



**JENNIFER ANISTON'S DAILY SCHEDULE: A 16-HOUR FAST – AND CELERY JUICE AS A TREAT**  
*pg 08*

**FREEDOM OF THOUGHT IS UNDER ATTACK – HERE'S HOW TO SAVE YOUR MIND**  
*pg 04*

**SIDDHARTH SHUKLA, PARAS CHHABRA AND OTHERS WILL FIGHT TO SAVE THEMSELVES FROM NOMINATIONS**  
*pg 08*



# SummitTIMES

Vol 04 | Issue 280 | Gangtok | Wenesday | 23 October 2019

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

*CoA reign ends as Ganguly set to take over as 39th BCCI president*

**NIKHIL BAPAT MUMBAI, OCT 22 (PTI):** One of India's most decorated captains Sourav Ganguly will be taking over as the 39th president of the BCCI on Wednesday at its AGM, ending a tumultuous 33-month reign of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators.

Ganguly is the unanimous nomination for the post of BCCI president along with Union Home Minister Amit Shah's son Jay as the secretary. Mahim Verma of Uttarakhand is the new vice-president.

Former BCCI president and current MoS finance Anurag Thakur's younger brother Arun Dhumal is the treasurer while Kerala's Jayesh George is the joint secretary.

However Ganguly will have a curtailed tenure of around nine months as he would need to demit office by the end of July, next year as per the provisions of new constitutions, which makes 'Cooling Off' period mandatory after six years in office.

Easily one of the most high profile names to assume office, Ganguly will make use of his experience gained as the secretary and later president of Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), which will come in handy.

He has set a few goals -- primary being restructuring of first-class cricket as well as getting the administration back in shape along with getting India's position of reverence back in the corridors of International Cricket Council.

With Conflict of Interest rules being an impediment, Ganguly will also face the challenge of having quality cricketers on board as far as the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) and national selection committee are concerned.

*turn to pg02*

## 2 petitions challenge ECI relaxation which allowed CM to contest by-election

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 22 OCT:**

Two petitions, one in the Delhi High Court and the other in the Supreme Court, have challenged the relaxation extended by the Election Commission to SKM president, Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay], which allowed him to contest the recent by-elections.

Both petitions, media reports inform, challenge Section 11 of the Representation of the People Act which extends to Election Commission the power to reduce the period of disqualification imposed on certain persons when it comes to contesting elections.

Mr Tamang, it may be recalled, was disqualified from contesting elections for a period of six years following his imprisonment upon conviction in a corruption case. De-

spite this disqualification, he was sworn in as the Chief Minister in May earlier this year and to continue in office, needs to win an Assembly election before November-end to continue on the post.

With nearly five years still left on his disqualification period, Mr Tamang had moved the Election Commission praying that this period be reduced. While his request was tabled in June, it was only on 29 December, a Sunday, a day after his party, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, formalized a seat-sharing arrangement with the BJP for the by-elections in Sikkim and a day before the last date to file nomination papers for the bypolls.

A court case on the matter was always expected, and this came through today as news



arrived of two such petitions, the one in the Delhi High Court filed by SDF general secretary DB Katwal, who was also the party's Lok Sabha candidate earlier this year, and a PIL filed in the Supreme Court by BJP leader and Delhi-based lawyer, Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay.

The Delhi High Court today asked the Centre and the Election Commission to respond to the plea challenging the poll panel's decision to reduce the disqualification period.

The Delhi High Court bench of comprising of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice C Hari Shan-

kar also issued notices to the Sikkim government and the CM on the matter which has been posted for a hearing 24 December.

Mr Katwal has argued that Section 11 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, was unconstitutional

since it provided "uncanalised, uncontrolled, and arbitrary power" to the Election Commission to remove or reduce the disqualification period.

As for the ECI order in Mr Tamang's favour, Mr Katwal has thumbed it down as "wholly erroneous, based on per-

verse reasoning and bad in law".

"While this may seem to be an innocuous condonation, the fact that condonation was granted just before the fresh state elections were to be held, demonstrates arbitrariness," he has highlighted, while adding, "The only inference from the period condoned, that is, four years 11 months, seems to be for the specific purposes of allowing the candidate to contest the state elections."

The PIL in the Supreme Court also makes similar arguments and questions the contradictions contained in Section 11 in that while the ECI has been provided "superintendence, direction and control" of elections, the original provisions do not arrogate any powers to the ECI regarding disqualification.

## Darjeeling BJP MP's car attacked in Kalimpong

**DARJEELING (WB), OCT 22 (PTI):** The BJP MP of Darjeeling Raju Bista was on Tuesday shown black flag and his car was attacked in West Bengal's Kalimpong district by alleged activists of TMC and Binay Tamang faction of the GJM.

The GJM faction of Tamang and the TMC have denied the charges as baseless and politically motivated.

A police contingent arrived at the spot and dispersed the mob.

The incident took place at a time when West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is on a tour of north Bengal. She is scheduled to arrive in Kalimpong after her administrative meeting in Siliguri.

