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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**SFA
reschedules B
Div S-League
following
suspension of
Referee Board**

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 03 JUL:

The ongoing Sikkim Football Association 'B' Division S-League has been rescheduled due to suspension of the present SFA referee board and unavailability of a qualified referee, SFA chief coordinator, Phurba Sherpa has said in a letter addressed to the managers of the participating clubs.

Citing other reasons, Mr Sherpa has informed that non-availability of Paljor Stadium from 04 to 13 Jul was also one of the reasons prompting the postponement of the remaining matches.

It may be mentioned that on 30 June SFA had suspended the Referee Board for a period of one year for resorting to "unlawful activities". The Board, however, refuted the allegations and said that no official communication regarding the suspension had been received by them.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that SFA is planning to bring in 04 referees from outside the State to conduct the remaining matches.

According to the new fixture of the remaining matches, Renzong FC will now take on Sikkim Police on 14 Jul. Similarly, Kumar Sporting Club is scheduled to take on Dzongri FC on 15 Jul.

Howlers FC will face Renzong FC on 16 Jul while Sikkim Police in its next match will face Dzongri FC on 17 Jul.

Howlers FC and Kumar Sporting Club will face each other on 18 Jul.

Zero Waste Himalayan Group observes Intn'l Plastic Bag Free Day

**YOUGAN TAMANG
GANGTOK, 03 JUL:**

Members of Zero Waste Himalaya Group today distributed environment friendly bags as part of International Plastic Bag Free Day at the capital today.

According to members of Zero Waste Himalaya Group, the non-woven polypropylene bag which many of us use as a replacement to plastic bags are in fact just as much plastic and as harmful, if not even more so.

"Its nature of tearing down



into smaller pieces and micro fibers makes it impossible to retrieve, and it causes more pollution than the regular plastic bag.

The use of this plastic bag in the State therefore renders the plastic bag ban useless and ineffective," the members said.

The members further said that they are working to raise awareness about PP bags, urging the State Government to include this bag under the plastic ban.

"We are also doing a campaign asking people to 'Bring Your Own Bag', and to refuse the single use plastic bags that are being handed out," they informed.

Beekeeping earns a living while saving the environment

**NIRMAL MANGAR
GANGTOK, 03 JUL:**

At Kamarey, a small village located in East Sikkim under Rhenock constituency beekeeping is gaining acceptance among residents and youths alike.

Local beekeeper and entrepreneur, Khem Kumar Bhattarai started beekeeping out of passion but soon realized its economic potential.

Mr Bhattarai started beekeeping with one beehive in 2017, but now has an annual turnover of over Rs 11 lakh. Currently, he has 17 beehives.

"Saving bees is important because 70% of pollination in the world is done by bees and there will be no food without pollination. But there is little awareness about this among humans, which has resulted in the alarming rate of decline in the population of bees," said the 22-year-old beekeeper.

This year he plans to increase his number of beehives to 30.



He also aims to scale up honey production, improve packaging and marketing of honey, and even start producing honey-based value added products. He is hopeful that with the Organic

Mission in the State, he will be able to access a wider platform on which to market and sell honey.

"House with bees is an active and healthy household. Earlier people would take up bee-

keeping as a hobby, but now it has become a key income generating activity for many households in the area," said Mr Bhattarai.

He adds that Horticulture Department has been

supporting the locals to take up bee-farming.

According to him, one can keep honey bees as pets by keeping a bee box in their balcony.

"While harvesting honey we take special care to not hurt the brood chamber where the bees lay their eggs. We also keep at least 35% of the honey in the hive itself so that the bees don't starve. Honey bees collect three times more honey than they consume. So this is a very sustainable type of harvesting," he added.

He also claims that handling honey bees feels like a great antidepressant as it is therapeutic to watch them pollinating, collecting nectar, laying eggs, becoming larvae, then pupa and then a bee.

"My family has been a great support, without them it would have not been possible. I urge the young people to get into bee farming as it requires very less investment and is more sustainable and profitable," said Mr Bhattarai.

Lok Sabha MP adopts West Sikkim GPU

GYALSHING, 03 JUL

(IPR): MP Lok Sabha, PD Rai adopted the third village today at 11th Darap-Nambu GPU, West Sikkim. This scheme falls under SAGY (Sansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana) village adoption programme, Government of India. Yangthang MLA, Chandra Maya Subba, Dr. A B Karki (DC west), Sarika Pradhan (Additional Secretary RMDD) and all heads of line departments along with people from the concerned areas were present in the programme.

Mr. Rai, in his address, said that youth are the future of Sikkim and their contribution to the Sikkimese society is very important. Ms Subba thanked the MP for adopting the village.

Ms. Pradhan informed that other villages adopted under this



scheme are doing well with the introduction of banks and enhanced mobile communication network.

A brief presentation was made by Department officials wherein they explained how an ideal Gram should be and the kind of approach required to make this program a grand success.

Dr. AB Karki emphasized on active public participation in order to make this scheme a success. He stated that he is looking forward to the success of SAGY and expressed his strong willingness to take Darap forward.



Sikkim Pragma Pratishtan formed, Rashmi Prasad Alley Smriti Puraskar announced

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 JUL:**

A new association, by the name of 'Sikkim Pragma Pratishtan', was formed today with the aim to promote and conserve Sikkim's languages, literature, art and folk cultures. The meeting of various personalities from the fields of language, literature, art, academics and journalism was held here today and

led to the formation of the new association.

The main objective behind the newly-formed association is to incorporate the different languages and the cultures of the Sikkimese people and conserve these for the coming generations. The Pratishtan will also seek to introduce the unsung heroes of various fields like the languages, *turn to pg03*

SC issues slew of directions on police reforms in country

NEW DELHI, JUL 3 (PTI): The Supreme Court passed today a slew of directions on police reforms in the country and ordered all states and Union territories to not appoint any police officer as acting Director General of Police (DGP).

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra also directed all the states to send names of senior police officers to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for being considered as probable candidates to be appointed as DGPs or Police Commissioners as the case may be.

The UPSC, in turn, will prepare a list of three most suitable officers and the states will be free to appoint one of them as police chief, the bench, also comprising A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud, said.

The bench also said that endeavour should be made that a person, who had been selected and appointed as DGP, has reasonable period of service left.

The apex court also ruled that any rule or state law on the subject of appointment of police officers "will be kept at abeyance".

The bench, however, granted liberty to the states, which have made laws on police appointments, to move before it seeking modification of its order.

The directions came on a plea of the Centre seeking modification of the judgment rendered in the Prakash Singh case on police reforms.

The court was hearing the Centre's plea seeking modification of one of its directions, which were part of its historic 2006 verdict on police reforms, recommending steps like a fixed two-year tenure for DGPs.

Earlier, the apex court, on September 8 last year, had agreed to hear a clutch of pleas claiming that its historic 2006 verdict on police reforms, recommending steps like fixed tenures for DGPs and SPs, has not yet been implemented by states and Union territories.

BJP leader Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay had sought urgent hearing on his interim plea saying the directions passed by the 2006 verdict have not been implemented by authorities concerned.

Upadhyay has also sought the im-

turn to pg03

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College admission fees only through banks from next yr: Mamata

KOLKATA, JUL 3 (PTI): Amidst complaints of extortion from students for admission to colleges, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today said that fees for the purpose will have to be deposited through banks from next year.

Banerjee, who paid a sudden visit to her alma mater Ashutosh College in south Kolkata yesterday, said the merit list will be the only criteria for admission to colleges.

State Education minister Partha Chatterjee said some outsiders are involved in the alleged extortion and the government will identify them and take strict action against them.



Win for Sunrise Women's FC in Bhutan football tourney

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 03 JUL:

Sunrise Women's Football Club team today defeated Mandala FC 6-0 in the ongoing Women's Super League at Thim-

pu, organised by Bhutan Football Federation.

Nikita Gurung, Nim Riki Sherpa and Aita Hangma Limboo from Sikkim also played for Sunrise Women's team

today.

Nikita Gurung was adjudged 'woman of the match' today.

The three girls are from Soreng Girls Football Academy, West Sikkim.

Livestock vaccination drive kicks off in Singling



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 03 JUL:

Department of Animal Husbandry, Livestock, Fisheries and Veterinary Services, Soreng under Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan kicked off the vaccination of livestock against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) from 03 Jul, a press release

informs.

On the first day, the department vaccinated 95 goats at Singling.

In West Sikkim, 25 villages have been selected under this program which will be covered during the month of July, the release further informs.

The vaccination drive at Singling was attended by Joint Direc-

tor [Prime Minister's Office], Jhantu Das and officials from AHF&VS Department.

The month-long vaccination drive is scheduled to cover Chakung, Zoom, Samsing, Malbaisey, Rumbok, Daramdin, Tikpur, Chumbong, Okhrey, Dodak Bariakhop and Timburbong in West Sikkim.

CMRHM house inaugurated in West Sikkim

GANGTOK, 03 JUL [IPR]: Health Minister cum Area MLA, Arjun Kumar Ghatani inaugurated a house constructed under Chief Minister's Rural Housing Mission (CMRHM) today at Middle Sigeng in West Sikkim.

The house belongs to a resident of Middle Sigeng who had lost his house in a fire accident on 29 Jun, 2017.

