily fish, depend-

ing on the quality, is sold for anything between Rs 1,200 and Rs 1,800 per kg.

"Our catch is sold across Bengal and in other parts of the country. We are hopeful of tickling the taste buds of Bengalis amid the COVID-19 gloom," Maity said.

Pakhira insisted that all fishermen have been told to wear masks and use hand sanitiser, especially when they sell their catch.

Vice Chairman of the Digha-Sankarpur Development Authority Akhil Giri said trawlers have also set sail from East Midnapore district.

"Fishermen had suffered losses last year. This year, they are expecting a good crop," he added.

"But suicide is not the solution"

GAY TSHERING BHUTIA

Depressed, sad, hurt n fear
All the unheard noise mixed in the air
Makes you feel like choking
From within everything is breaking
But Suicide is not the solution.

To the world I look happy and fine
But there is a storm building up in my mind
Happy face and happy smiles
Deep within my heart cries
A world full of deception and lies
But suicide is not the solution.

U think I'm ok and alright
It's just a feeling that will subside
Nothing to worry and no pain
But deep within I'm going insane
Like someone high on cocaine
But suicide is not the solution.

The night time is the hardest
Lonely, alone and darkest
The insecurity that surrounds me
Like closed door without a key
My heart cries to be free
But in vain...darkness is all I see
But suicide is not the solution.

I too long for your love and care
To be someone's near and dear
But there is always an unknown fear
A fear of failing and rejection
Sickest feeling and injection
But suicide is not the solution

It's not that I don't try
I try and try and I cry
Can't share the pain I feel
I fight and I try to rise but the feelings make me kneel
Surrounded by hundred...left all alone to fight
All I see is darkness and not a single ray of light
But suicide is not the solution

It's easy for you to say and judge
Depression is just a grudge
A grudge against your own feeling
It's a like a wound with no healing
I wish you could see it from a different sight
Feel the pain within n the plight
As if someone has got hold of you so tight
Slowly and slowly taking up your life
But suicide is not the solution.

415 new cases of COVID-19 in West Bengal, 10 more deaths

KOLKATA, JUN 16 (PTI):

West Bengal on Tuesday reported 415 fresh cases of COVID-19 and 10 new deaths, according to the state health department. The death toll in the state rose to 495 with the latest fatalities.

All the 10 fresh deaths were because of "comorbidities, where COVID-19 was incidental", accord-

ing to a bulletin issued by the health department.

The total number of cases soared to 11,909, of which 5,386 persons are currently undergoing treatment in different hospitals, it said.

At least 534 persons were discharged from different hospitals in the last 24 hours after recovering from COVID-19.

COVID-19 cases in India climb to 3,43,091; death toll 9,900

NEW DELHI, JUN 16 (PTI): India registered over 10,000 new COVID-19 cases for the fifth day in a row pushing tally to 3,43,091 on Tuesday, while the death toll rose to 9,900 with 380 new fatalities, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The country recorded 10,667 coronavirus infections in the last 24 hours.

The number of active cases stands at 1,53,178, while 1,80,012 people have recovered and one patient has migrated, according to the officially updated figure at 8 am.

"Thus, around 52.46 per cent patients have recovered so far," an official said.

India is the fourth worst-hit nation by the pandemic after the US, Brazil and Russia.

According to the Johns Hopkins University, which has been compiling COVID-19 data from all over the world, India is in the eighth position in terms of death toll.

The total number of confirmed cases include foreigners.

Of the 380 new deaths, Maharashtra accounted for the highest 178 fatalities followed by Delhi at 73, Tamil Nadu at 44, Gujarat 28, Haryana 12, West Bengal 10, Rajasthan 9 and Madhya Pradesh 6.

Andhra Pradesh and Punjab have reported 4 fatalities each, Jammu and Kashmir and Karnataka 3 each, Telangana 2 and Bihar, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala 1 each.

Of the total 9,900 deaths, Maharashtra tops the tally with 4,128 fatalities followed by Gujarat with 1,505 deaths, Delhi with 1,400, West Bengal with 485, Tamil Nadu with 479, Madhya Pradesh with 465, Uttar Pradesh with 399, Rajasthan with 301 and Telangana with 187 deaths.

The death toll reached 100 in Haryana, 89 in Karnataka, 88 in Andhra Pradesh, and 71 in Punjab. Jammu and Kashmir has reported 62 COVID-19 fatalities, Bihar 40, Uttarakhand 24, Kerala 20 and Odisha 11.

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 JUN:

Voluntary Blood Donors Association of Sikkim [VBDAS] celebrated World Blood Donors' Day in collaboration with SSBTC and SSACS Gangtok, at Namthang Krishi Vigyan Kendra today to say thank you to all blood heroes who have shared their precious life for someone's tomorrow, a press release informs.

During the lockdown period, VBDAS has organized 56 mini camps across the state and collected 672 units of blood.



On the occasion of World Blood Donors'

Day, VBDAS has thanked all blood donors for their

contribution, support and war against death

during such crises. VBDAS also presented appreciation certificates and citations.

The programme was attended by Additional Director, Health Department, Dr Baroon Subba, as the chief guest. The program also witnessed poetry and essay competition among RRC members of Kabrey SSS.

VBDAS felicitated nine blood heroes namely Stephen Subba, Sevrene Rai, Sanjeev Baniya, Deepan Rai, Niraj Giri, Bikram Mukhia, Srijana Chettri, Krishna Chettri Kharka and Aruna Pradhan.

World Blood Donors' Day celebrated by VBDAS

Industrialist accused of Rs 225 cr GST evasion arrested

INDORE, JUN 16 (PTI):

An industrialist accused of GST evasion of nearly Rs 225 crore while illegally producing and selling pan masala and tobacco products has been arrested by the tax authorities.

A Pakistani national and three others were already arrested in this

matter.

Kishore Wadhvani, the industrialist, was arrested from a hotel in Mumbai on Monday under "Operation Kark", a crack-down on large-scale evasion of tax, sources in the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) said.

A court in Mumbai

granted the authorities his transit remand with a direction to produce him in a court in Indore, the sources said.

Officials of the DGGI and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) recently raided a number of places at Indore and Ujjain and recovered huge quantities of pan

masala and other tobacco products, manufactured illegally.

The trade was being conducted through dummy companies, sources said.

Wadhvani and others were found to have evaded Goods and Services Tax of nearly Rs 225 crore and the amount was expected to rise to

Rs 400 crore with further probe, they added.

Sanjay Matta (33), who holds a Pakistani passport, was arrested on June 2. He was living in Indore for a long time.

His questioning led to arrest of three more persons on June 12. Further investigations are on, sources added.

Army officer, 2 soldiers killed in clash with Chinese Army in Galwan Valle

NEW DELHI, JUN 16 (PTI):

An Indian Army officer and two soldiers were killed during a violent confrontation with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh on Monday night, in the first such incident in the last 45 years reflecting massive escalation in the five-week border row.

The Army said India lost an officer and two soldiers during the violent face-off, while there were casualties on the Chinese side as well.

The extent of casualties on the Chinese side is not immediately clear.

According to a senior military officer, it is the first incident involving the casualty of an Indian soldier in a violent clash with the Chinese Army after 1975 when four Indian soldiers were killed in an ambush at Tulung La in Arunachal Pradesh along the de-facto border between the two countries.

Official sources said there was no firing between the two sides.

"During the de-escalation process underway in the Galwan Valley, a violent face-off took place on Monday night with casualties. The loss of lives on the Indian side includes an officer and two soldiers," the Army said in a brief statement

It is learnt that the Army officer killed in the clash was the commanding officer of a battalion at Galwan. It is believed that the three Army men died due to injuries sustained following stone-pelting by the Chinese side.

However, there is no official word on it.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the current operational situation in eastern Ladakh along with Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat and the three service chiefs. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was also present in the meeting.

Sources said Army Chief Gen MM Naravane's visit to a base outside Delhi has been cancelled.

Large number of Indian and Chinese troops were engaged in an eyeball-to-eyeball situation in Galwan Valley and certain other areas of eastern Ladakh for last five weeks.

The incident comes days after the Indian Army Chief said both sides have begun disengaging from Galwan Valley.

China's state-run newspaper Global Times claimed in a report that clashes were triggered by Indian troops as they crossed over to the Chi-

nese side and carried out attacks on Chinese soldiers.

The Indian and Chinese armies are engaged in the standoff in Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldie in eastern Ladakh. A sizeable number of Chinese Army personnel even transgressed into the Indian side of the de-facto border in several areas including Pangong Tso.

The Indian Army has been fiercely objecting to the transgressions, and demanded their immediate withdrawal for restoration of peace and tranquillity in the area. Both sides held a series of talks in the last few days to resolve the row.

In their first serious efforts to end the row, Lt General Harinder Singh, the general officer commanding of the Leh-based 14 Corps, and Commander of the Tibet Military District Maj Gen Liu Lin held a nearly seven-hour meeting on June 6. The meeting was followed by two rounds of Major General-level talks.

The Indian side has been pitching for restoration of status quo ante and immediate withdrawal of thousands of Chinese troops from the

areas which India considers on its side of the LAC.

On Saturday, Gen Naravane said both sides are "disengaging" in a phased manner.