According to sources, the incident took place on Tuesday afternoon when Bista along with

his personal security officer (PSO) and two other officials was on his way to Kalimpong.

"When I arrived at Sinji area of Kalimpong to inaugurate a primary school, hundreds of supporters of Binay Tamang surrounded my car and raised slogans against me and the BJP government. They waved black flags and banged on my car. Then all of a sudden they started pelting stones on it. When I tried to pacify them they threw stones at my PSO," Bista told PTI over phone.

A huge police contingent rushed to the spot and controlled the situation. It started investigation into it.

Reacting to the allegations, Suraj, a senior GJM leader of the Tamang faction, said none of its activists were involved in

the incident.

"May be locals were angry with Bista as he has done nothing for the hills in the past six months after getting elected. But none of our cadres were involved in the incident," Suraj said.

Senior TMC leader Gautam Deb also denied the allegation of involvement of party cadres in the incident.

Later in the evening Bista in a statement said people in Darjeeling have rejected the politics of TMC. "Now Mamata Banerjee's goons are using violent methods to attack our public representatives," he said.

"In today's Bengal none of the opposition public representatives are safe as they are being attacked, tortured and humiliated by the administration and TMC goons," he said.

## Normal life remains affected in Kashmir

**SRINAGAR, OCT 22 (PTI):** Normal life in Kashmir remained disturbed for the 79th day on Tuesday following abrogation of Article 370, but there was increased movement of traffic in parts of the city leading to massive traffic snarls.

Markets and other business establishments opened early in the morning but downed their shutters at around 11.00 am, officials said.

They said while public transport was off the roads in most parts of the valley, there was huge rush of private vehicles in some areas of the city including commercial hub of Lal Chowk and Jehangir chowk. The heavy rush of private vehicles caused massive traffic jams in some areas, prompting the authorities to press in more police personnel to regulate the movement of the vehicles, the officials said.

A large number of roadside vendors also plied their trade on the TRC crossing-Batamalo axis in the city. The



efforts of the state government to open schools have not borne any fruit as parents continued to keep the kids at home due to apprehensions about their safety.

However, authorities are making preparations for holding all the board examinations as per schedule.

The government offices are open and attendance in most offices was near normal, the officials said. While landline and postpaid mobile phone

services have been restored across the valley, all internet services continue to remain suspended since August 5 when the Centre announced its decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution and to bifurcate the state into two Union territories.

Most of the top level and second rung separatist politicians have been taken into preventive custody while mainstream leaders including two former chief min-

isters -- Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti -- have been either detained or placed under house arrest.

The government has detained former chief minister and sitting Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar Farooq Abdullah under the controversial Public Safety act, a law enacted by his father and National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in 1978 when he was the chief minister.

## Striking TSRTC employees resort to 'Gandhigiri'

**HYDERABAD, OCT 22 (PTI):** Employees of TSRTC on Tuesday resorted to 'Gandhigiri' and other forms of protests as part of their indefinite strike pressing merger of the corporation with the government, among others.

The agitating employees of Telangana State Regional Transport Corporation (TSRTC) presented flowers to temporary drivers and conductors engaged by the corporation, requesting them to abstain from work as it would dilute their stir which entered the 18th day.

In Hyderabad, some employees prepared food

at an open space as part of their ongoing protest.

Addressing a protest, RTC employees leader E Ashwathama Reddy claimed that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao had promised during the Telangana agitation to recognise the RTC staff as government employees if the separate state became a reality.

"We are asking for the same today. Telangana state has become a reality. Our request is to recognise RTC workers as government employees.. That is merger (of RTC with government; a major demand of the striking employees). You give any name

(to it), but we are demanding recognition for 50,000 workers of RTC as government employees," he said.

Alleging that the state government has misguidedly the Telangana High Court on the amount of money required to pay the salaries of employees for the September month, Reddy claimed that Rs 105 crore was required (for a month) for payment of salaries.

In response to a petition filed in the High court seeking direction to the TSRTC management to release salaries of over 49,000 employees for September, the

TSRTC, in a counter affidavit on Monday submitted that at present only Rs 7.49 crore was available in the Corporation account whereas the monthly wage bill is Rs 239.68 crore.

In a related development, the Hyderabad city police warned against obstructing private drivers who were roped into operate RTC and other buses.

Specific cases would be booked under the IPC for assaulting any driver working for RTC, it said.

"Very firm action will be taken for any such offence," the city police said.  
*turn to pg02*

## ED attaches assets of EPFO officials in PMLA case

**KOLKATA, OCT 22 (PTI):** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth Rs 2.89 crore of four EPFO officials in a money laundering case registered against them following corruption charges.

The central agency said it has issued a provisional order for attachment of assets under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act against the officers, including assistant provident fund commissioner Ramesh Chandra Singh, of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in Kolkata.

The other officers are Sami-

ran Kumar Mondal, Deepak Bhattacharya and Sukumar Shaw.

The attached assets include fixed deposits, bank and postal account balances and some flats in Kolkata. In the probe it was found that Singh was receiving bribes by misusing his official position and he acquired assets disproportionate to his income, the ED alleged.