The house was constructed under CMRHM Phase I for the year 2017-18. The construction work was executed by a private enterprise under supervision of Rural Management and De-



velopment Department.

Mr Ghatani was accompanied by Block Development Officer [Mangalbarey], Prem K Subba, officials from Rural Man-

agement and Development Department and others.

The guests also carried out a mini plantation drive in and around the

newly inaugurated house.

Earlier, Mr Ghatani visited the nearby organic haat at Mangley Bazaar and interacted with the sellers.



Singtam safai karmachari receives cheque for swachhta

YOGESH THATAL

SINGTAM, 03 JUL:

Dal Bahadur Chettri, a safai karmachari under Singtam Nagar Panchayat was recently awarded a cheque of Rs 10,000 by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling on the occasion of Janta Mela which

was held at Ranka on 29 Jun.

SNP president, SK Pradhan, SNP vice president cum councilor, Bishnu Maya Sherpa, municipal inspector, Birendra Rai, municipal head assistant, Rajan Rai presented the cash prize to Mr Chettri.



KVK Namthang conducts exposure tour for farmers of Perbing Khop

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 03 JUL:

A daylong training cum exposure visit was organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Namthang, South Sikkim for the farmers of Perbing Khop today, a

press release informs.

Twenty-six farmers were taken on an exposure tour to Integrated Mushroom Unit, Majhitar by the KVK officials.

Deputy Director, Integrated Mushroom Unit,

Yogesh Sharma informed the farmers about oyster mushroom cultivation. The farmers were also given practical demonstrations on mushroom production, the release reads.



Gangtok on Wednesday, 04 July

Temp: 26°C/17°C
Forecast: Cloudy, a thundershower in the evening, then thundershowers.
Sunrise: 04:45 AM
Sunset: 6:34 PM

State Advisory Committee on Health meets

Gangtok, 03 Jul [IPR]: A meeting of the State Advisory Committee was held in the Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare Department office today. The meeting was chaired by Health Department Commissioner cum Secretary. During the meeting, issues pertaining to sterility clinic for intra uterine insemination laboratory (Assisted reproductive technology) at Central Referral Hospital, six months training and CBT for four medical practitioners as per the directions of Government of India at CRH and the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994 were discussed. Further, the meeting also had discussions on arrangements to be made in order to complete the Competency Based Test of all the existing practitioners on an urgent basis.

Sikkim Pragya Pratishthan formed, Rashmi...

Contd from pg01

art and literature to a wider audience and celebrate their contributions in their respective fields. The meeting also formed the ad-hoc committee of the Pratishthan with litterateur Anita Niroula as president, Tek Bahadur Chettri as vice president, Editors, SummitTimes, Pura Tamang, as general secretary and Neelam Neopaney as treasurer.

The executive committee members are journalist Joseph Lepcha, historian Dr Rajen Upadhaya, poet Prabir Khaling, singer Remanti Rai, student representative Lalit Sharma Pokhrel, Social Media journalist Ajay Agrawal, artist Meena Gautam, student Renuka Basnet, poets Khemnath Ghimirey, Amir Bhandari and Amber Gurung Lachikati, teacher Sunita Rai, painter Shiva Chettri, journalist Wangchuk Bhutia, theatre artists Deepak Dhakal and Karma Lepcha.

Similarly, satirist Bhim Rawat was chosen as the coordinator of the ad-hoc committee. The Pratishthan also elected district coordinators in Meena Gautam for South, Renuka Basnet for West, Lalit Sharma Pokhrel for East and Wangchuk Bhutia for North district.

Today's meeting also decided to celebrate Bhasa Divas in a grand manner on 20 August, on which day, an award in the memory of late Rashmi Prasad Alley, who has commendable contributions to the fields of academics and literature in Sikkim, will be conferred.

East District Planning Committee meeting stresses on communication

GANGTOK, 03 JUL [IPR]: A meeting to discuss the planning and passing of various programmes and projects under the State Government was organized by the District Planning Committee-East District Zilla Panchayat at the Panchayati Raj Office in Sichey today.

District Collector [East], Kapil Meena talked about maintaining the organic status of the State by urging all the departments and the public concerned to participate equally and take responsibility via communication. He urged the members to come forward and obtain information and further, disseminate this information to the general public. He also briefed the gathering on the roles played by various departments including the Gangtok Municipal Corporation [GMC] and spoke on the strict ban of plastic materials.

He laid stress on the convergence of departments and agencies to come together and work towards the common goal and also informed that the District Task Force was working effi-



ciently in eliminating all non-organic and harmful products responsibly. He thanked all for attending the meeting and ended his address on a positive note for the proposals passed, welcoming suggestions and feedback.

Adhyaksha cum Chairperson (DPC- EDZP), Shamsar Bokhim stated that success in implementation of the plans lay in co-ordination and communication of the Zilla members with the officials and the public both. He restated the points made by the DC (East) emphasizing on the ban of non-organic and plastic materials,

and in inculcating a sense of responsibility and diligence.

Additional District Collector [Development], Gangtok, Kishore Pradhan, Additional District Collector [Development], Pakyong, Urvashi Poudyal read out various plans to be implemented in each area of the East District and the fund allocated for these projects. The DPC members gave a few suggestions asking the officials for prompt and efficient flow of information through notifications.

District Project Officer cum Member Secretary, Yadav Kumar

Sharma read out and discussed the estimated budgets submitted by Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Singtam Nagar Panchayat, Rangpo Nagar Panchayat and the changes in the 04th SFC 2017-18 regarding the second installment in certain territorial constituencies as proposed by the concerned Zilla members.

Upadhyaksha cum Vice Chairperson [EDZP], Sharmila Chettri spoke on the incentive grants under 'Incentivization of Panchayat' for the year 2015-16 under the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Pu-

raskar stating that a plan for a guest house with proper medical facilities was in the pipeline, and with the agreement and approval of authorities, the proposed plan would come into action soon.

The DPC members agreed to the proposals made, suggesting few changes in the communication system. The DPO-cum-Member Secretary assured that they would work on an echo-system that would provide a suitable mechanism for the flow of information so that the nexus would be cogent and reliable.



Pre-launch programme for Akkar Summer Cup Open Football Tourney

JORETHANG, 03JUL [IPR]: The pre-launch programme for the maiden Akkar Summer Cup Open Football Tournament organized by Jorethang Football Club [JFC] was held at Gandhi Lane in Jorethang, South Sikkim today.

Minister for Information and Public Relations Department and patron-in-chief, AK Ghatani along with Senior Engineer [Power], Jigme Namgyal, Nayabazaar Jorethang Municipal Committee members and officials from various departments attended the function.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Ghatani extended his best

wishes for the first edition of the Akkar Summer Cup Open Football Tournament which is being organized in Zoom-Salghari constituency.

Explaining the aims and objectives of organizing the tournament, Mr Ghatani informed that the tourney is being held to generate awareness on drug abuse.

He also underlined the importance of inculcating the habit of playing football and other sports. He said that youth who engage in sporting activities learn good sportsmanship qualities and stay away from unpro-

ductive activities.

The tournament is expected to have 18 teams competing for the winner's trophy and will kick off from 04 Jul at Jorethang playground. The tournament will wrap up on 21 Jul.

Winner of the tournament will receive cash prize of Rs 1.25 lakh while the runner-up team will receive Rs 75,000.

During the course of the programme, Mr Ghatani along with the dignitaries handed over an inverter set to DRISHYA Rehabilitation Centre, Samatar on behalf of MERA Camp, Gangtok.

SC issues slew of directions on police reforms in country

contd from pg01

plementation of the Model Police Bill, 2006, which was drafted by a panel headed by former Attorney General Soli Sorabjee.

The apex court, deciding the PIL filed by two former DGPs Prakash Singh and N K Singh in 2006, had given a slew of directions, including setting up of a state security commission to ensure that the government does not exercise unwarranted influence on the police.

It had said the appointment of DGPs and police officers should be merit-based and transparent and

officers like DGPs and Superintendent of Police (SP) should have a minimum fixed tenure of two years.

The court had recommended separation of police functions of investigation and maintaining law and order.

It had ordered setting up of a Police Establishment Board to decide and make recommendations on transfers, postings, promotions and other service-related matters of police officers of and below the rank of DSPs.

It had also ordered setting up of a Police Complaints Authority in

each state to look into complaints against officers of and above the rank of SP in cases of serious misconduct, including custodial death, grievous hurt or rape in police custody.

A National Security Commission needed to be set up at the Union level to prepare a panel for selection and placement of chiefs of the Central Police Organisations with a minimum tenure of two years, the apex court had ordered.

Contempt pleas alleging non-implementation of these directions are still pending.

Agri officials from Nepal visit ICRI in Tadong

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 03 JUL:

A four-member team of officials from Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Nepal visited Indian Cardamom Research Institute [ICRI], RRS, Spices Board in Tadong, East Sikkim as well as the institute's research farm at Pangthang during their exposure cum technology adaptation tour on 02 and 03 Jul, a press release informs.

The visiting team consisted of Senior Cardamom Development Officer, Padam Prasad Adhikari, Value Chain Coordinator, Biswa Bandhu Raj Singh, Cardamom Development Officer, Laxmi Narayan Sharma and Technical Officer, Dil Bahadur Shrestha.