"We have started from the north, from the area of the Galwan river where a lot of disengagement has taken place. It has been a very fruitful dialogue that we have had," he had said.

Following the standoff in eastern Ladakh, the two sides have deployed additional troops along the LAC, the de-facto Sino-India border, in North Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh in the last few days, the sources said.

After the standoff began early last month, the Indian military leadership decided that Indian troops will adopt a firm approach in dealing with the aggressive posturing by the Chinese troops in all disputed areas of Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldie.

The Chinese Army has been gradually ramping up its strategic reserves in its rear bases near the LAC by rushing in artillery guns, infantry combat vehicles and heavy military

equipment.

The trigger for the face-off was China's stiff opposition to India laying a key road in the Finger area around the Pangong Tso Lake besides construction of another road connecting the Dabuk-Shayok-Daulat Beg Oldie road in Galwan Valley.


The road in the Finger area in Pangong Tso is considered crucial for India to carry out patrol. India has already decided not to stall any border infrastructure projects in eastern Ladakh in view of Chinese protests.

The situation in the area deteriorated after around 250 Chinese and Indian soldiers were engaged in a violent face-off on May 5 and 6. The incident in Pangong Tso was followed by a similar incident in north Sikkim on May 9.

The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long LAC. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet, while India contests it.

Both sides have been asserting that pending the final resolution of the boundary issue, it is necessary to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

to book advertisements in
SummitTimes
call 03592-208698 9734152541
9647102692
advertise@summittimes.com



What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

The Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) is new strain of Coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China. Notorious for mutating quickly and acquiring new qualities, it is a rising epidemic that was previously not identified in humans.

<p>Symptoms of nCoV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever ● Difficulty in breathing ● Dry Cough ● Severe acute respiratory syndrome ● Pneumonia - like symptoms 	<p>Precautions to Prevent nCoV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wash your hands often with soap. ● Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer ● Observe good personal hygiene. ● Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands. ● Avoid contact with people with possible symptoms. ● Avoid contact with animals and consumption of undercooked meats. ● Avoid travel to nCoV affected places. ● Wear a mask if you have respiratory syndrome and cover your mouth while coughing or sneezing.
<p>Treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Treatment is symptomatic and supportive, based on the patient's clinical condition. ● No vaccinations available as of now. ● Visit Doctor in case symptoms detected. 	<p>If you seek help, you may call :</p> <p>-Toll free no. 104 District surveillance Officer EAST : 7029372100 WEST : 9593297809 NORTH : 9641957468 SOUTH : 7407691463 New STNM AMS : 9434711402</p>

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

What After Cashing In?

There is still need for better fiscal management tips for rural Sikkim

It might already be too late to talk about the following concerns because too much has already been allowed to drain away. But then again, even if some sense is allowed to prevail despite the late waking up, it would be an effort well undertaken.

Sikkim has been blustering ahead on a fast clip of infrastructure and industrial construction ranging from wider roads to more roads to hydel projects to an airport to grand public facilities and industries. Projects invariably attract protests ranging from individual reservations to mass discomfort. Much has been written about protests and responses, however now it is time to deliberate on the post project-clearance scenario and the management practices that should be introduced. Land comes at a premium in a hill state like Sikkim and even though agricultural productivity is falling and cash crop/ horticulture options still in their infancy, the Organic Sikkim experiment notwithstanding, land provides a sense of security to rural families. Most of the projects and investments require large transfers of land falling in the rural belt and this is where some initiatives, beyond the ones prescribed by laws and rules, need to be initiated.

The required processes of public hearings, rate negotiations and enumeration of affected families are easy to deliver because these form part of the guidelines by which projects need to be undertaken and come in clearly prescribed check-lists. Given the sheer number of projects on the anvil and the crores that will be handed over to private land holders across rural Sikkim to complete the acquisition process, it becomes necessary to ensure that the sudden liquidity in hands not used to manage finances does not drain away in momentary lapses of indulgence. One has to recognise the fact that Sikkim is not very organized when it comes to handling cash; there have been ample cases where even loans taken out for specific projects have been wasted on other non-productive pursuits and now one is looking at huge infusions of cash without any worries of repayment or interest servicing. A lot of these crores have already passed from the hands of project “developers” to affected land owners and then evaporated leaving behind deep resentments. It is important that enough is done to generate genuine fiscal prudence among the affected families. Money covers for the property relinquished, but only wise investments can fill in for the security that land has traditionally provided.

This is where the State machinery needs to step up beyond the brief prescribed by Delhi, by staying with the people after the lands have been acquired, compensation handed over and projects completed. The State should have (and can still explore the possibility) put in place a system which empowers ‘compensated’ land owners with sound knowledge of investment options. The need for such an initiative is only amplified by the scams of private finance companies which did prolific business in rural Sikkim selling dubious schemes. Unless ‘informed’ otherwise, the suddenly cash-rich landowners will continue to become easy prey to the persuasive skills of such operators. And then there is always the possibility that the money will follow the personal loan inspired acquisition of luxuries and wasted opportunities.

How can such a situation be averted? To begin with, the government can look into the possibility of the investors for whom land is being acquired to also organise a series of workshops and sensitisation programmes on fiscal management for the affected people. Simultaneously, the real concept of rural banking should be aggressively promoted and a group of NGOs, selected after a thorough screening process, could be provided with specialised training on formulating rural investment options with which they could then approach the affected areas. What the government could also incorporate is a special cell of handpicked officers to organise, monitor, improvise and advise such initiatives. It is the people’s money at the end of the day and the government can do no more than inform them of possible options on what to do with their money, but should this information be intelligent and practical, it could turn around the rural economy and stand it more firmly on its feet. Like with all other initiatives witnessed in the State in the recent past, this too will have to be one that is directed right from the top and if pursued in the earnest, could trigger an economic revival that delivers not only economic security, but catalyses rural prosperity as well.

WRITE US:

Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous 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. Mail us at: news@summittimes.com

Maria Ressa’s conviction should matter to everyone who cares about democracy

PETER GRESTE
THEGUARDIAN

By almost any measure, the conviction of Maria Ressa and her former colleague, researcher-writer Reynaldo Santos Jr, will have serious implications for democracy in the Philippines.

On Monday morning a court in Manila found the pair guilty of “cyberlibel” for a story published in 2012 on the news website Rappler.com that Ressa founded and now leads. The judge released them on bail pending an appeal but, if they lose, they could spend up to seven years in prison.

To reach her verdict, the judge had to accept the prosecution’s breathtakingly thin arguments. First, that the website had violated the cyberlibel law, even though the story was published four months before the law even existed. The judge agreed that Rappler had “republished” the story, when it corrected a spelling error in 2014, thus making it subject to the law. The judge also accepted the prosecution’s theory of “continuous publication”, to get around the fact that the statute of limitations on libel in the Philippines is just one year.

In the words of the UK and Ireland’s National Union of Journalists, it was a “shamelessly manipulated charge”, and an “act of persecution by a bully government”.

Amal Clooney – the UK’s special envoy on media freedom and one of Ressa’s lawyers – has described the case as “one of the most brazen and consequential of the decade”. Ressa calls it “lawfare”.

As a journalist who has been in the dock to hear a guilty verdict after a sham trial, I viscerally understand what Ressa and Santos were going through. When I heard the news, I felt



a disturbingly familiar churn deep in my stomach, knowing – feeling – the stress that they will be experiencing. But the far greater issue is the impact of this verdict on the Philippines itself and the region more broadly.

The Philippines is one of the world’s most dangerous nations for journalists. The Committee for the Protection of Journalists calculates that over the past 30 years, 145 have lost their lives.

President Rodrigo Duterte routinely calls reporters, “spies” and, “sons of bitches”, and once suggested that most of those journalists who died, somehow deserved it. “You won’t be killed if you don’t do anything wrong,” he said.

Duterte has also targeted and forced the closure of ABS-CBN, the largest media company in the Philippines, while the owners of the country’s largest newspaper, Philippine Daily Inquirer, were forced to sell the publication to a Duterte ally after publishing news reports and editorials critical of the deaths mounting in his war on

drugs.

Of course, no government likes the media. When it is doing its job – as Rappler was – it forces those in power to answer for the consequences of their policies. And when an authoritarian leader manages to crush other democratic checks such as parliamentary oversight and an independent judiciary, all that’s left is the awkward squad armed with pens, cameras and microphones.

And if this case matters to democracy in the Philippines, it also matters to the region more broadly. In its latest report, the human rights group Freedom House said, “political rights and civil liberties declined overall in Asia, as authoritarian rulers showed their disdain for democratic values ...”

This verdict, and the sustained assault on press freedom, accelerates that trend. We know from bitter experience that as authoritarians extend their rule, instability tends to follow.

In the past, the US has led the

way in defending liberal democratic values like press freedom, the rule of law, and human rights. But rather than criticising them, President Donald Trump has infamously coozied up to the likes of strongmen such as Duterte, and it seems doubtful that he will speak up now.

Which leaves it to other democracies like Britain and Australia to lead the way.

Australia’s national foreign policy white paper published in 2017 said promoting transparency, accountability and the rule of law in our region is one of the government’s key objectives.