"The accused was laundering the illegal gratification by investing in various properties and parking funds in the name of his family members.

"He also created false documents to project the bribe money as

legal money by creating false documents of tuition income, tailoring income, brokerage, commodity trading profit among others in the name of his wife and family members," it said in a statement.

The agency's case is based on a criminal FIR of the CBI against the accused.

The ED had earlier raided the premises of Singh and recovered Rs 10.60 lakh cash, gold and diamond jewellery worth Rs 27 lakh apart from documents relating to fixed deposits, postal deposits, immovable properties and details of 75 bank and post office accounts.



## Strong start for Sikkim girls in National School Games football



### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 22 OCT:

Sikkim started its 65th National School Games U-17 Girls Football Championship 2019-20 campaign thrashing Vidhya Bharati 15-0 in its first qualifying match this morning. The tournament is being held at Hukumchand

Public School at Ajmer, Rajasthan.

In its second qualifying match in the afternoon of the same day, Sikkim humbled IPSC 6-0. Sikkim U-17 girls' team has now qualified for the next round of the tournament.

An eighteen-member Sikkim team accompa-

nied by coach, Pema Lhamu Lepcha and manager Dhan Kumari Sharma left on 17 October for the tournament. The team has been sent by Department of Sports & Youth Affairs to the tournament. Sikkim was placed in group E along with Vidhya Bharati and IPSC for the qualifying round.

## Scrutiny of documents and polling stations in South

**NAMCHI, 22 OCT (IPR):** The scrutiny of Form 17A and other documents of the poll was conducted by Returning Officer (RO) South, Ragul K in the presence of General Observer for By-Elections of 10 Poklok Kamrang Assembly Constituency, Alak Kumar Saharia at District Administrative Centre, Namchi today.

Present amongst others were Sector Magistrates, Presiding Officers, and Election Agents of the candidates.

During the scrutiny, the RO briefed the gathering on the overall voter's turnout in 10 Poklok Kamrang Assembly Constituency on the polling day. The scrutiny of all the 22 polling stations was taken up as per the Guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI). Additionally, General Observer also scrutinized the documents submitted by the Micro Observers. After the scrutiny, it was observed that no re-poll is required in any of the polling stations at 10



Poklok Kamrang Assembly Constituency.

Mr Ragul added that polling for the Bye Elections of 10 Poklok Kamrang Assembly Constituency was successfully completed in the district on 21st October wherein the total voter turnout was recorded as 80.56% comprising of 6124 female and 6520 male voters respectively. In addition, the highest voter turnout was reported from Nandugaon Senior Secondary School room no.2.

It may be mentioned here that the total number of voters for 10 Pok-

lok Kamrang is 15695 out of which 7884 and 7811 are the male and female voters respectively. The RO also stated that there were no reports of untoward incidents of law and order situation from any of the 22 polling stations in the constituency and the polling process in all polling stations went out smoothly.

Subsequently, after the scrutiny of the documents they were sealed in the envelopes in the presence of General Observer, and the Election Agents of the candidates and were kept in the strong room.

## Central Pendam GPU organizes training for SHGs



### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 22 OCT:**

Central Pendam Gram Panchayat Unit under West Pendam Constituency in East Sikkim organised a five-day long training on broom binding, paper bag making, basket bag making, bouquet & flower vase making for the members of 61 Self Help Groups of the

area, a press release informs.

The training camp was inaugurated by BDO, Duga, IB Chettri in the presence of Panchayat President, Dronacharya Sapkota, Vice President, Meera Darjee, Members, Bharat Chettri, Ganga Pradhan, BPM, Tashi Ongmu Bhutia, CP Sharma and others.

BDO, Mr Chettri, ap-

preciated the initiative and appealed to all SHG Members to avail the benefits provided by the Panchayat. Panchayat President, Dronacharya Sapkota mentioned that the Central Pendam GPU organised the program to make all SHGs and individual members self-dependent.

The training will conclude on 26 Oct.

## Cleanliness drive and awareness at Tsomgo



### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 22 OCT:

Tourism & Civil Aviation Department along with TPSS, ASTHA, GNRTD, TAAS, SAATO, Yak Association and Tsomgo Dokan Association organised a day-long awareness, motivation and clean-

liness drive at Tsomgo Lake, Nathula in East Sikkim, today, a press release informs.

The Swachhata Hi Sewa awareness was specially organised as per the instructions from Secretary Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, New Delhi.

## SDF thanks all for successful and peaceful by-polls

### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 22 OCT:

Sikkim Democratic Front has extended its congratulations and gratitude to the people of the three constituencies for their participation in this by-election. The party has further thanked the Election Commission, Police administration and media for the peaceful and smooth conduct of by-polls in the State.

In a press release,

the party has expressed hope that peace would be maintained even after the by-poll.

At the same time, SDF has alleged that the ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha terrorised the people of Poklok-Kamrang when SDF was campaigning in the area.

SDF has urged the people of the State to always remain aware and to use their constitutional rights.

## Training for Counting Supervisors and Assistants



**GANGTOK, 22 OCT [IPR]:** A training for all Counting Supervisors and Assistants was conducted by Master Trainer Mahesh Sharma at the conference hall of the Zilla Bhawan here today.