ICRI Deputy Director, BA Gudade explained the research and development activities of Spices Board towards large cardamom farming. He also discussed about the market potential, production and market trends, nutrition management, various agricultural operation and their relevance to production, organic approaches in large car-

damom cultivation.

Discussing the technical side of large cardamom cultivation, ICRI scientist, Ashutosh Gautam, explained the characteristics of different cultivars, their growing habit and adaptation to different altitudes, pollinators, diseases and pests of crop, their characteristics and management, reads the release.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS & YOUTH AFFAIRS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

N.I.T. NO.:

DATED:

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer, Sports and Youth Affairs Department invites sealed tenders from the eligible contractors of appropriate class, of the state for the work listed under:-

SL. NO.	NAME OF WORK	VALUE PUT TO TENDER (RS.)	COMPLETION TIME, (IN MONTHS)	AMOUNT OF BANK RECEIPT FOR COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS (RS.)	AMOUNT OF EARNEST MONEY @2.50% FOR ISSUE OF TENDER FORM (RS.)
1.	Construction of public playground at Begha, West Sikkim.	Rs.15,23,768/-	06(six)	Rs.2000/-	Rs.38094/-

Interested firms may apply in writing to obtain the Tender form from the office of the Assistant Engineer, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Whitehall, Gangtok. Application should be accompanied with the following documents:

- * Valid contractor enlistment.
- * Income Tax, Sales Tax clearance certificates.
- * Bank Receipt.

TIME SCHEDULE:

1. Date for submission of application with Bank Receipt 11/07/2018 upto 1500 hrs. For issue of Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form).
2. Date of issue of Tender Form: 12/07/2018 upto 13/07/2018 1500 hrs.
3. Date and Time for submission of Tender upto 23/07/2018 1200 hrs.
4. Date and Time of opening of Tender 23/07/2018 upto 1300 hrs.

The department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

NOTE: Competitive bidders should be within the jurisdiction of the Gram Panchayat unit where the work is to be executed.

Head of account for Bank receipt:- 0202-03-800-01- misc.receipt.

SYA

**Sd/- ASSISTANT ENGINEER
SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.**

R.O. 172/1pr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 3.7.2018

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Police-Public Relations

Try working more on collaborations than policing

Cops, who see themselves the world over as the custodians of law & order and personnel ensuring security for the people, have rarely evoked confidence as such, and of late, have found themselves at the receiving end of rebuke from the very public they are paid to protect & serve. While such a situation would visit only rarely in the past, it has become worryingly frequent of late, everywhere – from streets in the US of A, to the corridors of power in Delhi to shameful investigations in UP and the encounters there to the still continuing crackdowns in neighbouring Darjeeling and even around Sikkim, on rare occasions for most lay people, but too often for addicts and peddlers. Policing is increasingly, and not always without reason, attracting allegations of atrocities, excessive use of force and over exuberant crackdowns, often even in the absence of context or necessity.

Given that the police is weighed down by a huge colonial baggage, people are the most comfortable when cops are in the background. It is when police presence is overt and overpowering, that public responses can turn disdainful and even hostile. Overt and overpowering are not always about sheer numbers and can also manifest through attitudes, and no one will contest that cops tend to swagger around with an overbearing air. Why, the moment one crosses Rangpo, anyone in uniform flaunts more pompous officiousness than can be healthy, as is suffered by travelers in the hands of that vague community police kind of force that flags down vehicles and keeps finding new ways of challaning Sikkim vehicles. While people let such attitudes slide during “normal” times, when situations turn tense, the pent up frustrations explode and the backlash can be strong. Sikkim had such a moment in the college episode a couple of years back and in the run up to the last elections at several thanas, but to their credit Sikkim Police has traditionally been quick and effective in managing, save the occasional slip-up, which is driven more by individual egos than institutional bluster.

For whatever misgivings one might have about the police in Sikkim, what one cannot ignore is the fact that the force has been diligent in its crackdown on substances of abuse. Drugs hauls are made frequently, and sometimes of mind-numbing volumes, and yet, by Sikkim Police's own admission, there remains no way of knowing whether any dent is being made in the consumption and supply network. This is because only Sikkim Police appears to be combating substance abuse here. This has to be a collaborative effort in which the society at large endorses a more engaged partnership between the police and recovering addicts in devising ways and means to tackle addiction. In the hands of the police, it becomes an exclusively a law & order matter and with NGO's it remains a social issue. Since addiction involves a crime and a victim and exacts a social cost, all these aspects need to be addressed simultaneously, and this can happen only through a collaboration. But for such a collaboration to happen, trust will have to be established.

As things stand in Sikkim, the elite don't care for the police because they can be shaken off with a phone call and the underprivileged do not care because not even genuine pleas appear to move them. To begin with, if the cops were just allowed to do their jobs without any interference, they will be able to evoke some faith among the people. Then some collaborations might become possible.

Police wields enormous power, and clearly shoulders enormous responsibilities as well; it is thus in its interest, and more so in public interest, for the personnel to be better trained and routinely briefed about their role in society. One option could be in attempting community participation in the managing of neighbourhood outposts and police stations so that the police and the public learn to work together instead of, what is increasingly becoming against each other.

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: letters@summittimes.com

Sonic attacks: How a medical mystery can sow distrust in foreign governments

JONATHAN D MORENO & SERGIO LITEWKA
theconversation.com

The recent evacuation of a group of U.S. diplomatic personnel stationed in Guangzhou, China, revived concerns over an “attack” that originated in Havana in mid-2016. At that time, several U.S. individuals working at the American Embassy in Cuba became ill after hearing sounds in their residences similar to cicadas or being in a car with the windows rolled down. The bizarre noises were accompanied by dizziness, headaches, hearing problems, visual focusing issues and cognitive impairments such as memory loss and difficulty concentrating on their daily routines.

After the initial episode in Cuba, the U.S. Department of State, fearing that its personnel had been victims of some kind of “sonic attack,” sent the approximately 80 embassy employees for evaluation to the University of Miami. After the initial examinations, 24 were referred to the University of Pennsylvania Center for Brain Injury for further assessment. The symptoms related to the auditory functions were suspected to be the consequence of neurological damage. The Guangzhou-based Americans were also referred to this same center.

Around the same time as the Americans sought help, Canadian diplomats reporting similar symptoms also requested medical attention at their embassy in Cuba. The Canadian authorities did not immediately characterize the events as “attacks” or warn their citizens about traveling to Cuba. But in April 2018, the Canadian government ordered their diplomatic personnel stationed in Cuba to leave their families at home. A similar policy for diplomats’ families applies to service in Afghanistan and other countries classified as highly dangerous.

We study ethical, legal and political issues in medicine in Asia, Europe and Latin America and have followed the mystery of these “sonic attacks” closely. Based on our research, we recognize this incident as another example of a mysterious disease used to stir tensions between countries.

‘CONCUSSION WITHOUT CONCUSSION’

During their examinations, the Penn physicians found that those evacuated from Cuba had symptoms consistent with a mild cranial trauma or a “brain concussion.” In the words of one of the Penn physicians, Douglas Smith, “This is really concussion without concussion.” In a paper published in March 2018 in the Journal of the American Medical Association, the Penn physicians downplayed hypotheses that the symptoms were caused by a poison or were the results of mass hysteria.

They left open the possibility that some new and previously unknown weapon may have targeted the affected individuals and caused this un-



expected collection of symptoms. An editorial in JAMA that accompanied the Penn authors’ paper was more skeptical. The Trump administration’s statements have been unhelpful at best, and the FBI’s investigators have questioned the notion of “sonic attacks” and think the injuries were induced by a virus, though none were detected in the examinations conducted by the Miami or Penn physicians. And that was before the reports from China.

A joint technical report in March 2018 from the University of Michigan Computer Science and Engineering Department and the Zhejiang University Department of Science and Engineering reported that they had “reverse engineered” the odd sounds described by the U.S. personnel. The engineers experimented with several ultrasound devices that produced ultrasonic signals at different frequencies – signals that interfered with each other and could have produced the sounds associated with the symptoms experienced by the U.S. personnel.

Were the embassy personnel and their families the unintended victims of eavesdropping artifacts? The engineers’ report doesn’t conclude that the attack was deliberate, but it is no secret that embassy personnel with sensitive jobs are targets of routine eavesdropping. In this case, the injurious results could have been accidental even if the spying was deliberate, with one spy agency unaware of what the other was doing, resulting in the sonic wave cross-overs that the engineers were able to reproduce.

MEDICAL MYSTERIES AND POLITICAL CONFLICT

These anomalous medical symptoms occurred in countries that continue to have a contentious relationship with the United States. Further ambiguities arise because these unexplained maladies require assessment by experts from different disciplines, which generates varied viewpoints. The ambiguous nature of the symptoms can result in findings that are inconclusive – sparking distrust between all the parties.

Not surprisingly, the Cuban government dismissed allegations that these incidents involved deliberate attacks, noting the lack of scientific evidence of such actions. Through Granma, a Cuban newspaper (all newspapers circulating in Cuba are official organs of the Cuban government), the Cuban

government accused the U.S. administration of using these alleged incidents as an excuse not to comply with a previous agreements that would allow 20,000 immigrant visas annually for Cubans willing to live in the U.S., reversing the approach initiated by the Obama administration. Chinese officials have said that they will respect their treaty obligations to protect diplomats if the United States requests their assistance.