Last year the UK and Canada jointly hosted the first Global Conference on Media Freedom in London, as a signature initiative designed to push back on a deeply troubling global slide in press freedom.

If those governments truly believe in protecting those fundamental democratic principles, they will speak loudly and forcefully in support of Ressa and her colleagues at Rappler.

At a news conference after the hearing, Ressa addressed the gathered journalists directly. “It is a blow to us,” she said. “But it is also not unexpected.”

“We [Rappler] are meant to be a cautionary tale. We are meant to make you afraid. But don’t be afraid. Because if you don’t use your rights, you will lose them.”

She was talking to her countrymen but she might as well have been addressing us all.

[The writer is Unesco chair in journalism and communication at the University of Queensland, and a founding director of the Alliance for Journalists’ Freedom]

Global Poverty: Coronavirus could drive it up for the first time since the 1990s



ANDY SUMNER, CHRISTOPHER HOY & EDUARDO ORTIZ-JUAREZ
THECONVERSATION.COM

As COVID-19 slows in developed countries, the virus’s spread is speeding up in the developing world. Three-quarters of new cases detected each day are now in developing countries. And as the pandemic spreads, governments face juggling the health consequences with economic ones as this shifts to becoming an economic crisis. Our research shows that the poverty impact of the crisis will soon be felt in three key ways. There is likely to be more poverty. It is likely to become more severe. And as a consequence, the location of global poverty will also change.

Having looked at estimates from a range of sources – including the Asian Development Bank, Goldman Sachs, IMF and OECD – we considered three possible economic scenarios stemming from COVID-19, where global income and consumption contracted by 5%, 10% or 20%. We found that the economic shock of the worst-case scenario could result in up to 1.12 billion people worldwide living in extreme poverty – up from 727 million in 2018.

This confirms our earlier estimates that the coronavirus could push up to 400 million people into extreme poverty, defined by the World Bank as living on less than US\$1.90 (£1.66) per day – the average poverty line in low-income developing countries. This number rises to over 500 million if using the World Bank’s higher average poverty lines for lower middle-income (US\$3.20) and upper middle-income (US\$5.50) developing countries.

The potential increase is driven by millions of people living just above the poverty line. These people are likely to be badly affected because many of them work in the informal sector, where there is often little in the way of social security.

Such a rise in extreme poverty would mark the first absolute increase in the global count since 1999 – and the first since 1990 in terms of the proportion of the global population living in poverty.

On the severity of the poverty, the resources needed to lift the incomes of the poor to above the poverty line could increase by 60%, from US\$446m a day in the absence of the crisis to above US\$700m a day. For the existing extreme poor and those newly living in extreme poverty, their loss in income could amount to US\$500m per day.

In terms of where poverty is located, it is likely to increase dramatically in middle-income developing countries in Asia, such as India, Pakistan, Indonesia and the Philippines. This points to the fact that much of the previously poor population in these countries moved to just above the poverty line. In other words, these countries’ recent economic progress has been relatively fragile. We’ll also likely see new poverty in countries where it has remained relatively high over the last three decades, such as Tanzania, Nigeria, Ethiopia and the DRC.

HOW TO RESPOND TO THE POVERTY PANDEMIC

COVID-19 poses a significant threat to developing countries, as their health systems tend to be weaker. More severe cases have also been linked to high blood pressure, diabetes and air pollution, all of which are prevalent in developing countries. Meanwhile, there are suggestions that COVID-19 could hinder the treatment of other illnesses such as TB, HIV/AIDS and chronic malaria.

But developing countries generally have a lower proportion of people at high risk from COVID-19 in terms of age (>70 years). As such, economic shocks may pose a greater relative risk to their populations. The question emerges as to whether lockdowns are the best option to contain the virus

in developing countries if they entail severe income losses. Estimates of the share of jobs that can be performed at home is less than 25% for many developing countries – much lower than the ~40% recorded in, for example, the USA and Finland. It’s as low as ~5% in countries such as Madagascar and Mozambique.

Consequently, there’s also a clear need for a range of social safety-net policies. These already exist in many developing countries, but their coverage and funding needs to be expanded substantially. Such policies include cash transfer programmes,

universal one-off cash payments, in-kind food/vouchers, school feeding schemes and public works programmes. In middle-income developing countries, these are funded by the national government, whereas in low-income countries these are often co-funded by donors. Any set of policies should also incorporate “pay to stay home” or “pay to get tested” schemes.

THE LONG CRISIS

Looking further ahead, the poverty impacts beyond 2020 are closely related to if or when an effective vaccine is developed. Even if we take the best-case scenario and a vaccine is discovered later this year, it’s uncertain how long it would take to reach the entire global population. It could take years.

There is no guarantee developing countries would get access to the vaccine at a reasonable cost, or if everyone in developing countries would get the vaccine for free. We could end up living in a new COVID-19 apartheid, with the vaccinated and non-vaccinated residing in separate areas and working in different labour markets. This is a startling but very real possibility that no one is talking about much yet.

While this might sound far off, there are already some countries – such as Chile – issuing “immunity passports”. Such passports might determine what work people can do by determining where they can go. This could leave the poorest without access to earning opportunities or only with lower-income opportunities if their movement is restricted.

The crisis is increasingly looking like a long crisis. If so, it will have repercussions on global poverty for years to come.

[Andy Sumner is Professor of International Development, King’s College London; Christopher Hoy is Senior Non-Resident Research Fellow, United Nations University; Eduardo Ortiz-Juarez is PhD Student, King’s College London]

10 fresh COVID-19 cases in Assam; count rises to 4,319

GUWAHATI, JUN 16 (PTI): The total number of coronavirus cases in Assam reached 4,319 after 10 fresh cases were reported in the state on Tuesday, Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

Of the fresh cases, three each were reported from Dhemaji and Udalguri, while two were from Sonitpur and one each from Nagaon and Hojai districts, he said. The recovery rate in the state has increased to 53 per cent, with the total number of people cured of the disease (2,205) being higher than those still under treatment (2,103), the minister said.

Eight fatalities have been reported in Assam so far while three patients have migrated out of the state, he said.

Meanwhile, the state health department will launch Assam Targeted Surveillance Programme (ATSP) on Wednesday to effectively combat COVID-19, Sarma said.

"We aim to conduct more than 50,000 ran-

dom tests in a week, focusing on vulnerable areas, he said.

Under the ATSP, samples of people working in places like truck parking zones, loading and unloading centers, godowns, weighbridges and roadside 'dhaba' will be tested, Sarma said.

Samples of staff members of hotels used as quarantine centres and other frontline personnel like policemen will also be tested, he said.

Family members of those released from quarantine centers will also be covered under the program, he said.

The exercise is expected to be completed by June 27 and deputy commissioners of all districts will ensure availability of adequate facilities, the minister said.

Besides hospitals, the health department has identified several facilities where samples could be tested for free, Sarma said.

Assam is testing around 10,000 samples a day and has so far tested 2,17,088 samples.

Amphan stings beekeeping business in Bengal

KOLKATA, JUN 16 (PTI): At least 18,000 beekeepers in Bengal have been affected by Cyclone Amphan, which struck a month ago, pulverising farms and bee colonies across seven districts of the state, and the total loss incurred could climb up to Rs 2 crore, an association of apiculturists said.

Tarun Halder, the general secretary of the West Bengal Beekeepers' Association, said no financial assistance was doled out to the apiarists by the central or the state government so far, and many of them are finding it difficult to get back on their feet.

"We have around 18,000 beekeepers as members in seven districts, which have been

largely devastated by Amphan. Bee colonies have been destroyed and the boxes totally damaged.

The worst-affected are the ones living in North-24 Parganas, South-24 Parganas and Nadia. The farmers (beekeepers) there have lost their livelihood," Halder told PTI.

A preliminary assessment suggested that losses could mount up to Rs 14 lakh in each of the North- and South-24 Parganas districts. In Nadia, the amount could be anything above Rs 10 lakh, he said.

Other than these three districts, beekeepers in Murshidabad and Purba Medinipur have also suffered losses.

Bengal produces an annual 25,000MT of honey -- 5,000MT alone come from the Sunderbans in South 24 Parganas.

In the northern part of the state, beekeeping is popular in Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur and Malda.

"We have been reeling under financial crisis since March, when the lockdown was imposed, as none of us could tend to the farms or sell the produce. The cyclone added to our woes. There is no proper market in Bengal to sell our products. We depend on private agencies for survival. As of now, beekeepers are in need of some financial aid to tide over this crisis,"

he said.

Seeking help, the association has written to Khadi & Village Industries Commission.

"We have written to KVIC for immediate help... I've personally sent a mail to them giving them the details of the damages and the current situation. We are waiting for a reply," Halder said.

The KVIC, under the Union MSME ministry, had been playing a significant role in protecting the pollinators and training people to become beekeepers.

State forest minister Rajib Banerjee, when contacted, told PTI that the government is planning to purchase honey directly from the beekeepers and steps have been initiated

in that direction.

"We have decided to purchase honey directly from the beekeepers. I hope this decision benefits them. We have already made progress in this matter," Banerjee said.

The association secretary, however, said no such approach has been made by the state so far.