Mr Sharma briefed the teams about the

counting procedures to be followed on the day of counting i.e. 24 Oct, 2019. He mentioned that each and every vital activity and point inside counting centre shall be either covered by CCTVs or will be video graphed.

## CONTACT SUMMIT TIMES REPORTERS

**SINGTAM: 8170070813,  
MANGAN/ DIKCHU:  
9832612485/ 9434011213  
GANGTOK: 8116388176  
9832424750, 8016270440**

## Tejpal rape case: Victim cross-examined by defence for 2nd day

**PANAJI, OCT 22 (PTI):** The woman who lodged a sexual assault case against Tehelka magazine founder Tarun Tejpal was cross-examined by the defence counsel for the second consecutive day in a Goa court on Tuesday.

She appeared before the court for the first time on Monday for the trial, which was being held in-camera.

District Judge Shama Joshi in Mapusa town of North Goa was hearing the case against Tejpal lodged by his former colleague, who was cross-examined by the defence counsel on Tuesday.

Tejpal was present during the trial.

Later, Tejpal's lawyer Rajiv Gomes said the cross-examination will continue on Wednesday also.

A Supreme Court bench in August asked the Goa court to complete the trial in the case, preferably within six months, and refused Tejpal's plea to quash the First Information Report (FIR) filed against him.

Tejpal allegedly sexually assaulted the complainant inside an elevator of a five-star hotel in Goa in 2013.

He has denied the allegations levelled against him.

Tejpal was arrested on November 30, 2013 by the crime branch after his anticipatory bail plea was rejected by the court. He has been out on bail since May 2014.

In September last year, the district court framed charges against Tejpal.

He was booked under various Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections, including 341 (wrongful restraint), 342 (wrongful confinement), 350 (criminal force), 376 (rape) and 354(A) and (B) (sexually coloured remarks and use of criminal force on woman).

He had earlier also moved the Bombay High Court, seeking a stay on framing of charges against him, but his petition was dismissed.

### CoA reign ends...

"It's a great opportunity for me to do something good," the former India captain, who will have to demit office in July, due to compulsory cooling off period, had said last week.

The 10-month is a short period and it also needs to be seen how the former India captain handles the disqualified old guards like N Srinivasan and Niranj Shah, whose children are now officially part of the BCCI.

Ganguly's relation with IPL chairman Brijesh Patel, a Srinivasan loyalist will also be of interest.

Last but certainly not the least, his take on cricketing policies -- Mahendra Singh Dhoni's international future, Day/Night Test cricket, permanent Test centres will also be dissected.

For CoA, it was an eventful 33-month tenure that comes to an end.

CoA chief Vinod Rai informed the process that will be followed during the AGM.

"First the accounts will be passed for the past three years. Then the electoral officer will announce the election results as everyone is unopposed.

"Today we discussed some of the winding up issues and some minutes of the meetings were to be approved. We finalised tomorrow's schedule in consideration with Sourav," Rai told reporters after speaking to Ganguly.

Rai said that he was happy with the Supreme Court order on the day.

"Everything that the Supreme Court has done (orders), I have been very happy with it. We had asked for the directions as we could not have resigned. Since the Supreme Court appointed us, we had to be discharged from our duty from the court.

"Every decision was court mandated. We haven't changed the constitution. Whatever was given to us, we have worked in that [framework].

### Striking TSRTC...

Different employees and workers unions of TSRTC began an indefinite strike from October 5 across Telangana on a call given by the JAC of the corporation, demanding its merger with the government and recruitment to various posts, among others.

The striking employees, workers of opposition parties and others have been organising protests in support of their demands in the state since then.

Ruling out discussions with the agitating unions, the TRS government had termed the employees stir as "illegal" as they caused immense inconvenience to public.

The state High Court had directed the RTC management and the employees to sit across the negotiating table and settle all their disputes before October 28.

### To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at GANGTOK:

For circulation details Contact: (Sandeep) 9734152451 & for Advertisement booking at 9933427505 or at office no 03592 208698. Mail us at [advertise@summittimes.com](mailto:advertise@summittimes.com)

### SILIGURI:

Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor. Opp. Ganga Hotel. Hill Cart Road. Siliguri – 03. Ph. 9832318644/ 9800682989/ 9153035100 or mail at [mani\\_siliguri@yahoo.co.in](mailto:mani_siliguri@yahoo.co.in).

### KOLKATA OFFICE:

Irshad Ali/ Imteeyaz. Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine – 2, 2nd floor. Kolkata – 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. 9830547774/ 983108397. E-mail: [contact.synapse@gmail.com](mailto:contact.synapse@gmail.com)/ [irshad\\_ali123@rediffmail.com](mailto:irshad_ali123@rediffmail.com)

### AFFIDAVIT

I, Anil Kumar Chettri, son of Shri Amber Bahadur Chettri, resident of Daragoan, Tadong, P.O. Tadong, Gangtok East Sikkim, solemnly declare that previously my name has been recorded as "Anil Kumar Chettri". So I have changed my name to "Anil Chettri" for all purpose and future records.