All this takes place when international relations are in

a delicate state. The allegations of “sonic attacks” on U.S. personnel in Cuba and now China present a perfect opportunity for governments to inflate unsubstantiated hypotheses to further their own political goals.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND PROPAGANDA

Leaders have long been willing to exploit suspicions of dishonorable war mongering, especially when it was indeed possible that their adversaries were using biological tactics to harm national interests and undermine morale. Historically the principal examples were biological agents, often through crude means. George Washington suspected the British of unleashing smallpox on Boston during the Revolutionary War, helping to justify mass inoculation of his troops and fanning contempt for the crown.

During the Korean War, the Communist Chinese leaders Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai charged that the United States dropped bombs with fleas infected with Pasteurella pestis, the bacteria that transmit the bubonic plague.

Because the actual causes and sources of such alleged attacks are unclear and trigger fear and stigma, it is easy to use the threat of pandemic diseases and biowarfare as propaganda against enemies. In the 1980s, Soviet sources claimed that the HIV/AIDS epidemic was a CIA plot. Fidel Castro also blamed the CIA when, in 1981, an outbreak of hemorrhagic dengue in Cuba affected more than 30,000 individuals and killed about 150 people, mostly children.

Even under the best of circumstances governments may manipulate public perceptions of threats. But in the current political environment, with an administration that has shown disdain for science and the scientific method, leaving key science adviser positions unfilled – and a president who once described climate change as a Chinese hoax and vaccination as causing autism – the American public should be wary of what this administration says about these incidents, who perpetrated them, and why.

[Jonathan D Moreno is Professor of Ethics, University of Pennsylvania; Sergio Litewka is Professor of Bioethics and Health Policy, University of Miami]

Why is suicide on the rise in the US-but falling in most of Europe?

STEVEN STACK
theconversation.com

Suicide now ranks in the top 10 leading causes of death in the U.S.

In 2015, 44,193 Americans died by their own hand. That was more than the number killed in motor vehicle accidents (37,757) and over twice the number who died through homicide (17,793).

The number of suicides per 100,000 Americans rose 30.4 percent between 1999 and 2015. The increase has not been uniform across all demographic groups. Those in midlife had the largest uptick in suicide. For example, for those ages 45 to 54, the rate increased from 13.9 persons that age to 20.3, or 46 percent, during that period.

However, suicide rates in other developed nations have generally fallen. According to the World Health Organization, suicide rates fell in 12 of 13 Western European between 2000 and 2012. Generally, this drop was 20 percent or more. For example, in Austria the suicide rate dropped from 16.4 to 11.5, or a decline of 29.7 percent.

There has been little systematic research explaining the rise in American suicide compared to declining European rates. In my view as a researcher who studies the social risk of suicide, two social factors have contributed: the weakening of the social safety net and increasing income inequality.

THE SAFETY NET

There is evidence that rising suicide rates are associated with a weaken-

ing of the social norms regarding mutual aid and support.

In one study on suicide in the U.S., the rising rates were closely linked with reductions in social welfare spending between 1960 and 1995. Social welfare expenditures include Medicaid, a medical assistance program for low income persons; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, which replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children; the Supplemental Security Income program for the blind, disabled and elderly; children's services including adoption, foster care and day care; shelters; and funding of public hospitals for medical assistance other than Medicaid.

Later studies found a similar relationship between suicide and social welfare for the U.S. in the 1980s and between 1990 and 2000, as well as for nations in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Economic Development.

When it comes to spending on social welfare, the U.S. is at the low end

of the spectrum relative to Western Europe. For example, only 18.8 percent of the U.S. GDP is spent on social welfare, while most of the OECD nations spend at least 25 percent of their GDP. Our rates of suicide are increasing while their rates fall.

While their suicide rates are on the decline, three European nations still have rates above that of the U.S.: Belgium, Finland and France.

INCOME INEQUALITY

The degree of the gap between the rich and the poor in the U.S. also differs from that of Europe.

Research has generally found that the higher the level of income inequality in the U.S. states, the higher the probability of death by suicide. According to social strain theory, when there's a large gap between the rich and poor, those at or near the bottom struggle more, making them more susceptible to addiction, criminality and mental illness than those at the top.

Take the GINI index, a standard



measure that varies between zero, or no inequality, and one, or a scenario where one household receives all the income. Most European nations fall between a GINI of 0.271 and 0.305, while the U.S. gap between its rich and poor measures at 0.410. That means that, for example, the U.S. has 34.4 percent more income inequality than Austria. This represents a relatively high amount of financial strain faced by U.S. families.

Income inequality in the U.S. has been increasing for several decades. This wasn't always the case. Between 1928 and 1979, the share of the top 1 percent declined in every state but Alaska. But then, over the next three decades, the average income of the top 1 percent of U.S. families increased by 200.5 percent, fully 10 times the increase seen by the rest of U.S. families.

By 2013, the average income of the top 1 percent was \$1,153,293, more than 25 times greater than the average income of the rest of U.S. families.

The ensuing economic strain is a risk factor for suicide. As U.S. income inequality has been increasing, one study found an increasing percentage of midlife suicides reportedly associated with financial problems.

It's important to note that work on suicide's relationship to both income inequality and social welfare is scant. Rigorous research is needed to update what we know about the present American context.

[the writer is Professor of Criminal Justice, Wayne State University]

SC “shocked” over huge number of uncontested seats in WB panchayt polls

NEW DELHI, JUL 3 (PTI): The Supreme Court today expressed shock at the fact that “thousands and thousands” of seats in the recent West Bengal panchayat polls had remained uncontested, observing that these figures showed that grass root-level democracy was not working.

It directed the state election commission to provide exact statistics about such contested posts by tomorrow.

Out of a total 58,692 posts for gram panchayat village, zilla parishad and panchayat samiti, 20,159 of them had remained uncontested in the violence-marred local polls in the state held in May this year.

“We cannot remain oblivious of this fact that such a huge number of seats were uncontested in panchayat elections in the state... What is puzzling us is that of 48,000 gram panchayat seats, more than 16,000 go uncontested,” a bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra said.

“What is bothering us is that out of total 48,650 panchayat seats, 16,000 posts remained uncontested,” the bench, also comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud, again said, adding that same was the situation with regard to elections for the posts of zilla parishads (district level) and panchayat samitis at the villages.

The court said it was “shocking” that “thousands and thousands of seats” have gone uncontested and referred to the percentage of seats

which went uncontested in districts like Birbhum, Bankura and Murshidabad.

These figures showed the grass root-level democracy, as enshrined in the Constitution, was not working, the top court said.

The bench directed the West Bengal State Election Commission to file an affidavit by tomorrow providing exact statistics about the number of seats that went uncontested in the local bodies elections in the state.

Elections were held in phases for 48,650 posts in Gram Panchayats, 825 posts in Zilla Parishads and 9,217 posts in Panchayat Samitis and it has been alleged that around 34 per cent seats were uncontested.

The bench questioned the decisions of the state election body and said it had first extended the time limit for filing of nomination papers and took back the decision within a day.

“You (state election commission) are the guardian of law. It was vivid that so many seats were going uncontested,” it said, adding “if nobody is contesting, then there will be no litigation. The fact that there were litigations and it means that everyone was aware of the fact that something was missing”.

Senior advocate P S Patwalia, appearing for West Bengal unit of BJP, said violent incidents took place during the elections and people were not allowed to file their nomination papers. He also pro-

vided a district-wise break-up of the uncontested seats.

Earlier, the apex court had stayed the Calcutta High Court order asking the state election body to accept the nomination papers filed through e-mail for panchayat elections and directed the poll panel not to declare in the gazette the names of those candidates who had won unopposed.

The bench, however, had then refused to stay the poll process observing that there were a plethora of judgements which have held that once the poll process has begun, it cannot be interfered into by any court.

The counsel for CPI(M) and the BJP had alleged that several of their candidates were not allowed to file nomination papers, which had led to about 34 per cent of the candidates belonging to the ruling Trinamool Congress, winning unopposed.

The court was hearing an appeal filed by the state election panel against the High Court order asking it to accept the nomination papers filed through e-mail for the panchayat elections.

The CPI(M) had claimed that many of its candidates were prevented from filing nominations by the state’s ruling Trinamool Congress.

The SEC petition arrayed CPI(M) as a respondent, besides the state government, the ruling Trinamool Congress, state panchayat secretary and others. BJP was later allowed to be a party to the litigation.

Bhutan PM arrives on Thursday on 3-day India trip

NEW DELHI, JUL 3 (PTI): Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay will arrive here on Thursday on a three-day visit during which both sides are expected to deliberate on a range of issues including defence, security and strategic cooperation.

Announcing Tobgay’s visit, the Ministry of External Affairs said his visit will provide an opportunity to advance the “exemplary ties of friendship” between the two countries.

Tobgay will hold wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and call on President Ram Nath Kovind.

In February, Tobgay had visited Guwahati to participate in an investors’ summit on the sidelines of which he and Modi had held talks.

Few days after Tob-



gay’s visit, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and Army Chief General Bipin Rawat had quietly travelled to Bhutan where they held extensive talks with the Bhutanese leadership on key strategic issues including the situation in Doklam.

In their talks, Modi and Tobgay are expected to deliberate on the situation in Doklam tri-junction, the site of 73-day-long standoff between

Indian and Chinese armies last year.