"I haven't heard of any such initiative. None of us was contacted by the government. Had it been so, some of us at least would've known," Halder added.

Cyclone Amphan, which barrelled through Bengal on May 20, claimed around 100 lives and left behind a trail of destruction.

Jharkhand reports one more COVID-19 death, 30 new cases



RANCHI, JUN 15 (PTI): An elderly person died of COVID-19 in Jharkhand on Monday, raising the toll of coronavirus fatalities in the state to nine, while 30 more people tested positive, a state government bulletin said.

The bulletin however, did not mention the district from where the latest death was reported.

A total of 1,793 people have so far tested positive for the disease in Jharkhand, of which 784 are active cases, it

said, adding 1,000 patients have recovered and been discharged from hospitals.

With 198 active cases, East Singhbhum district tops the COVID-19 list followed by Simdega district at 146.

Jharkhand's mortality rate stood at 0.50 per cent as compared to that of the country at 2.86 per cent, the bulletin said.

Earlier in the day, Principal Secretary (Health), Nitin Madan Kulkarni, said a health check-up programme will be

launched in rural and urban areas of the state from June 18.

Meanwhile, officials said over 6.89 lakh people, including around five lakh migrant labourers, have returned to Jharkhand by different mode of transport since May 1.

On June 17, 76 people will be brought back from Bangladesh, Chief Nodal Officer (COVID-19) Amrendra Pratap Singh told reporters here.

"Seventeen others will travel by road from Bhutan," he added.

2 fresh COVID-19 cases in Nagaland; count rises to 179

KOHIMA, JUN 16 (PTI): Nagaland reported two new COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 179 on Tuesday, Health and Family Welfare minister S Pangnyu Phom said.

Both the patients are from Kohima quarantine centre, he said.

The number of active cases in the state now stands at 79 while 100 persons have recovered, the minister said.

A district-wise break-up shows that Dimapur accounted for the highest number of 126 coronavirus positive cases, followed by 31 in Kohima, 9 in Mon, 8 in Peren and 5 in Tuensang.

The remaining six districts have reported no COVID-19 cases so far.

Eighty-five patients have so far recovered in Dimapur, 10 in Kohima and 5 in Tuensang.

According to data provided by the Health and Family Welfare department, over 7,000 samples have been tested in the state till now.

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio had said on Monday that from a state with no testing facility, Nagaland now has the capacity of analysing 600 samples per day.

The only BSL-3 laboratory at Naga Hospital Authority Kohima was conducting coronavirus tests and 20

TrueNat machines have been installed in other districts for the purpose, he said.

About 470 tests have been done by TrueNat machines and all the samples yielded negative results, the chief minister said.

With the installation of more TrueNat machines, the testing capacity of the state is expected to double by next week, he said.

As part of its efforts to ramp up the testing capacity, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had approved the use of TrueNat system for conducting coronavirus tests.

Odisha FC signs midfielder Thoiba Singh

BHUBANESWAR, JUN 16 (PTI): Odisha FC on Tuesday roped in India age-group international Moirangthem Thoiba Singh ahead of the seventh edition of the Indian Super League.

The 17-year-old central midfielder signed a three-year deal with the Bhubaneswar-based club.

The Manipur-born footballer has played for India at the age-group competitions and was with I-League team Minerva Punjab FC for last two seasons. He also became the youngest player to score a goal in the AFC Cup last year while playing for the Punjab side.

Speaking about the new signing, OFC President Rohan Sharma said, "Thoiba is a very exciting and versatile player and I



am really happy we were able to bring him in the squad this year."

"Though he is extremely young, he is a player who has got minutes in the I-League as well as in age-group competitions for India. He will have a good mentor in Vinit who can help him mature as per the club's ideologies. He has an extremely high ceiling and hopefully, this

year he finds his feet to develop into a better player for the future," he added.

Expressing his delight, Thoiba said, "Can't wait to get started with Odisha FC and make my mark in the ISL and possibly get into the national team. I am excited to be a part of a strong core of young Indian players and I am sure I will be learning and improving daily at Odisha FC."



RAIPUR, JUN 16 (PTI): Nearly 3.75 lakh migrant workers and others from Chhattisgarh, who were stranded in various parts of the country due to the lockdown, have returned to their home state so far, a government official said on Tuesday.

Of these, 1,06,928 migrant workers returned by 78 Shramik Special trains, the others returned by various other modes of transport and some even walked back home, he said.

The first Shramik Special train arrived in the state on May 10.

"Altogether, 3.75 lakh labourers and other people from Chhattisgarh who were stranded in

various parts of the country have safely returned by trains, buses and other modes of transport, the official said.

The state government has spent Rs 4.16 crore on the transportation of migrants by trains and buses, he said.

The government sanctioned Rs 75 crore to the health department and Rs 18.20 crore to the revenue and disaster management department for providing facilities to labourers, the official said.

State Labour Minister Shivkumar Dahariya said ration and monetary relief are being provided to workers by constituting teams of the departmen-

tofficials in coordination with various industrial institutions and other organisations.

In the second phase of the lockdown, 1,08,158 workers were provided employment by restarting 1,464 small and big industrial units in the emptied areas from April 21, the minister said.

Migrant workers who have returned from other states are being given employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in rural areas, Dahariya said.

So far, over 26 lakh labourers are employed under MGNREGA in the state, he added.

4 new COVID-19 cases in Mizoram, tally rises to 121

AIZAWL, JUNE 16 (PTI): Four more persons have tested positive for COVID-19 in Mizoram in the last 24 hours, taking the northeast states tally to 121, an official said on Tuesday.

Of the total 121 cases, 120 are active while one has recovered, the official said.

He said that of 705 samples tested on Monday, four persons from Aizawl district tested COVID-19 pos-

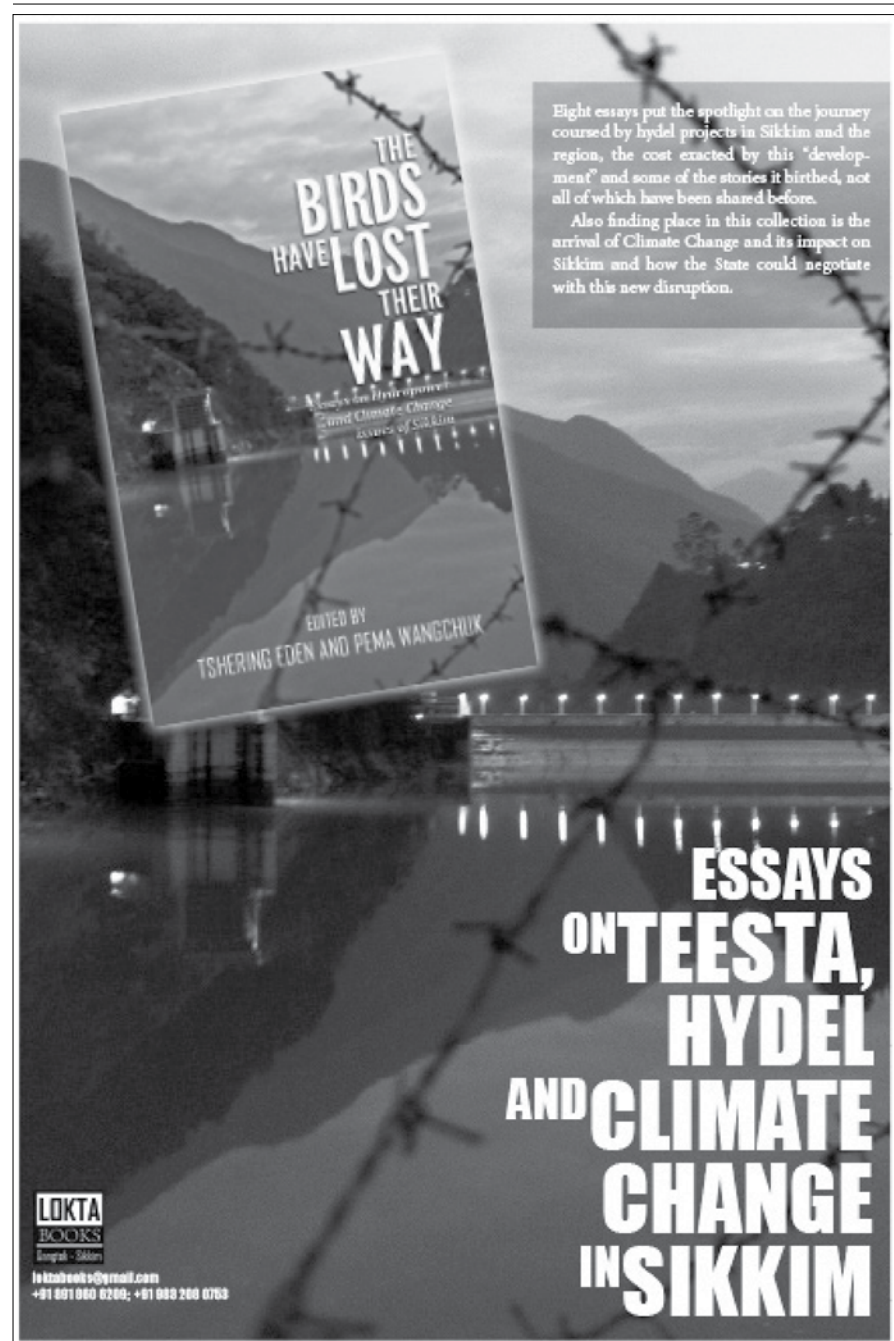
itive late on Monday night.