**Anil Chettri.**

**visit us at**  
**www.summittimes.com**

## ~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

Roadside plots for sale at Adampool, Ranipool-Rumtek highway.

**For details contact: 9083826462**

### FLAT FOR RENT/LEASE

Fully furnished 3BHK flat available for rent/lease at Church Road near DPH. Roadside and five minutes walking distance from MG Marg.

**For more details: 9083826462 /9832556698**

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land 30X40 (3 Plots) available for sale at Tadong 6th Mile next to Harka Maya College.

Flat Land no cutting required. Price 30 Lakhs (negotiable).

**Contact: 9800201335**

**WANDERING SOULS OF SIKKIM**  
[www.wonderingsoulsofsikkim.com](http://www.wonderingsoulsofsikkim.com)

PRESENTS

**INSTALLATION OF  
READING CORNER/LIBRARY**

**CONTRIBUTE BOOKS OR CASH  
AND HELP US TO LAY  
A FOUNDATION FOR  
BETTER FUTURE**

AT

**GOVT. SEC. SCHOOL  
AMBA EAST SIKKIM**

**TO CONTRIBUTE CONTACT US ON  
+91-7908696173/+91-8826667229/  
+91-7718165595**



## SIS Dikchu clears pre-quarters of 78th Foundation Year football at Dikchu SSS



### SUMMIT REPORT

**MANGAN, 22 OCT:**

SIS Dikchu beat Gor Secondary School 3-1 in the pre-quarter final match of the 78th Foundation Year Celebration

Open Men's football tournament here at Dikchu Senior Secondary School today. SKM's Dzongu constituency in-charge, Chungkipo Lepcha, was present as the chief guest today.

## Bangladesh to start relocating some Rohingya to island soon



**COX'S BAZAR, OCT 22 (AP):** Authorities in Bangladesh said Tuesday that they want to start relocating thousands of Rohingya refugees to a Bay of Bengal island soon from crammed camps near the border with Myanmar, from where they fled.

Top government administrator in Cox's Bazar, Kamal Hossain, said they listed 100 families willing to move to Bhasan Char, an island hours by boat from the mainland.

The government has said it will relocate 100,000 refugees to the island in phases.

Hossain said they wanted to start the relocations in late November or in December.

"Our government policy regarding the Rohingya refugees is no force will be used to handle them. We have long been working with them for confidence building for the relocation," Hossain said.

"I have a list of 100 families comprising of some 7,000 refugees."

He said they were working to try to convince more refugees to move to the island.

The government set several deadlines earlier to complete the development of the island, but no final dates were announced.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina repeatedly told the UN and other international partners that her administration would engage them before making a final decision on the relocation.

The government has been building infrastructure on the island including homes, schools, mosques and flood protection embankments under a multimillion-dollar project.

The plan for relocation first came up in 2015, but no major progress was initially made.

But the issue was never dropped despite criticism, including from the United Nations and global human rights groups, which said relocation to the island would further complicate the lives of the refugees because of how often it floods.

Many Rohingya were also against the idea but

things started to change in recent years, especially after a huge influx of Rohingya in 2017.

More than 1 million Rohingya currently live in Bangladesh, with over 700,000 coming from Myanmar since late August 2017 amid a violent crackdown on Rohingya by the country's military.

Syed Alam, a 32-year-old refugee, said Tuesday that he listed his 11 family members for the relocation.

"I have seen a video of the island. I have seen concrete buildings there. Here we live in very bad conditions. I think my family will have a better accommodation there," he said.

Alam said many others in his camp have been consulted already and they are increasingly showing interest.

Another refugee, Mostofa Kamal, 45, said he convinced his children and wife to move to the island.

"Here our life is terrible. There is no space here. I don't think we will be able to go back in Myanmar very soon. We want to have a better place to stay," Kamal said.

In August, Bangladesh and Myanmar attempted to start the repatriation of Rohingya for a second time, but no refugees agreed to voluntarily go back, citing safety concerns in Myanmar.

The United Nations said Myanmar needed to do more to build confidence among the Rohingya for the repatriation.

Rohingya Muslims have long demanded that Myanmar, a predominantly Buddhist country, give them citizenship, safety and their own land and homes they left behind. Myanmar has refused to recognize Rohingya as citizens or even as one of its ethnic groups, rendering them stateless. Rohingya also face other forms of state-sanctioned discrimination.

A UN-established investigation last year recommended the prosecution of Myanmar's top military commanders on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity for the crackdown on the Rohingya. Myanmar dismissed the allegations.

# Stable FC Goa take on rebuilt Chennaiyin FC

**MARGAO, OCT 22 (PTI):** Most of their key players of last season retained for this year, FC Goa will begin their Indian Super League campaign against former champions Chennaiyin FC at the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium here on Wednesday.

The Gaurs will look to start the new season on a winning note against a club that finished rock-bottom last season. However, after a summer of rebuilding, Chennaiyin will be eager to prove that the last season was just an aberration.