This year, both the countries are commemorating the golden jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations.

“The upcoming visit of Prime Minister Tobgay, during the Golden Jubilee year, will provide an opportunity to both the sides to hold discussions on issues of mutual interest, and advancing the exemplary ties of friendship for the benefit of the two peoples,” the

MEA said.

It said India and Bhutan enjoy unique ties of friendship and cooperation, which are characterised by “utmost trust” and “mutual understanding”.

Troops of India and China were locked in a 73-day-long standoff in Doklam from June 16 last year after the Indian side stopped construction of a road at the disputed Doklam tri-junction by the Chinese army.

Bhutan and China have a dispute over Doklam.

The face-off ended on August 28. China and Bhutan are engaged in talks over the resolution of the dispute in the area.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and several other union ministers are also scheduled to call on the Bhutanese Prime Minister during his stay here.

Assam govt to merge two directorates

GUWAHATI, JUL 3 (PTI): Assam government will merge the Directorate of Historical and Antiquarian Studies with the Directorate of Museum, officials said.

“The decision has been taken to bring in semblance with the mandate of both the Directorates so that the works of preservation, display, research and communication for the purpose of study, education and enjoyment of the cultural objects of this state can simulated and brought under single umbrella,” an official release said yesterday.

In a meeting with the Department of Higher Education, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal asked the Education Minister

to hold parleys with the Department of Culture and draw a blueprint and fix modalities to take the merger to its logical conclusion, it added.

Sonowal maintained that the merger will help to direct both the Directorates to a systematic and comprehensive method of research and collection of rare and old manuscripts along with others.

The meeting also decided to take the offices of the Chief Minister and Education Minister closer to college teachers and as a part of it, Sonowal and Education Minister Siddhartha Bhattacharya will hold interactive meetings with 10,000 teachers across the state, the state-aid said.

“The interactive sessions have been aimed at taking into cognizance the issues of the college teachers and enable them to render their duties and bring in more improvement in the overall landscape of education in the state,” it added.

In another decision, the state government announced to give bicycles to all the girl students for securing first division in HSLC Examinations.

To stimulate the employability of engineering and commerce graduates, 10 centres of excellence will be set up where industry bodies will be imparting training to the students as a part of Entrepreneurial Resource Programme.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT KALUK SUB-DIVISION, WEST SIKKIM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

N.I.T. No.: 01/NIT/R&B/Kal.

Dated: 29.06.2018

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, invites sealed tender under single bid system from the eligible contractors of Class IV grade enlisted with vide Sikkim Public Works Department vide notification no.515/R&B/PWD Secy. Dated 12/06/2018, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat/Urban local bodies where the works is to be executed. The works are listed as under:

SL. NO.	NAME OF WORK	VALUE PUT TO TENDER (RS)	COMPLETION TIME (IN MONTHS)	AMOUNT OF BANK RECEIPT FOR COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS (RS)	AMOUNT OF EARNEST MONEY @ 2.50% FOR ISSUE OF TENDER FORM (RS.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of SPWD Link road from PMGSY Bullung to Thapadara under 03-Maney-bong Dentam Constituency, West Sikkim.	Rs.63,37,342.00	18 months	Rs.15,000.00	Rs.1,60,934.00

TIME SCHEDULE

- Date for submission of application with Bank Receipt for issue of Tender Document (excluding the Tender Form) 1st August 2018 (from 10 am to 4.00 pm).
- Date of issue of Tender Form: 2nd August 2018 (from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm).
- Date and Time for submission of Tender: 4th August upto 12.00 pm.
- Date and Time of opening of Tender: 4th August 2018 at 1.30 pm.

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors / Firms of appropriate Class/ Area.
- The intending tenders/ contractors should apply in writing for issue of Tender documents. The application would invariably be signed by the contractor himself/ herself.
- The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDERER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.
- The applications should enclose attested copies of the GSTIN Certificates along with the application. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/ updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/ issue of the Tender Document for verification.
- The prescribed Non- Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified as above from the office of the Divisional Engineer, (W), Roads & Bridges Department, Rabdentse on production of requisite Bank receipt of the State of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Document (non-refundable) under the receipt Head 0059-80-800-01 Roads & Bridges (cost of Tender form).
- Earnest money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedules Bank which includes deposit in the form of temporary deposit receipts of Fixed deposits receipts in favour of the Sr. Accounts Officer (W), Roads & Bridges Department, Gyalshing. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of the deposit receipts to that contractors/ firm who has obtained the tender Documents, on production of towards deposit receipt of 2.5% earnest money.
- The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the Tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it. Supporting documents listed at Sl.No. 3 (a), (b), and (c) above should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the office of the Assistant Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Tenders will be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderness on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tenders documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of Value Added Tax and all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/ Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate (s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents rates as per approved Scheduled of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account shall be entertained whatsoever. If any extra claim is made, it shall be as per the agreements rates.
- The contractors shall establish a field laboratory at the construction site. It shall be mandatory to test material by the contractor at site or any other laboratory fixed by the Government for quality control purpose. The Department reserves the rights to withhold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractors shall be at his own risk and cost. The department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labourer at site.
- In case of roads, contractor shall be required to execute the pavement works in test patches for ensuring quality of materials and for determination of correct methodology. The test patches shall be got approved from the Engineer-in Charge.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the date of issue of work Order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5% or as notified from time to time and applicable on date of payment.
- The contractor shall ensure the safety of plant in the road reserve area and beyond. He shall also plant additional flora as directed by the Engineer-in Charge at his own cost in due fulfillment of the stipulation under the State Green Mission. Security deposit for the work shall be refunded only after verification of the survival of such plants in additions to the others norms laid down for the release of security deposit.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The recoveries of Taxes and Royalties on forest produces shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates or Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- In case of carriage of Non Stock Materials, if these materials are available at site or are actually transported from a lesser distance than indicated in the schedules, the department shall pay the carriage as per actual proof or carriage supported by permits issued by Forest department indicating the quarries which is required to be submitted by contractor with bill, not exceeding the rates as incorporated in these schedules. The contractors are required to submit necessary documents to fulfil the claim of payments for carriage of Non Stock Materials.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- In case the man powers employed by the contractor are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- Use of explosive shall be regulated as under.
 - Transportation, handling, storage and use of explosive (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provision of the India Explosive Act and General Guideline, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.
 - The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportations, storages, handling, and use of explosive at all times. Proper daily record of receipt and issue of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.
- Quarrying of stones shall be allowed only from designated approved quarries. Where work of Water Bound Macadam is involved, binding materials shall strictly be in accordance with the specifications, both in quality and quantity. Works such as compaction, consolidation and stabilization etc, will be required to be done on trial stretches to ensure that materials, procedure and equipments are producing the desired result.
- Damages to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- Expenditure involved for material testing, cube strength of concrete, crushing strength of road metals etc., at site or in laboratories shall be borne by the contractor.
- The contractor shall make necessary arrangement accordingly as and when instructed to do so.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The contractor will have to pay all taxes and duties as applicable and notified by the State/ Central Government and no claim shall be entertained in this regard whatsoever.
- The cost of stock materials supplied from the departmental store will be deducted from the contractor’s bills up per rules.
- The defect liability period for the pavement work shall be for a period of five years which shall not cover the damages due to natural calamities formation sinking landslides etc.
- The payments for the executed work shall be done only after obtaining sanction under BADP- and no claim, whatsoever, shall be entertained before the sanction.

Sd/-

**ASSISTANT ENGINEER
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT,
KALUK SUB DIVISION.**

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India announces 524 athletes for Asian Games

NEW DELHI, JULY 3 (PTI):

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) today announced a 524-member contingent of athletes for the August 18-September 2 Asian Games in Indonesia where they will vie for medals in 36 disciplines.

The contingent comprises 277 men and 247 women athletes. In the 2014 Incheon Asian Games, the Indian contingent featured 541 athletes across 28 disciplines.

Eight new sports disciplines have been added where the country has shown promise. They are Karate, Kurash, Pencak Silat, Roller Skating, Sambo, Sepaktakraw, Triathlon and Soft Tennis.

The other disciplines where India will take part in are Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Bowling, Canoe-Kayak (Sprint), Canoe-Kayak (Slalom), Cycling, Equestrian, Fencing, Gymnastics, Golf, Handball, Hockey, Judo, Kabaddi, Karate, Kurash, Pencak Silat, Roller Skating, Rowing, Sailing, Sambo, Sepaktakraw, Shooting, Squash, Aquatics - Swimming, Aquatics - Diving, Tennis, Taekwondo, Triathlon, Soft Tennis, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Weightlifting, Wrestling and Wushu.

Athletics will have the highest number of representation with 52 eyeing for medals.

In June, the IOA had submitted a provisional list to the Sports Ministry which had the names of 2370 athletes and officials. The final list has now been pruned down further to 524 athletes who have attained the qualification criteria in their respective disciplines.

"The contingent has been selected keeping in mind the Indian Olympic Association's long term vision of preparing and encouraging the most deserving athletes for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics based on them attaining qualification criteria," said IOA secretary general Rajeev Mehta.

The IOA has decided against sending the men and women football teams this time as they are ineligible under the existing criteria set by the Olympic body. The decision has led to a controversy with All India Football Federation calling IOA's decision "myopic".