Three of them have returned from Delhi and one from Maharashtra recently, he said.

The patients are in the age group of 2430 and are asymptomatic, he said.

The official also said that 5,370 samples have been tested so far at Zoram Medical College (ZMC) of which 120 people have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Now you can whatsapp
Summit TIMES @
9832556698
9832080753



Reaction to the powerbroker behind Fury v Joshua is a mirror to boxing itself

JONATHAN LIEW
LONDON, 16 JUN
[THEGUARDIAN]: The footage is horrible, harrowing, traumatic. All the same, you can't look away. The scene is the Regency hotel in Dublin in February 2016, the event a nondescript weigh-in before the big fight the following night. There's terrible rock music playing. A couple of gormless-looking bald men standing on the podium bearing clipboards. A local cruiserweight called Gary Sweeney steps on to the scales in blue Superman briefs. The gormless bald men peer forward and write on their clipboards. Sweeney steps aside. All of a sudden, we hear the whip-crack of an assault rifle.

At which point, a lot of things happen at once. There's breaking glass, chairs being overturned. We see a blurred Sweeney, still in his briefs, desperately fleeing for safety through a side door. Through the pop-pop of bullets and the din of grown men shouting, a single piercing child's voice: "Daddy, what was that?" Within minutes the gunmen have departed, leaving one man dead and two wounded. But the main target of the attack, according to Irish police, has already left the building. Daniel Kinahan will live to fight another day.

For many, the first time they will have heard Kinahan's name was last week, when Tyson Fury name-checked him three times in a video announcing an agreement to fight Anthony Joshua in 2021. If made, it will be one of the biggest fights in British boxing history. Yet for now, much of the attention has been fixed on the man who has helped to arrange it. The Criminal Assets Bureau in Ireland has said that Kinahan "controlled and managed" the operations of the family syndicate, and "has associations that facilitate international criminal activity in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and South America". A 2019 Europol report describes the Kinahan gang as "an organised crime group" and "key players in the drug trade". Kinahan, for his part, describes himself as "just an Irish businessman". He has never been convicted of a crime.

A question, if you're a boxing lover: how does all this make you feel? Repulsed? Depressed? Vaguely enthralled? There's no right or wrong answer to this question, by the way. Some fans are simply delighted the fight is being set up. Others are ripping up their metaphorical season tickets and vowing never to watch the sport again. In many ways, the reaction to Kinahan's brokering of Fury v Joshua serves as a mirror to boxing itself: a game that bombastically likes to think of itself as a struggle between the forces of eternal darkness and eternal light.

The truth is that both come from the same place and the first thing to observe is that this does not smell like your usual PR spiel.

Pep Guardiola's Manchester City braced for a defining few weeks

JAMIE JACKSON
LONDON, 16 JUN
[THEGUARDIAN]: When Arsenal are welcomed to an empty Etihad Stadium on Wednesday the Pep Guardiola era at Manchester City enters four weeks that could prove to be both seismic and defining.

Lose against an Arsenal side managed by Guardiola's former assistant Mikel Arteta and Liverpool can dethrone City by winning at Everton on Sunday. Lose an appeal against their two-year Champions League ban when the verdict is announced in the first half of next month and Guardiola may lose his best player, Kevin De Bruyne – and others.

Factor in Guardiola having a new assistant, Juanma Lillo, in place, and the club's all-time top scorer, Sergio Agüero, turning 32 at the start of this month – plus the departure of a football genius, David Silva, when the season finally ends – and the sense is of the supreme side of the past two years becoming one in transition.

The loss of De Bruyne could be a game-changer. In words that surely chilled Guardiola and all City supporters, the Belgian playmaker suggested in May that if the court of arbitration for sport upholds the ban in full he will seek a transfer, adding that if it is reduced to one year he still "might see" about his future.

The fading of David



Silva in recent seasons has barely registered because of De Bruyne's excellence. This is a midfielder with 16 league assists who needs four more to equal Thierry Henry's record total, as he aims to head the chart for a fourth time.

Should De Bruyne decide to go it could represent an unwanted triple-whammy. Guardiola would lose his star player; soul-searching from other lead acts regarding a Champions League-free zone until 2022-23 may occur, and a De Bruyne-less City would be even less appealing for players the manager wants to attract.

Lillo's appointment also intrigues. When Guardiola hired Arteta in the summer of 2016 he put in place a 34-year-old who had just retired from playing, with 11 years in English football on his CV. He knew its players, managers, coaches, stadiums and media: in short, the complete culture, and so he could start instantly passing priceless knowledge on to Guardiola.

As the just-departed Arsenal captain, Arteta also had the respect of a City dressing room bursting with A-list talent headed by De Bruyne, Silva and Agüero. And, perhaps as crucially, Ar-

teta became trusted by the squad, proving a confidant and key conduit to Guardiola, whose style of man-management can be aloof.

Just as fundamental was the Arteta's willingness to be more than a sounding board: instead, he was the sole member of the coaching staff who offered a firm opinion on any tactical or strategic matter, even if this ran counter to his boss.

All of this underlines how vital Arteta was to Guardiola and to City claiming six of the past seven domestic trophies, a sequence that included a record-breaking 100-point 2017-18 title

win, and last season's 98-point triumph as the club became the first for a decade to seal consecutive crowns.

In Lillo, Guardiola may have made as shrewd a choice. The 54-year-old coached the City manager towards the end of his playing career, at Dorados de Sinaloa in Mexico, and Guardiola considers as his mentor a man who at 29 was La Liga's youngest manager and who has held 19 previous coaching roles.

But given the packed schedule City are about to embark upon – 10 league games plus at least one match in the FA Cup and one Champions League outing – and his zero knowledge of working in England, whether Lillo can be as valuable as Arteta, in the short or long term, remains to be seen.

Before the season was suspended City were in fine form: losing only one of their last six matches while winning the rest, including an impressive 2-1 Champions League last-16 opening leg victory at Real Madrid. Yet the sole reverse was in the last of these games: a concerning 2-0 defeat at Manchester United in which they were oddly toothless and Guardiola lacked his usual in-game answers to the home team's rapid attacking.

The manager has Leroy Sané available again for the first time since

August following a serious knee injury and the Germany forward may be one of the now-allowed nine replacements as Guardiola seeks – via victory against Arsenal – to ensure Liverpool need two more wins to become champions. If City are, though, defeated on Wednesday, the symbolism of going down to a team managed by his protege will be unwanted and the worst possible restart following the season pause.

Whatever the result, the title is all but gone. As the striker Gabriel Jesus says: "It is a tough moment in the Premier League – very difficult for us to win, but we still have two more trophies to fight for."

These are the attempt to retain the FA Cup and the tilt at Champions League success for a first time. Much depends on the Cas appeal. Liverpool's 25-point lead suggests they can dominate domestically and two years out of the continent's premier club competition would cast this term's bid as City's last realistic chance for the next half a decade given the catch-up surely caused from a prolonged absence from it.

This may also initiate an existential moment for Guardiola. He has stated he will honour his contract whatever Cas decides. But it runs only to the close of next season: suddenly that does not feel too far away.

Families can't accompany players, officials during tour of England: PCB



KARACHI, JUN 16 (PTI): The Pakistan Cricket Board will not allow players and officials touring England next month to take their families with them due to the precautions being taken to tackle the COVID-19 threat.

The English Cricket Board will reportedly spend around half a million pounds on the special chartered flight, which will fly 29 players and 14 officials from Pakistan to England at the end of this month.

"The board has made it clear to players their families can't travel with them and also explained to them it would be of no use even if their families reached and stayed in England separately. The entire squad can't interact with their families in person until the tour is completed in September," a source in the Pakistan board said.

The team will be competing in a three-Test and three-T20 series starting July 30 in a bio-secure environment owing to the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"...this time the board has told the players that as soon as they reach England they will spend around 14 days in quarantine in Birmingham before they move on to Manchester after staying in isolation and in a bio-secure

environment for around three to four weeks for their practice and training," he said.

The source said that the total restriction on families travelling with the players was the main reason for batsman Haris Sohail pulling out of the tour.

During the 2015 World Cup, Haris claimed to have spotted a ghost in his hotel room in New Zealand after which the board allowed him special permission to have his wife accompany him on every foreign tour as he was not comfortable travelling or staying alone.

But this time, due to the new restrictions Haris was told his wife can't accompany him after he decided to opt out of the long tour.

The PCB on Monday got the clearance from its patron in chief, Prime Minister Imran Khan, to go ahead with the tour which the ECB sees as essential to avoid a huge loss during the pandemic.

The Pakistan and England series is guaranteed to enable the ECB to earn between 70 to 75 million pounds from broadcast revenues.

The ECB has warned that a complete wipeout of season could lead to losses of around 380 million pounds.

Australian football's A-league set to restart on July 16

SYDNEY, JUN 16 (AP): Australia's A-League is set to resume on July 16 with a Melbourne derby followed by 27 games in a 28-day period.