Interestingly, both managers -- Sergio Lobera and John Gregory -- are into their third seasons with FC Goa and Chennaiyin.

Last season runners-up FC Goa have a sense of stability in the team as they have retained most of their key players, international



and domestic.

The likes of Ferran Corominas, Hugo Boumous, Ahmed Jahouh and Edu Bedia are all into their third season too with the Gaurs. Mandar Rao Dessai, Seriton Fernandes, Lenny Rodrigues and Jackichand Singh are all familiar with Lobera's methods. "The prepa-

ration before the first match has been very good. The players are in very good condition, they are very good professionals. I am very happy with the pre-season, but the most important thing is the first match. We will play a good match at home and try to get the three points," Lobera

said. Chennaiyin, on the other hand, have undergone a rebuild after the shambles of last season. John Gregory has completely revamped his foreign contingent bringing Eli Sabia and has brought in six players from abroad.

Even the Indian contingent has seen some

changes, with the likes of Vishal Kaith, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Edwin Vanspaul and Rahim Ali coming into the side.

"We almost have a brand-new team. We had seven foreigners last season of which we have changed six of them. We are very happy with our domestic players. With

the new foreigners, we hope they have the same influence as they had in season four," Gregory said. Goa will be favourites at home but fortunately for Chennaiyin, the hosts will miss the services of Ahmed Jahouh who controls the tempo for the team, after the red card he picked up in last year's final against Bengaluru FC.

"Under Sergio, Goa have literally had the same personnel in the squad. They have made one or two adjustments that have made them a better team. It is a tough game for us. Our team, certainly our foreigners, need to adapt very quickly. There is not a more difficult away game than Goa," said Gregory.

Gregory will hope that his re-jigged team can summon the spirit of 2017-18 season and start on a positive note.

## India, B'desh leaders keen to boost relations further: Sonowal

**GUWAHATI, OCT 22 (PTI):** Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Tuesday said both India and Bangladesh now have political leadership that is keen to forge a more meaningful and mutually beneficial relationship, and the prevailing peace and prosperity of the region are a corollary of it.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart Sheikh Hasina have taken a pragmatic approach to further this relationship which will prove beneficial to both the countries, the chief minister said while addressing the Indo-Bangladesh Stakeholders' Meet here. "Against this backdrop, this Meet assumes great significance as it promises to advance the mutually beneficial partnership with a focus on both conventional and non-conventional areas to ensure enhanced people to people relations," he said.

India and Bangladesh have recently signed several bilateral agreements

and the potential for growth of trade between North Eastern States and the neighbouring country has increased manifold, the chief minister said. The BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal) Motor Vehicle Agreement, the Port Use Agreement and Use of Cross Border Inland Waterways and access of Chattogram (Chittagong) and Mongla Ports to the North East of India foretell great prospect for growth of the entire region, Sonowal said.

"The ASEAN and BBIN together have a population of over 800 million and this is a huge market for all of us. We need to produce for this market by developing our skills," he said. Prior to India's Independence, Assam and Bangladesh had a multi-model connectivity network which existed through road, rail, and water, he said.

"Tea and petroleum used to reach Chattogram and Kolkata ports through the Brahmaputra-Padma-Meghna riv-

erine waterway as well as through railway network passing through present-day Bangladesh. This communication network immensely facilitated the economic growth of the region," Sonowal said.

"The dynamic leadership of Modi-ji and his Act East Policy give a paradigm shift to the development narrative of the North East and within a short span of time the entire region has been turned into the centre of New India's growth vision and implementation," he said.

Assam's relationship with Bangladesh is based on shared culture, heritage, literature and language, he said adding that the legendary singer Dr Bhupen Hazarika's song 'Ganga Amar Ma, Padma Amar Ma' symbolises the cultural bonhomie of the people across the border, he said.

He also mentioned the names of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and singer Runa Laila who have reinforced "our bonding and generate greater goodwill", he added.

## OBITUARY NOTICE

**LATE KAMAL PRASAD GURUNG**

**Born: 31 - 08 - 1937  
&  
Died: 18 - 10 - 2019**



You have left us for heavenly abode, but you will always be in our hearts and minds. Your kindness and generosity, your jovial and amiable nature endeared you with one and all who knew you. Your absence will always be felt deeply. We miss you now and we will miss you forever. Your love and affection will always be cherished. May your soul rest in eternal peace.

The family expresses gratitude to all the relatives, friends and well wishers who offered their condolences, support and sympathy at our time of grief. We would like to inform that the 7th (seventh) day "Kriya" will be performed at at our residence near St. Francis School, Jorethang on 25th October 2019 and the "Shergu" will be held on 6th December 2019.

**From:  
Surja Gurung (Wife), Hiren, Saral, Subarna (sons),  
Tshering Yangchen and Elena (daughters-in-law), Grand Children, Brothers, Sisters, Cousins, In laws and host of Nieces and Nephews.**

**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT  
CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME  
GANGTOK**

No: 801/SJ&WD/CPS/2019

Date: 21/10/2019

### NOTICE

Reference Notice No: 673/SJ&WD/ICPS/2019, dt:19/07/2019 this is to inform all the eligible candidates who have been selected for viva-voce for the post of Programme Manager/ Programme Officer, State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) under Child Protection Scheme, Social Justice and Welfare Department that the date for viva-voce has been fixed on 25/10/2019, Friday at 11:00 AM in the chamber of the undersigned.