SFPA to hold meeting on Sikkim football, all former and active players invited

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 03 JUL:

Sikkim Football Players Association [SFPA] members have scheduled a meeting for 08 Jul to discuss the future activities and agendas of the association.

The footballers behind the formation of SFPA have invited footballers from the State including senior players, ex-players and active players to attend the meeting on 08 Jul at Paljor Stadium.

The meeting aims to discuss the association's future agendas and take inputs from footballers for setting up the proposed SFPA, said footballer Nirmal

Chettri during a press meet held today at Paljor Stadium.

Mr Chettri was accompanied by Shillong Lajong footballer, Novin Gurung, United Sikkim Football Club coach/player, MD Lepcha, Aakraman FC captain, Ashish Chettri and Aakraman FC owner/player, Sonam Gyaltsen.

"We are contacting footballers across the State to come and attend the meeting at Paljor Stadium. Through this press conference, we want to reach out to all the players of Sikkim about the meeting. We appeal to them to come and attend the meeting. All the details, agendas and programmes about the SFPA will

be discussed and finalized that day," added Mr Chettri.

He further said that the association aims to represent the interest and welfare of footballers of the State.

"SFPA is, for and by the players of Sikkim," he further added. Mr Chettri informed that the SFPA will be actively supported by him, Sanju Pradhan, Bikash Jairu and others playing outside the State.

However, Mr Chettri clarified that the SFPA office-bearers will be footballers currently based in the State.

Mr Chettri mentioned that more details of the SFPA will be

released to the media after the 08 Jul meeting.

Simultaneously, MD Lepcha added that other States have beaten Sikkim in terms of football in the past couple of years.

"We must all think about why this is happening and why we are not able to compete with other States in football. There may be many reasons and we need to discuss amongst us where we are lagging. The SFPA will be analyzing the shortcomings and at the same time provide a platform for the players and create more opportunities for them," he said.

Martinez hails Belgium 'character' after stunning World Cup win

ROSTOV-ON-DON, JUL 3

(AFP): Belgium coach Roberto Martinez said he was deeply proud after his team hit back from 2-0 down to beat Japan and claim a place in the World Cup quarter-finals.

Substitute Nacer Chadli slotted home in the fourth minute of injury time to complete a memorable comeback and seal a 3-2 win in the last-16 match in Rostov-on-Don.

Belgium were stunned after Genki Haraguchi and Takashi Inui gave Japan a two-goal advantage early in the second half.

But Jan Vertonghen and Marouane Fellaini pulled them level and Chadli's winner means they will play Brazil in the last eight.

"That was a test for the team and its character," said Martinez after Belgium become the first team in 48 years to overturn a 2-0 deficit in a World Cup knockout match.

"We survived it, we



have gone through and that is the most important thing." "No negatives today, it was about getting through," Martinez added.

"It is a day to be very proud of these players. Keep believing in Belgium."

"In the World Cup you want to be perfect but it's about getting through, it's about winning."

"I couldn't be prouder of them and everyone in Belgium needs to be proud of these players."

Martinez, the former

Everton manager, also said Japan deserved credit for presenting his team with such a tough test.

"Let's congratulate Japan, they played the perfect game. They were clinical on the counter and so solid," said the Belgium boss.

"It was a test of character and you see the reaction of our subs coming on to win the game. It tells you everything about this group of players."

"Physically, we finished the game really

strong, the third goal was almost a powerful counter attack which saw us cover the pitch in six seconds."

The Spaniard denied under-estimating Japan after his side went 2-0 down early in the second-half.

"We didn't underestimate them, we gave the players a lot of details about what Japan could do," said Martinez.

"Their first goal was a fantastic counter attack and the second one was a wonder strike from them down to brilliance."

"Mentally we had to be very strong, I felt the players always had the belief, but we never underestimated Japan." Martinez singled out Romelu Lukaku for praise in the build-up to the winning goal after the Manchester United striker let the ball roll to the unmarked Chadli to score, rather than claim the glory for himself as he was marked.

"Lukaku was aware and showed great selflessness to allow Nacer to score," beamed Martinez.



Real Madrid denies report of \$360M offer to buy Neymar

MADRID, JUL 3 (AP): Real Madrid has denied a report that it has offered to buy Neymar from Paris Saint-Germain for a world record transfer of 310 million euros (USD 360 million).

Madrid says the report by Spanish public broadcaster TVE is "absolutely untrue," adding the team "made no offer of any kind to PSG or the player."

The statement was published hours after Neymar scored to help Brazil beat Mexico 2-0 and advance to the World Cup quarterfinals.

Paris Saint-Germain is under pressure from UEFA to raise cash from selling players. The French club needs to help comply with "Financial Fair Play" rules which monitor overspending on transfers and wages. PSG spent a record 222 million euros (USD 260 million) last year by buy Neymar from Barcelona.

UEFA warned the French champions three weeks ago they will "remain under close scrutiny" when they submit accounts for the financial year, which ended last Saturday.

Pak hub of terrorism, spreads false narrative about Kashmir: India at UN

UNITED NATIONS, JUL 3

(PTI): Pakistan is a "hub of terrorism" in South Asia and beyond and its "cynical" attempts to spread a false narrative about Kashmir have always been unsuccessful, India has said at the UN.

India's remarks came after Pakistan again brought up the Kashmir issue in its Right of Reply.

The representative of Pakistan said that the High Commissioner for Human Rights has identified many violations in Kashmir and added that repeating groundless accusations do not make them fact.

A farce can only go so far, the Pakistani representative said, according to the information about the session available online.

India exercised its right of reply following a General Assembly debate yesterday on the responsibility to protect after Pakistan said that Kashmir was never a part of India.

First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Sandeep Kumar Bayyapu said in India's Right of Reply that "repeated and cynical attempts by Pakistan, a hub of terrorism in our region and beyond, to spread a

false narrative about the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir have not succeeded earlier and will not do so now".

He asserted that India did not wish to engage on this further.

During a June 25 General Assembly debate on the Responsibility to Protect, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN Maleeha Lodhi had made a reference to the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

India had then strongly rejected Pakistan's reference to Kashmir in the 193-member UN body saying in its Right of Reply that cynical attempts by Pakistan to raise the Kashmir issue in the UN have failed in the past and do not find any resonance in the UN body.

With Pakistan again referring to Kashmir in its Right of Reply yesterday, Bayyapu responded that during the session on responsibility to protect last week, India had placed on record its rejection of yet another attempt by the delegation of Pakistan to misuse the UN forum and raise the issue of Kashmir.

He said India was constrained to take the floor again yesterday following Pakistan's new remarks.

Wawrinka finds old self to upset Dimitrov at Wimbledon



LONDON, JUL 3 (AP): Out of form and a set down to Grigor Dimitrov after just 23 minutes, Stan Wawrinka was just about the only person on Centre Court who believed he could win.

The three-time Grand Slam champion - whose ranking has fallen to 224 following knee surgery - proved himself right, rallying to defeat the sixth-seeded Dimitrov 1-6, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5), 6-4 at Wimbledon on Monday to claim just his second Grand Slam victory since last year's Wimbledon.

Wawrinka received a fillip earlier when his girlfriend Donna Vekic pulled off a top-10 triumph of her own, defeating fourth-seeded Sloane Stephens 6-1, 6-3.

"It was a good day for us at the office," Wawrinka said.

"That's for sure." After missing the sec-

ond half of 2017 following surgery on his left knee, Wawrinka has struggled to regain his form since returning at the Australian Open in January.

The 33-year-old Swiss won just three matches across four tournaments at the start of the year, prompting him to take another three-month break.

The second edition of the comeback had been even more concerning, with just two wins in five tournaments climaxing with a thrashing from fellow long-term injury victim Andy Murray who, despite that victory, deemed himself unfit to compete at Wimbledon.

Wawrinka's prospects at the All England Club were bleak, and appeared bleaker when he was drawn against 2014 semifinalist Dimitrov in the opening round. Wawrinka had never beaten a top-10 player on

grass.

"I had to put myself together again, to try to fight, try to find (a) solution," said Wawrinka of his thought process after dropping the first set.

He found it. The Swiss doubled his winner count and lifted his first-serve percentage to level the set score through a tiebreaker, and toughed out a high-quality third set via the same method.

Wawrinka's serve carried him to a 5-4 lead in the fourth, before he pounced on his first opening of the set to seal victory.

Vekic said after her win over the U.S. Open champion: "I'm really happy that I was the first one today so now I can watch him a little bit. It's not easy when there's two matches in one day, we're both kind of a little bit stressed but it's good if we both win."



A British rescue diver has reached the 12 boys who have been trapped in a network of Thai caves for 10 days, with work set to begin on bringing them home. Overjoyed relatives hugged and cheered after hearing the youngsters, who are all members of the same youth football team, were found alive along with their 25-year-old coach. The group was trapped in the Tham Luang Nang Non cave complex in Chiang Rai province for 10 days before being found by rescuers. It has now emerged that their ordeal is not over, however, and that they will be given enough food to last four months while they are taught to dive. The huge international rescue effort had been made more difficult by the fact that the underground cave network was partially flooded by monsoon rain.



Malaysia arrests former PM Najib

PUTRAJAYA, JUL 3 (AP): A government official and an aide to former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak say Najib has been arrested by anti-graft officials.