Football Federation Australia on Tuesday announced the Victory vs. West United match as the official restart a day after players agreed a pay deal and the union and clubs agreed to extend the league to August 31.

The league has been suspended since March because of the coronavirus pandemic and players and clubs have taken a financial hit.

League-leading Sydney FC will take on Wellington Phoenix on July 17 in a revised schedule. Detail for the full remainder of the season is yet to be confirmed because of the prospect of relaxations on border restrictions that would allow clubs in most states to host games.

Two possible schedules have been drawn up

KARACHI, JUN 16 (PTI): Senior all-rounder Muhammad Hafeez has hit back at former captain Ramiz Raza for questioning his selection for the upcoming England tour and for advising him to retire from all forms of cricket.

While criticising head coach and chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq for picking senior players in the pool of 29 players for the England tour, cricketer-turned-commentator Raja has said Hafeez should leave international



cricket gracefully. But the 39-year-old Hafeez said he would not leave cricket on anyone's advice.

"I don't play cricket on anyone's saying, neither will I leave cricket on anyone's saying. It is my life, my cricket career and my choice when to retire," Hafeez said.

The former Pakistan captain has retired from Test cricket after appearing in 55 matches and he is currently focussing in limited-over cricket. He has played in 218 ODIs

and 91 T20 Internationals so far.

"I don't know the fuss and it is (Ramiz's) opinion but I say don't decide on a player's career based on just his age. If he is super fit and performing and keen to do well for his country, it's fine," Hafeez said.

"Ramiz is free to express his opinion but my decision to play cricket or retire is not dependent on anyone's advice.

He said cricket has changed and age is not

reduction in its annual rights payment because of the disruption to the league.

The national soccer league is the last of Australia's four professional football competitions to restart after the pandemic.

The National Rugby League was the first to resume in late May, and the Aussie rules Australian Football League recommenced last weekend. The rugby union Super Rugby AU will kick off on July 3.

such a big factor if a player remained fit and performing for his country.

Hafeez said if required he is even ready to play in the Test matches in England.

The senior player also felt cricket will not be the same due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the changed regulations and protocols.

"I think cricket has lost its charm due to new regulations amid COVID-19 but we will have to accept these and move on, he said.

Roberts resigns as Cricket Australia CEO, Hockley given interim charge

Melbourne, Jun 16 (PTI): Cricket Australia CEO Kevin Roberts resigned on Tuesday and was replaced by T20 World Cup chief executive Nick Hockley in an interim role, the change coming at a time when the Board is under severe financial stress due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CA chairman Earl Eddings announced the decision via live stream, saying the Board needed fresh leadership to move on from the disruption that engulfed the organisation in the past few months.

"The CA Board has accepted his resignation and announced the appointment of Nick Hockley, currently Chief Executive of the ICC T20 World Cup, as Interim Chief Executive, effective immediately," the CA said in a statement.

The leadership change comes ahead of an operational reset for the organisation to be detailed later in the week.

"Cricket, like all national sports, has been going through a period of significant change and in recent months we have had the added uncertainty delivered by COVID-19," Eddings said in the statement.

"The entire cricket community has been affected and difficult decisions have been and will continue to be necessary to ensure that cricket at every level is in the best shape it can be now and in the future."

Eddings thanked Roberts for his service to cricket during his eight years at CA, initially as a board member and more recently as Chief Executive.

"Kevin has worked tirelessly since taking on the role in difficult circumstances in 2018, and particularly during the challenges of the past few months," Eddings said. "He is a man of principle who has always put the best interests of cricket first. We wish him all the best for his future."

Roberts, who had been appointed on a three-year term to replace James Sutherland in October 2018, leaves his post after just 20 months at the helm. He had taken over when Australian cricket was still grappling with the aftermath of the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa in 2018.

The 47-year-old was contracted until the end of 2021 but has fallen out of favour with the CA board. Roberts was among the first to say that the fate of the T20 World Cup in October-November is uncertain due to the pandemic, leading to intense speculation on whether the event will go ahead. However, the ICC has held back on taking a final call and the chances of the tournament happening have increased because of Australia's success in flattening the infection curve.

Roberts said: "It's been a privilege to lead and serve the sport I love as CEO of Cricket Australia... I'm proud of what we've achieved together. As a lifelong and passionate member of the cricket community, I look forward to seeing the game thrive into the future."

US considers withholding aid to Jordan to force extradition

WASHINGTON, JUN 16 (AP): The Trump administration is considering withholding aid to one of its closest Arab partners, Jordan, in a bid to secure the extradition of a woman convicted in Israel of a 2001 bombing that killed 15 people, including two American citizens.

The administration says it's weighing all options to press Jordan to extradite Ahlam Aref Ahmad Al-Tamimi, who is wanted by the US on a charge of conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction against American nationals.

The charge was filed under seal in 2013 and announced by the Justice Department four years later.

The extradition issue is likely to be raised this week when Jordan's King Abdullah II speaks to several congressional committees to voice his opposition to Israel's plans to annex portions of the West Bank.

Al-Tamimi is on the FBI's list of most wanted terrorists for her role in the suicide bombing at a crowded Jerusalem pizzeria.

It was one of the deadliest attacks during the second Palestinian uprising.

She has lived freely in Jordan since Israel released her in a 2011 prisoner swap with the militant group Hamas.

Jordanian authorities have rebuffed US requests to turn her over, despite an extradition treaty.

Jordan has a large Palestinian population and it's unclear if a threat over aid would cause it to rethink its position.

Ahead of King Abdullah's video congressional appearances, scheduled for Wednesday with the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs committees, the State Department said that billions of dollars of foreign assistance to Jordan could be used as leverage to get Jordanian authorities to extradite al-Tamimi.

The threat came in written answers submitted by the administration's nominee to be the next US ambassador to Jordan, Henry Wooster, to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in response to questions posed by Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas.

The United States has multiple options and different types of leverage to secure Ahlam Aref Ahmad Al-Tamimi's extradition, Wooster wrote. We will continue to engage Jordanian officials at all levels not only on this issue, but also on the extradition treaty more broadly. US generosity to Jordan in Foreign Military Financing as well as economic support and other assistance is carefully calibrated to protect and advance the range of US interests in Jordan and in the region.

Asked specifically if aid to Jordan would be part of that leverage in the Tamimi case, Wooster replied: If confirmed, I would explore all options to bring Ahlam Aref Ahmad Al-Tamimi to justice, secure her extradition, and address the broader issues associated with the extradition treaty.

A world redrawn: Nobel winner Deaton warns virus could worsen inequality



The coronavirus outbreak has exposed existing inequalities but without reform, argues Nobel prize-winning economist Angus Deaton, it also risks making them much worse.

In an interview with AFP, the Scottish-born Princeton professor called for changes to the US healthcare system and the power of the country's big tech firms.

"Someone compared the pandemics to an X-ray machine that makes the inequalities already there much more transparent," the 75-year-old said.

"The educated people, most of us have jobs we can continue to do almost the same way, we talk to people on Zoom

and we get paid just the same."

But those with less formal education are often "essential workers (who) risk their lives with COVID. Or if they are in non-essential things, they might lose their jobs".

In the United States, death rates have risen for those without a university degree and are going down for those with one, he says.

In addition, "mortality rates from COVID are much higher for African Americans than they are for whites".

He said these factors could not have predicted the wave of protests that have swept the US following the death of George Floyd.

"But I nor you can say it has nothing to do with COVID," he said.

- Healthcare reform - Deaton, who won the Nobel prize in 2015, is lauded for his insights into poverty and health issues -- and he sees this as a key area for change.

He expressed hope that the outbreak will finally force reform of US healthcare, as "people will realise that this is just not possible anymore".

"When people lost their jobs they lost their medical insurance," he said.

"There are a huge number of people who have been treated for COVID and survived and will end up with huge medical bills.

"There's a huge number of people that have died from COVID and their families will end up with huge medical bills.

"And they cannot pay these bills -- even people who have insurance, because often insurance has huge deductibles."

Asked what could replace the US system, Deaton rolled off a list that includes the French, Canadian, German, Dutch and Swiss models.

"Anything is better than pretending that the market can deliver healthcare -- because it can't," he said.

"All you get is this enormous conspiracy to sort of transfer money from ordinary people to much better-off people.

"It's been a major destroyer of jobs and a major source of inequality."

He added: "The stumbling block for better welfare state in America has often been race, and maybe what's happening now will change that."

However, Deaton is not optimistic: "The most likely thing it that it will end up the same as it was."

- Big tech -

The global outbreak has paralysed many economies, although reopenings and government aid in the United States are credited with lowering the unemployment rate to a still-high 13.3 percent.

"I'm worried that unemployment will last for a very long time, that this will strengthen the share of capital relative to GDP," Deaton said.

"I'm really worried that big tech firms are going to prosper while many other businesses go bankrupt."

And he warned: "If you have more monopolistic firms, that's a recipe for GDP to be distributed towards capitalists."

Deaton warned that reform was needed to break up the big tech companies -- along with reform in other areas, such as improving policing in inner cities.

"Unless the system breaks and you get major reform I think all of this, I think all the indicators turn towards making inequalities worse," he said.