All the above mentioned candidates are requested to appear for viva-voce and should bring original documents, degree certificate, employment card, COI, experience certificate and other testimonials, without fail at the time of Interview.

**R.O. No. 217/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20  
Date: 22.1019**

**Sd/-  
Additional Secretary-Cum-Director,  
Child Protection Scheme,  
Social Justice and Welfare Department.**

**|| Shradhanjali ||**

**Beloved Smt. Sandhya Biswakarma**

*"With profound grief and sorrow we inform that the "Anthyesthi Kriya" of beloved Smt. Sandhya Biswakarma who left for her heavenly abode on 12/10/2019 falls on 24/10/2019 at Diesel Power House compound, D.P.H Road, Gangtok, East Sikkim. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers for the departed soul.. Our sincere thanks and gratitude to all who stood by us during our time of bereavement.*

**Kailash Biswakarma - husband  
Ayyash and Awesh Biswakarma - sons**

Contact- 9474841550  
7908896626  
9547619089

DesiEvite.com

**EXPO JORETHANG**

**Diwali Shopping Festival**

STARTING FROM 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019

- Kolkata Leather
- Mumbai Jewellery
- Saharanpur Furniture
- UP Bed Sheets
- Bhagalpuri Silk
- Rajasthan Kurties
- Handicraft Items
- Delhi Curtains
- Aurvedic Medicine
- Delicious Food Items

**VENUE : JORETHANG PLAZA, JORETHANG BAZAR**



## Waste Does Not Respect Urban-Rural Boundaries

*...so why should the two zones have different garbage management plans?*

Readers would have noticed the occasional surfacing of news-reports on awareness sessions being held at the GPU and ward levels around Sikkim in pursuit of zero-waste status. More recently, the Gangtok Municipal Corporation decided to finally enforce waste segregation at source and neighbourhoods are struggling to pick up a new habit even as waste from commercial establishments litter roadsides every night.

These are welcome and urgently required. Unfortunately, not much is being done with rural areas when it comes to garbage management. It is that lavish budgets and policy interventions are expended on waste management limited to urban sprawls at the cost of 75% of the population which resides in rural Sikkim.

4.55 lakh of Sikkim's population of 6.07 lakh resides in rural areas'. This, as per the 'Provisional Population Totals' [paper 2, volume 2 of 2011] Rural-Urban Distribution of Population Sikkim [series 12] released by the Directorate of Census Operations, Sikkim. And this is after the urban spread was significantly expanded in Sikkim some years back. The point being made here is that the 75% population which resides in rural Sikkim lives more or less the same lifestyle as families in urban areas, following similar patterns of consumption, and hence generating similar waste. They should thus be provided matching organizational and infrastructural arrangements to manage their waste. The traditional modes of disposal will not deliver for the non-biodegradable and excessive nature of contemporary waste. Most village homes have a pit to dispose their waste. When this waste was organic in nature, the 'pit' approach worked well, but kids no longer buy loose balls of 'Anda' mithai wrapped in paper anymore and their sweets come in plastic wrappers and guests at social gatherings are no longer served in plates stitched from 'malatho' or banana leaves and even drink water from Styrofoam cups (sorry, scratch that since Styrofoam is now thankfully banned in the State, but it is still poor plastic cups) now.

The traditional waste management system, which focused only on household level disposal and had no need for segregation, collection and organized disposal, just won't do anymore. The rural areas generate the same waste as urban zones, hence it is necessary that they are extended matching systems of collection and disposal. This requirement becomes even more urgent as more areas start hosting tourists and village tourism becomes the new mantra for development here. Look around, most tourist spots even in the outskirts of Sikkim do not have any semblance of waste disposal or collection. Sure, they have their rabbit and panda bins, but those are but fig leaves when it comes to waste management. Look into the backyards, and a study on consumption patterns is laid out strewn along the slopes. Sikkim is now an organic state, inorganic waste encroaching into its fields and jhoras does not sit well with this status. It is no longer even about appearances. Proper waste disposal systems, and the once a week garbage truck runs to ship away waste is not even close to proper, are an urgent requirement in the bastis and at all tourists spots. The sooner the planners start working out sustainable plans and projects to deliver this, the better it will be for Sikkim and its environment.

### WRITE US:

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



## Freedom of thought is under attack – here's how to save your mind

SIMON MCCARTHY-JONES  
*theconversation.com*

Freedom of thought stands at a critical crossroads. Technological and psychological advances could be used to promote free thought. They could shield our inner worlds, reduce our mental biases, and create new spaces for thought. Yet states and corporations are forging these advances into weapons that restrict what we think.

To lose freedom of thought would be to lose something uniquely human. We share our basic emotions with animals. But only we can step back and ask "do I want to be angry?", "do I want to be that person?", "couldn't I be better?"