Najib's arrest comes nearly two months after his coalition's shocking defeat in a May 9 general election.

The official, who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter, said Najib was picked up from his house Tuesday and is being brought to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's headquarters, and that the agency will issue a statement soon. The aide, who declined to be named, confirmed his arrest.

Iran says to hold talks with world powers on nuclear deal

TEHRAN, JULY 3 (AFP): The foreign ministers of Iran and five world powers still party to the 2015 nuclear deal will meet in Vienna on Friday for talks on the troubled accord, state media in Tehran said.

The top diplomats of Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia will join Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in the Austrian capital, Iran's official IRNA news agency reported, for their first talks together on the deal since Washington pulled out earlier this year.

During the meeting the ministers will discuss an "incentive package" the European Union is offering to try to persuade Iran to stay in the agreement, IRNA reported.

The meeting will seek "solutions to preserve the Iran nuclear deal after the illegal US action to withdraw," it said.

The announcement came



with President Hassan Rouhani in Europe to rally support for the deal.

Rouhani, accompanied by Zarif, was in Switzerland today and due to head tomorrow to Vienna, where the accord was

signed in 2015.

US President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled out of the agreement two months ago, to the ire of the other signatories which along with the European Union have continued to back

the accord.

Iran has warned it is ready to resume uranium enrichment to 20 per cent -- above the level permitted in the deal -- "within days" if the agreement falls apart.

UN chief condemns Jalalabad terror attack on Sikhs, Hindus

YOSHITA SINGH

UNITED NATIONS, JUL 3 (PTI): UN chief Antonio Guterres has strongly condemned the suicide attack in Afghanistan's Jalalabad city that killed 19 people, mostly Sikhs and Hindus, asserting that any attack targeting civilians is "unjustifiable" and in clear violation of international law.

The UN Secretary General expressed his condolences to the families of the victims and urged all parties to uphold their obligation to protect civilians, including minority communities.

"The majority of victims belong to Afghanistan's small Sikh and Hindu community. The Secretary-General extends his deepest condolences to the families of the victims and wishes a speedy recovery to those injured," the UN chief said in a statement issued by his spokesperson.

"The Secretary-General urges all parties to uphold their obligation to protect civilians, including minority communities, and cease targeting civilians and civilian facilities," he said.

An ISIS suicide bomber targeted a convoy of Sikhs and Hindus on their way to meet the Afghan president Ashraf Ghani in the eastern city of Jalalabad on Sunday.

Some reports said 19 people were killed in the attack and 17 of them were from the minority Sikh and Hindu communities.

Avtar Singh Khalsa, a longtime leader of the Sikh community who had planned to run in the parliamentary elections set for October, was also killed in the attack.

The UN Security Council joined in condemning the "heinous and cowardly" terrorist attack for which terror group ISIS has claimed responsibility.

The members of the Security Council reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constituted one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.



"The members of the Security Council underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice and urged all States...to cooperate actively with the Government of Afghanistan and all other relevant authorities in this regard," the statement said.

The 15-nation Council also reiterated that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) condemned the July 1 attack and expressed its concern over the recent spate of such incidents in which civilians have been killed in attacks on schools and medical centres.

"The architects of this appalling crime must be brought to justice," said Ingrid Hayden, the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan.

The United Nations in Afghanistan expressed its condolences to the loved ones of those killed and wishes a full and speedy recovery to the injured.

Elsewhere in Nangarhar, in the Khogyani district, three civilian night watchmen were

killed, at least two of them beheaded, and a school torched on Saturday in the latest instance of an Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKAP) campaign against schools and educational workers.

Today, one of several missiles fired into Jalalabad hit the Najmuljihad high school with other projectiles landing nearby. There were no reports of casualties.

UNAMA is also concerned by recent incidents impacting health facilities.

Last month a mortar hit the Andar district hospital in Ghazni province killing a doctor and a vaccination worker.

Yesterday, in the northern province of Faryab, three civilians, including a woman and child, were killed and several other civilians, mainly women and children, were injured in an Afghan National Army helicopter attack in the Pashtun Kot district.

The attack allegedly targeted Taliban combatants at a health clinic where civilian patients were also receiving treatment.

The United Nations stresses that all parties to the conflict must at all times uphold their obligations to protect civilians and reiterates its call to immediately cease targeting civilians and civilian objects, including schools and health facilities, in compliance with the international humanitarian law.

Pompeo to travel to NKorea after postponing India-US 2+2 dialogue

WASHINGTON, JUL 3 (PTI): US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who last week abruptly postponed the 2+2 dialogue with India on July 6, will travel to North Korea this week to "flesh out" the denuclearisation deal on the Korean Peninsula, the White House has announced.

During his week-long trip beginning on July 5 from Pyongyang, Pompeo will also travel to Tokyo, Hanoi, Abu Dhabi and Brussels, his spokesperson said yesterday.

The State Department announcement comes days after Pompeo called External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to inform her about his decision to postpone the July 6 India-US 2+2 dialogue in Washington DC.

The US had cited "unavoidable reasons" for the sudden postponement of the dialogue.

US envoy to the UN Niki Haley, who was in India last week, had clarified that the postponement of the dialogue had "nothing to do" with the Indo-US bilateral ties.

"To continue the ongoing and important work of denuclearisation on the Korean Peninsula,



Secretary Pompeo will be leaving for North Korea on July 5th to meet with the North Korean leader and his team," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters at her daily news conference yesterday.

The White House refused to comment on media reports saying North Korea was planning to conceal its nuclear weapons and missiles programme.

"We are not going to confirm or deny any intelligence reports. What I can tell you is that we're continuing to make progress," she said.

A top US diplomat had a meeting with members of a North Korean delegation on Sunday. "In the last eight months you haven't seen missile launches. You haven't seen the nuclear detonations. These conversations are continuing to evolve. I'm not going to get into the details, but I can tell you that progress continues to be made," Sanders said.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

LOST: I, Sangay Chenzom Bhutia son of P.T. Bhutia & P.D. Bhutia has misplaced/lost my Class X ICSE Mark Sheet in original against Uid no. 6113440 and passed out from Tashi Namgyal School, Gangtok.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Required Sales Boys & Girls for IT store. Experience in IT knowledge both in software and hardware required. Interested candidates contact: **Ramolla Cellular: 7001204591, 9733015218.**

Kutse Tshegu



The Kutse Tshegu (49 days) of Late Mrs. **Urmila Gurung** who left for her heavenly abode will take place on **4th July 2018** at **PRAURMILA COTTAGE, MAJHIGO-AN JORETHANG.** We

request all friends, relatives and well wishers and family to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul on the said day.

We also like to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us at the time of our bereavement.

family members:

- 94340 57367/96098 95767 - Tika Gurung
- 7872209474- Jigme Tshering Bhutia
- 9733670372- Pravat Gurung
- 8145620806- Anula Gurung

Anthyeshi Kriya



On 25th of June, 2018, **Mr. Rajen Karkidholi**, son of late Arjun Karkidholi left for heavenly abode. We the family members would like to thank everyone who was part of his story. We believe that he responsibly

concluded his role as a husband, father, brother, friend and a public servant. While we reminisce about him, we request everyone who cared and wished him well to join us in offering prayers and to bid him a final farewell. The ceremony will be held at our residence at **Maneydara, Lingding, below Indira Bypass [SDF Bhawan], Gangtok on 7th July, 2018 [Saturday].**

Munna Karkidholi [mother], Sonam Yangchen Bhutia [wife], Ravi Karkidholi [brother], Aruna Karkidholi [sister], Anamika Karkidholi [daughter], Menka Karkidholi [sister].
Mob: 9609850052, 9609834107, 9609774878, 90345472, 7407385431

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COMFORTABLE AND COOL! Beauty mogul and reality star Kim Kardashian was spotted doing some shopping in West Hollywood.

INSTAGRAM WILL NOW TELL YOU WHEN YOU'VE SEEN ALL POSTS FROM THE LAST TWO DAYS

Since Instagram's algorithmic, out-of-order timeline is a mystery to all humankind, the company has rolled out a new feature that will let you know when you've scrolled through all new posts from the last 48 hours. When you come across it, you'll see a big green checkmark and a message saying "you're all caught up." Beyond the line break will be posts that have been up for longer than two days mixed with more recent ones you've already seen and scrolled past.

Older posts might still technically be new to you depending on your Instagram habits, but 48 hours seems like a reasonable marker. TechCrunch previously reported that this convenient feature — and small semblance of order for Instagram's confounding feed — was on the way. You should start seeing it today on both Android and iOS.

Facebook and Instagram



Instagram

are working on other tools for showing users how much time they've recently spent in the apps. It's expected that they will soon add screens similar in purpose to Apple's Screen Time (coming in iOS

12) and Google's Dashboard (coming in Android P) that break down your usage patterns and detail how frequently you're opening either app. For today's biggest tech companies and platforms, 2018 is all about helping consumers strike a better balance between gadgets / apps and other aspects of life.

Instagram CEO Kevin Systrom has said that the company is developing "tools that will help the Instagram community know more about the time they spent on Instagram," adding that "any time should be positive and intentional."

But inside the app, some attention-grabbing annoyances remain. You still can't get rid of those bright IGTV notifications, for example. And as The Verge reported on Friday, it looks like Instagram is also trying to keep Stories in front of you at all times whenever you do have the app open.