North Korea blows up inter-Korean liaison office near border with South

North Korea blew up an inter-Korean liaison office on its side of the border on Tuesday, after days of increasingly virulent rhetoric from Pyongyang.

The demolition came after Kim Yo Jong -- the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un -- said at the weekend the "useless north-south joint liaison office" would soon be seen "completely collapsed".

Footage of the explosion released by Seoul's presidential Blue House showed a blast rolling across several buildings just across the border in Kaesong, with a nearby tower partially collapsing as clouds of smoke rose into the sky.

Analysts say Pyongyang may be seeking to manufacture a crisis to increase pressure on Seoul while nuclear negotiations with Washington are at a standstill.

After an emergency meeting, the National Security Council said it would "react strongly" if Pyongyang "continues to take steps that aggravate the situation".

"All responsibility for repercussions stemming from this action falls squarely on the North," it added.

The liaison office -- in a dormant industrial zone where Southern companies once em-



ployed Northern workers -- was opened in September 2018, days before the South's President Moon Jae-in flew to Pyongyang for his third summit with Kim.

Around 20 officials from each side were stationed at the office during subsequent months.

But inter-Korean relations soured following the collapse of the Hanoi summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump in February last year over sanctions relief and what the North would be willing to give up in return.

Operations at the office were suspended in January because of the coronavirus pandemic.

And since early June, North Korea has issued a series of vitriolic condemnations of the South over activists sending anti-Pyongyang leaflets over the border -- something defectors do on a

regular basis.

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said Tuesday the liaison office's destruction was in line with "the mindset of the enraged people to surely force human scum and those who have sheltered the scum to pay dearly for their crimes".

Last week Pyongyang announced it was severing all official communication links with Seoul.

"North Korea has started a provocation cycle with stages of escalation," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul, calling the destruction of the office "a symbolic blow to inter-Korean reconciliation and cooperation".

"The Kim regime is also signalling the United States won't have the luxury of keeping North Korea on the back-burner for the remainder of the year," he added.

- Relations soured -

Since Pyongyang condemned the leaflet launches -- usually attached to hot air balloons or floated in bottles -- the Unification ministry has filed a police complaint against two defector groups and warned of a "thorough crackdown" against activists.

On Monday, the left-leaning Moon urged the North not to "close the window of dialogue".

The two Koreas remain technically at war after Korean War hostilities ended with an armistice in 1953 that was never replaced with a peace treaty.

Last week the North criticised Trump in a stinging denunciation of the US on the second anniversary of the Singapore summit, with its foreign minister Ri Son Gwon accusing Washington of seeking regime change.

cal transparency," it said.

During the review period, the government of Pakistan made its executive budget proposal, enacted a budget, and end-of-year report widely and easily accessible to the general public, including online. The government published limited information on debt obligations, the report said.

"The government did not adequately disclose all government and government-guaranteed debt obligations, including financing to state-owned enterprises for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Projects," it added.

Obama to join Biden for first joint virtual fundraiser next week



WASHINGTON, JUN 16 (PTI): Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden has announced that he will be joined by his "friend" and former US president Barack Obama for the first virtual fundraiser next week.

Biden's campaign announced the reunion of Obama and his former vice president for the fundraiser will be a week from Tuesday.

In a tweet, Biden, 78, announced that his "former boss" Obama would join him next week.

"Folks, I've got some big news: Next week, I'm getting together with my friend and former boss, President Barack Obama, for a virtual grassroots fundraiser. We would love to see you there," Biden said on Monday.

The tweet came hours after the former vice president announced to have raised USD 80.8 millions in the month of May for his campaign war chest.

"I'm proud to announce that last month - with your support - and the support of so many others - we raised USD 80.8 million, with an average online donation of USD 30 to our campaign," Biden said in an email to his supporters.

"These last few weeks have shown that we are a nation furious at injustice. We feel it in our bones; we see it in our streets. On top of that, COVID-19 is still a threat. We've crossed the mark of over 115,000 deaths - 115,000 people whose lives were cut down too soon," he said.

The event plans to target tens of thousands of small-dollar donors.

In a fundraising email to the campaign, Obama described this as the most important election of the lifetime.

"The most important election of our lifetimes is just around the corner. In November,

we have the chance to rebuild our economy so that it works for everyone. We have the chance to cover everybody with health insurance," Obama said.

The former president officially endorsed Biden in April after Senator Bernie Sanders, Biden's last serious competitor, dropped out and threw his support behind the former Delaware senator.

"We have the chance to declare that no matter what we look like, where we come from, or who we love - all of us are equal and each of us should have the chance to make of our lives what we will," Obama said.

"This is a critical moment in our history - and we need Americans of all backgrounds and political stripes to join together and fight to create a more just, more generous, more democratic America where everybody has a fair shot at opportunity," he said.

Meanwhile, Biden Victory Fund held a virtual fundraiser with Biden hosted by Senator Elizabeth Warren, Paul Egerman, a retired software entrepreneur, and Shanti Fry, a board member for the National Center for Learning Disabilities.

The fundraiser hosted by Warren was sold out, and brought in USD 6 million, the most successful fundraiser the Biden Victory Fund has ever had.

In his remarks, Biden addressed systemic racism facing the country and asserted that a disproportionate number of black and brown communities were dying from coronavirus.

Biden went on to criticise President Donald Trump's role in rolling back civil rights protections, calling him out by name, and his contribution to the country's current economic state.

Sikkim SCAN | CapitalTIMES | Neighbourhood WATCH | Sports & Specials | ElseWhere | EICETERA

It's easy to relax... When you can trust the News.

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at

GANGTOK:
For circulation details Contact: +91-9148971691, +91-9447826282 & for Advertisement booking at +91-9933427505 or at office no 03592
SILIGURI: 208498. Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com
SRILUUR: Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads. B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, Ist. 983198397. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/irahad_0022@rediffmail.com

floor: Opp. Ganga Hotel, Hill Cart Road, Siliguri - 03. Ph. +91-9832318644 / 1800462289/9153025100 or mail at mani_silguri@yahoo.co.in.
KOLKATA OFFICE:
Irrahad Ali/ Intezayaz. Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mazine - 2, 2nd floor. Kolkata - 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. +91-9830547714/ +91-983198397. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/irahad_0022@rediffmail.com

Phone
03592-208498
+91-9832554698
+91-9832080753

www.summittimes.com
news@summittimes.com
summittimes4@gmail.com
advertise@summittimes.com

Address:
Santa Bhawan Complex, Church Road
Near Diesel Power House (DPH)
Gangtok, East Sikkim, 737101

VIDEO NEWS SECTION

facebook.com/SummitTIMES

SUMMITTIMES

BAFTA film awards pushed to April 11, following Oscars change

LOS ANGELES, JUN 16 (PTI): The British Academy of Film and Television Awards (BAFTA) has announced April 11 as the new date for its 2021 film awards.

The decision was taken after the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences shifted Oscars 2021 date from February 28 to April 25 in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Originally, the 2021 BAFTAs were going to take place on February 14 and the change allows for an extended eligibility period.

This change from the previously announced date of Feb. 14 acknowledges the impact of the global pandemic and accommodates an extended eligibility period. Further details on the ceremony will be announced later in the year, said BAFTA in a statement to Variety.

The new date will also allow the UK awards show to remain among the last of the Oscars precursors.

BAFTA said further details about its eligibility period will be announced soon.

The organisation said the date for the 2022 Film Awards is also under con-



sideration.

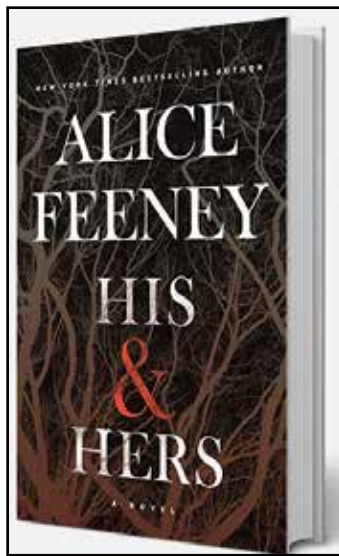
The date for the 2022 Film Awards, announced last year as 13 February, is currently under consideration as part of the Awards Review (set up following this year's film nominations), and any changes will be published once the Review has been completed, alongside other findings and recommendations, the

statement added.

The Academy had announced on Monday that the 93rd Academy Awards will now be held April 25, 2021, eight weeks later than originally planned because of the pandemic's effects on the film industry.

The eligibility window for feature films has also been pushed to February 28, 2021.

Jessica Chastain to produce series adaptation of Alice Feeney's His & Hers'



LOS ANGELES, JUN 16 (PTI): Actor Jessica Chastain has bought the TV rights of author Alice Feeney's latest novel His & Hers.

His & Hers is a thriller revolving around Jack Harper, a British detective, and BBC newscaster Anna Andrews, who meet each other years after their divorce when a woman is killed in their hometown.

Chastain's Freckle Films acquired the rights to the book along with Kristen Campo, and Endeavor Content, reported Deadline.

The last three years have been such a wonderful whirlwind and I'm still pinching myself. I'm so thrilled to be working with Jessica Chastain, Kristen Campo, and the team at Endeavor Content.