ARIES: Suddenly things are coming to a head for you, Aries. The drama is escalating and you aren't sure if you can remember all your lines. Take things one step at a time. Deal with the issues as they come. If you get ahead of yourself, you might be overwhelmed by what you fear will be a more daunting situation than you can handle. Don't sweat the small stuff.

TAURUS: A great deal of attention will center on your emotions today, Taurus, although being centered in and of itself will be quite the challenge. You may feel like a yo-yo at the mercy of someone else's hand. Don't fall prey to victimization. Stand up for yourself even if it means that others are likely to get upset. You're responsible for your feelings and no one else's.

GEMINI: A great deal of attention

will center on your emotions today, Taurus, although being centered in and of itself will be quite the challenge. You may feel like a yo-yo at the mercy of someone else's hand. Don't fall prey to victimization. Stand up for yourself even if it means that others are likely to get upset. You're responsible for your feelings and no one else's.

CANCER: Desire is the name of the game for you today, Cancer. If you want it, you can get it, but it won't come easily. The prize will go to the person who desires it the most. Show the people around you how much you can accomplish. You'll impress others with your incredible drive and determination. Don't give in to the wasp that's likely to fly up and sting you.

LEO: Today will be like playing a

game on your home field, Leo. You have fans out there supporting you and you know the territory. Take advantage of the little things that you have going for you. There is a dramatic force at work that may be erratic but extremely powerful as long as you can maintain control. Stay focused on your goals. True happiness is only a small step away!

VIRGO: Enlist the help of others today, Virgo. You'll find that information exchange is the key to putting the last few puzzle pieces into place. Doing things on your own is important and necessary. At some point you need to realize that the next major step requires a certain amount of input from others. Gather data and apply it to your situation. Don't become a leach or burden to others.

LIBRA: This is an excellent day for you, Libra, so live it up! Your ego is strong, and beautiful things are flowing your way in general. You should enjoy a good mood that will attract favorable people and situations. There is virtually no limit to the expansiveness of this day. One thing to watch for, however, is that you don't get too arrogant. Be proud but not obnoxious.

SCORPIO: Your emotions may be a bit erratic. It could be hard for you to focus on anything today, Scorpio. Things continue to shift from one topic to the next with little resolution of any. Others aren't apt to be very sympathetic to your feelings, so don't expect them to be. You'll only be setting yourself up for disappointment. It's a better day to focus on your head rather than your heart.

SAGITTARIUS: There is an extra blast of wind to fill your sails today, Sagittarius, so make sure you've got both hands on the steering wheel. Whichever way your rudder is pointed is the direction you'll go. Once you get on your course, it will be difficult for you to readjust your position, so make sure that your compass is properly set. Continue on with your journey full speed ahead.

CAPRICORN: The day's energy is erratic and you're apt to jump all over the place, Capricorn. Don't worry about trying to firm up any plans at this time. You may feel like you're trying to grab a slippery fish with butter on your hands. If this is the case, don't worry about it. Let the fish swim away for now and relax. You can always catch another one later if need be.

AQUARIUS: Get up and get going today, Aquarius. You have no time to lose. Your quick mind will be busy working on many tasks, but this suits you just fine. You're well equipped to deal with the many frantic situations that are apt to crop up. There is a great deal of strength to your emotions that you can use to connect with others and communicate your thoughts in a healthy manner.

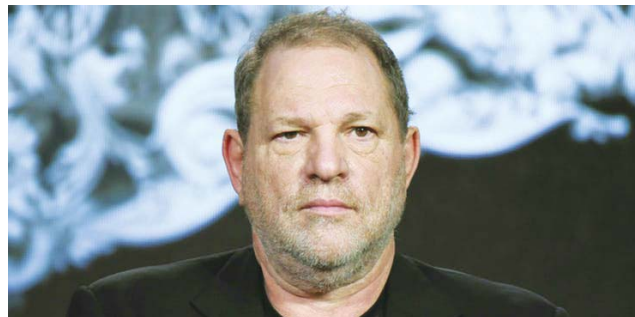
PISCES: Your heart may experience some wild fluctuations today, Pisces. It may seem as if your emotions are on a runaway train with no track. If so, the best thing to do is sit by yourself and write. Compose a letter, song, or journal entry. You'll find that you're much less confused than you thought. When in doubt, consult someone you love and trust. Go with your instincts.

HARVEY WEINSTEIN CHARGED WITH MORE SERIOUS SEX CRIMES

The saga of Harvey Weinstein just keeps growing. In May, the producer was led in handcuffs to face rape charges, paid \$1 million in bail, and was fitted with a GPS device. On Monday, Weinstein was charged with new sex crimes, which he has not responded to. It's been one hellish ride for Weinstein since his behavior was first exposed by the New York Times last October.

For years, many knew of Weinstein's behavior, but didn't speak out. That changed after October, with actresses such as Angelina Jolie, Gwyneth Paltrow, Mira Sorvino, Rose McGowan, and Ashley Judd speaking out about their experiences, most of which had one thing in common: Weinstein using his power to try and seduce women and threaten retaliation. Soon, more women began speaking out about their experiences with Weinstein, and by February, a civil rights lawsuit was filed. Weinstein has denied all of the allegations.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. has now announced additional charges against Weinstein, which have the potential of life in prison. On Monday, Weinstein was indicted on charges that are described as "some of the most serious sexual offenses that exist" under New York's penal law. This time, the sexual charges are described as "predatory", and they involve three women. "This in-



dictment is the result of the extraordinary courage exhibited by the survivors who have come forward", says Vance.

Although one of the biggest Hollywood moguls was brought down, the scandal surrounding Harvey Weinstein will prominently be remembered for creating the #MeToo movement, one of the biggest social movements of the past century. For the first time ever, men have finally been held accountable for sexual predatory behavior towards women. It has affected every single profession, and even men, such as Terry Crews, have spoken out being a victim of unwanted sexual behavior from other men. The #MeToo movement has been especially brutal to Hollywood, where such men such as Kevin Spacey, Chris Hardwick,

Morgan Freeman, James Franco, and Louis C.K. have dealt with huge blows to their reputation and future. Even Aziz Ansari has been accused of sexual misconduct, though the accusations against him aren't as serious as many others.

Some believe that the #MeToo movement has become hypocritical, especially since Hollywood gave Kobe Bryant, a man who was very publicly accused of rape, a standing ovation and an Oscar earlier this year. Others believe the #MeToo movement has turned into a witch hunt. Whatever side you are on, nobody can deny that the fallout from Harvey Weinstein's actions has produced some of the biggest changes ever in the workplace when it comes to protecting women.

Competition between Ranveer and I pushes us to do better: Ranbir

MUMBAI, JUL. 3 (PTI): Actor Ranbir Kapoor says he views competition as a healthy and beneficial exercise, amid the buzz that the upcoming award season will be a face-off between his and Ranveer Singh's performances.

The year began with Ranveer garnering critical acclaim for his portrayal of Sultan Alaaddin Khilji in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Padmaavat", that released on January 25.

Ranbir, who has been through a dull box office phase in the last couple of years, bounced back last Friday as his latest "Sanju", a biopic on actor Sanjay Dutt, has registered a strong opening at the ticket window.

The Rajkumar Hirani-directed film has fetched immense praise for Ranbir slipping into the role of Dutt effortlessly.

Asked about the compar-



isons between him and Ranveer, Ranbir told PTI, "I've seen Ranveer in 'Padmaavat' and I was really bowled over by his performance. I thought he was phenomenal. I've now been pitted against Ranveer as 'competition'. It's amazing to have that. It only pushes us to do better work."

"He (Ranveer) inspires and excites me. There are times his films do better business than mine and hopefully there will be a time

when my films will be doing better business. It will be an interesting pattern," he adds.

Ranbir made his debut 11 years ago with Bhansali's "Saawariya", which bombed at the box office. However, the 35-year-old actor later cemented his identity as one of the best performers in the current generations with films such as "Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year", "Wake Up! Sid", "Raajneeti", "Barfi!" and "Rockstar".

Ranveer, on the other hand, had a breakthrough with his debut "Band Baaja Baarat" before finding his perfect mix of box office success and critical acclaim in Bhansali's "Ram Leela", "Bajirao Mastani" and "Padmaavat".

Ranbir says both Ranveer and him have received offers to co-star in films but they do not want to do a project which does injustice to either of their acting chops.

"We are two actors who have their own sensibilities. We can't come together just as a project. It has to be liked by both of us, individually. I am really looking forward to working with him and also Varun and Tiger."

"When you do a two-hero film, you share the burden. It's also easier because you have a partner-in-crime and you can have a lot of fun on sets too," he says.

THIS WEEK'S TOP 10 SONGS ON BILLBOARD HOT 100



1. Cardi B, J Balvin and Bad Bunny- I Like It
2. XXXTentacion- Sad!
3. Lucid Dreams- Juice WRLD
4. Maroon 5 Featuring Cardi B - Girl's Like You
5. Post Malone Featuring Ty Dolla \$ign- Psycho
6. Drake- Nice For What
7. Ella Mai- Boo'd Up
8. Ariana Grande- No Tears Left To Cry
9. Drake- God's Plan
10. Bebe Rexha and Florida Georgia Line- Meant To Be