I love what they have planned for His & Hers', and I can't wait to see Anna Andrews and Jack Harper brought to life on screen, said Feeney, a former BBC journalist.

His & Hers marks the second novel by Feeney's to be adapted for television. Her debut novel Sometimes I Lie is in development at Fox as a limited series, with Sarah Michelle Gellar attached to star and Ellen DeGeneres' A Very Good Production producing.

Chastain and Freckle Films' Kelly Carmichael will executive produce His & Hers along with Campo.

Oscar Isaac to star in thriller London' with Ben Stiller on board as director

LOS ANGELES, JUN 16 (PTI): Actor Ben Stiller is set to direct Lionsgate thriller London starring Golden Globe winner Oscar Isaac in the lead.

The film is based on a new short story/high-concept thriller by bestselling crime writer Jo Nesbo, reported Deadline.

Dune screenwriter Eric Roth is adapting the story for the feature film.



Isaac obtained the rights to the story as a producer under his Mad Gene Media banner in competition, and was involved

Drake, Roddy Ricch and Megan Thee Stallion Lead The 2020 BET Award Nominations



And Blue Ivy Carter gets her first nomination.

The nominees for the 2020 BET Awards have been announced, celebrating achievements by people of colour in music, film, sports, and entertainment.

Drake leads with six nominations, including 'Best Male Hip-Hop Artist' and 'Video of the Year' for No Guidance, his single with Chris Brown. Closely behind him are Megan Thee Stallion and Roddy Ricch, who have garnered five nominations each.

While Beyoncé is nominated for 'Best Female R&B/Pop Artist', her eight-year-old daughter Blue Ivy Carter also receives a 'BET Her Award' nomination for the single Brown Skin Girl, on which she is credited as a featured artist.

This year's ceremony is the 20th anniversary of the awards, and will be hosted by Insecure actor Amanda Seales. The event will feature performances from artists including Alicia Keys, Lil Wayne, Megan Thee Stallion and John Legend.

in getting Stiller and Roth on board.

Stiller is also producing the film through his Red Hour production banner, along with his producing partner Nicky Weinstock. This is an incredible team of filmmaking that has come together for this project. Eric is a master storyteller whose screenplays are canonized in film history; Ben's work as a filmmaker, including his latest accomplishment, Escape at Dannemora, is astounding; Oscar is a force in all that he does, both behind and in front of the camera," said Erin Westerman, president of production for Lionsgate.

As Eric adapts Jo Nesbo's evocative and memorable short story into an incredible film, we're confident that Ben will bring all of the tension and emotion in directing London' and Oscar will not only give a riveting and dynamic performance, but as the producer leading the process to bring this team together, has an incredible energy and passion for the material, he added.

Nesbo will serve as executive producer on the project.



SUNSHINE AND SMILES! The model, Alessandra Ambrosio has a ball while cooling off on the beach in Malibu.

Saif Ali Khan On Bollywood's Hypocrisy Over Sushant Singh Rajput's Death: "That's An Insult To The Dead"



While Saif Ali Khan feels that Sushant Singh Rajput's tragic demise is 'just awful', he feels that people are trying to gain mileage on his tragedy.

Sushant Singh Rajput's death grabbed the maximum eyeballs, and Bollywood was seen reacting to it tremendously. Now, actor Saif Ali Khan has spoken about the events that followed Sushant's tragic demise. The actor called this ultimate hypocrisy, insult of the dead, and below is all that he has to say.

While Saif Ali Khan feels that Sushant Singh Rajput's tragic demise is 'just awful', he feels that people are trying to gain mileage on his tragedy. Saif opened up how people ran to make comments about the incident so quick. Be it due to show compassion or political stance, it is embarrassing to see people talking rubbish.

In an interview with TOI, Saif Ali Khan said, "Out of respect for him, for Sushant's tragedy, maybe a day of silence or introspection would be a little more becoming than this outpouring of love – an outpouring of love from people who obviously didn't care about him and people who famously don't care about anybody else."

The actor further opened up pretending to care for the dead is actually an insult. "I mean, we don't care about anybody. You know, it's a very cutthroat line of work. But to pretend that you do care is like the ultimate hypocrisy and I think that's an insult to the dead, you know, it's an insult to the soul that's gone," said Saif Ali Khan.

Further in the chat, the actor said how the sudden outflow of love for Sushant Singh Rajput is difficult to digest for the star. He also said that 'nobody here really cares' they just want to come across empathetic to their fans and followers.

In other news, if reports are to go by, Saif Ali Khan will be seen alongside Sushant in his last film Dil Bechara. Saif will be making a special appearance in the film.

However, Sushant Singh Rajput breathed his last on Sunday. The actor died by suicide and was found hanging in his Mumbai apartment.

ARIES:

Fitting in is overrated. This phase of your life requires you to be who you are unapologetically. More often than not, we judge ourselves more than other people do. If you're guilty of being harsh with yourself, adopt gentleness as your mantra even if it feels odd in the beginning. Tuesday also brings with itself the reminder that morning rituals are an excellent way to raise your vibrations and set your intentions for the day.

TAURUS:

Your connection with Mother Nature is coming up strongly once again, Taurus. While walking barefoot in the woods is an excellent idea, it may or may not be a viable option if you're stuck indoors. How about nurturing the plants in your own home? Alternatively, you could consider delving into the realm of herb magick. From neem to patchouli and chamomile, nature's apothecary boasts of endless miracles. Setting an intention will help you find the perfect ingredients for the energy you want to harness.

GEMINI:

This is a time of gathering your resources and checking and rechecking the plan of action—the last stage of preparation, if you

may. Don't be in a rush to move forward. Timing is everything in this game. As for seeds you have already planted, continue to nurture them with love and care.

CANCER:

If the world can't go back to the way it was, how can you? This is a time of massive awakening. You are stripping away the false layers and becoming more you than you've been in a long time now. Maybe you want to be a stay-at-home parent with three children and seventeen cats. Maybe you want to channel your inner activist and stand at the forefront of the revolution.

LEO:

We all have resistance to change, but what if this change is in alignment with our highest good? Use this period of self-isolation to look within. Examine the parts of your life that stand on a weak foundation. The dreams that you are living for the sake of somebody else's happiness. Drastic change is on the cards, Leo, and it's inspiring you to do away with all that is inauthentic. Letting go of your ego self will make space for your biggest transformation yet.

VIRGO:

Aren't you tired of glorifying the busy? Of living your life as if it were a race? Get off the

treadmill already, Virgo. Recognise the Universal message here, which is to slow down and be in the moment. Here's a journal prompt to start your day with: How do I need to reassess my self-care rituals? Now is a good time to ease into a new way of life.

LIBRA:

Best-selling author and leadership expert Robin Sharma once said, "Everything is created twice: first in the mind and then in reality." This holds especially true for where you are, Libra. Allow yourself to go into yin mode and receive the ideas that are coming through from your superconsciousness. What if bringing them to life is a part of your sacred mission, one that will help you find your ikigai? As such birth and fertility are also big themes for you right now.

SCORPIO:

Aren't you tired of trying to control and manipulate every detail of your life? Let's try a different approach today, one that involves less stress and more surrender. Instead of creating from your small, three-dimensional self, allow your higher self to step in and lead you in the right direction. Trust that things will begin to transform seamlessly once you become one with the flow.

SAGITTARIUS:

Miracles transpire when we bring forth the energy of acceptance and let go of the need to control, dominate or manipulate one another. What you are experiencing is a case of inner and outer alchemy, one that's taking your relationships to a transcendental level. Letting go of the unhealthy attachments has also been a big theme for you over the past few months. This has, in turn, brought about clarity on who you want to make space for in the new narrative. If you've been feeling the feels for somebody, now is a good time to let your truth be known. PS: Don't be afraid to put your heart on the line, archer!

CAPRICORN:

The countdown to the solar eclipse on June 21 is going to be a time of emotional upheaval, with a lot of stuff from the past coming up to be healed. But, you've got this, Capricorn! Your soul is prepared to transform and transmute these wounds and remember the wisdom buried in your bones. Meditate. Practice breathwork. Observe silence. Strengthening your connection with the divine is the secret to getting through these dark times. Know that you're not alone.

AQUARIUS:

Often, we settle for less than what we deserve because we're afraid of speaking our truth. But the 2.0 version of you knows that there is great strength in vulnerability and that you have nothing to be afraid of. Consider this as a time of truth-telling, Aquarius. Here's a journal prompt to begin your day with: 'How am I being inauthentic with myself?' Some of you may feel inspired to have a difficult conversation with a loved one. Keep your fears aside and approach from a judgement-free space in your heart.

PISCES:

Reviewing the past is a big theme for you right now. Take a moment to examine the loss and pain that threatened to tear you apart. What does revisiting these incidents evoke within you? Are you overcome by a sense of relief, or do you find yourself holding on to the burden from a life long gone? Upon deeper examination, you will realise that Spirit had a plan for you from the very beginning. The things that worked were meant for your greatest good and the ones that didn't ultimately protected you from harm. Keep this in mind when you find yourself pushing against the flow. For now, breathe. Surrender. Know that heaven's got a plan for you.