We can reflect whether the thoughts, feelings and desires that bubble up within us are consistent with our own goals, values and ideals. If we agree they are, then this makes them more truly our own. We can then act authentically.

But we may also conclude that some thoughts that pop into our heads are a force other than our own. You sit down to do your work and "Check Facebook!" flashes through your mind. Did that thought come from you or from Mark Zuckerberg?

Freedom of thought demands dignity, enables democracy, and is part of what makes us a person. To safeguard it, we must first recognise its enemies.

### THREE THREATS TO FREEDOM OF THOUGHT

The first threat comes from advances in psychology. Research has created new understandings of what influences our thoughts, behaviours, and decision making.

States and corporations use this knowledge to make us think and act in a way that serves their goals. These may differ to ours. They use this knowledge to make us gamble more, buy more, and spend more time on social media. It may even be used to swing elections.

The second threat comes from the application of machine learning algorithms to "big data". When we provide data to companies we allow them to see deep inside us. This makes us more vulnerable to manipulation, and when we realise our privacy is being compromised, this chills our ability to think freely.

The third threat comes from a growing ability to decode our thoughts from our brain activity. Facebook, Microsoft, and Neuralink are develop-

ing brain-computer interfaces. This could create machines that will read our thoughts. But creating unprecedented access to our thoughts creates unprecedented threats to our freedom.

These advances in technology and psychology are opening the doors for states and corporations to violate, manipulate, and punish our thoughts. So, what can we do about it?

### THE LAW CAN SAVE US

International human rights law gives the right to freedom of thought. Yet, this right has been almost completely neglected. It is hardly ever invoked in the courtroom. We need to work out what we want this right to mean so we can use it to protect ourselves.

We should use it to defend mental privacy. Otherwise conformity pressures will impede our free play of ideas and search for truth. We should use it to prevent our thoughts being manipulated, either through psychological tricks or through threatened punishment.

And we should use it to protect thought in all of its forms. Thought isn't just what happens in our heads. Sometimes we think by writing or by doing a Google search. If we recognise these activities as "thought" then they should qualify for absolute privacy under the right to freedom of thought.

Finally, we should use this right to demand that governments create societies that allow us to think freely. This is where psychology can help.

### PREVENTING MANIPULATION

Better understanding our minds can help protect us from manipulation by others. For example, the psychologist Daniel Kahneman distinguishes between what we could call "rule-of-thumb" and "rule-of-reason" thinking.

Rule-of-thumb thinking involves effortless and ancient mental processes that allow us to make quick decisions. The price of this speed can be mistakes. In contrast, rule-of-reason thinking is a slow, consciously controlled process, often based in language. It takes longer, but can be more accurate.

This suggests that creating speed bumps in our thinking could help improve decision making. Clicking unthinkingly on content or adverts from corporations doesn't allow us to exercise freedom of thought. We do not have time to work out if our desires are our own or those of a puppet master.

We must also change our environment into one that supports autonomy. Such an environment would allow us to create our own reasons for our actions, minimise external controls like rewards and punishments, and encourage choice, participation and shared decision making.

Technology can help create such an environment. But whose responsibility is it to implement this?

### TAKING ACTION

Governments must help citizens learn from a young age about how the mind works. They must structure society to facilitate free thought. And they have a duty to stop those, including corporations, who would violate the right to freedom of thought.

Corporations must play their part. They should state freedom of thought as a policy commitment. They should perform due diligence on how their activities may harm freedom of thought. They could be required to declare the psychological tricks they are using to try and shape our behaviour.

And we the people must educate ourselves. We must promote and support free-thought values. We must condemn those turning one of our species' greatest strengths, our sociality, into one of our greatest weaknesses by using it as a means of data extraction. We must vote with our feet and wallets against those who violate our freedom of thought.

All this assumes that we want freedom of thought. But do we? Many of us would literally rather electrocute ourselves than sit quietly with our thoughts.

Would many of us also prefer governments and corporations to our thinking for us, serving up predictions and nudges for us to simply follow? Would many of us be happy for freedom of thought to be limited if it led to increased security? How much do we want freedom of thought and what are we prepared to sacrifice for it?

Simply put, do we still want to be human? Or has the pain, effort and responsibility of one of our signature abilities, free thought, become too much for us to bear? If it has, it is neither clear what will become of us nor clear what we will become.

*[the writer is Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology, Trinity College Dublin]*

## Rugby World Cup: will body mass play a role in taking the victors over the line?

ANDREW GREEN  
*theconversation.com*

Rugby is a physically intense contact sport which requires player to gain field territory to score points. Players can use physical contact, in the form of tackles, to impede the progression of the ball carrier from the opposing team. Due to the physical nature of the sport, teams regularly select players of larger body stature and mass.

It's not just rugby, predictors based on human form are fundamental to sport success. Sports can be recognised as a Darwinian system that selects specific physical traits which directly relate to performance. Regardless of sporting code, athletes are becoming taller and heavier. For example, the body stature and mass of Olympians have drastically increased since the inception of the modern games. This trend is particularly evident in rugby. Since the 1987 tournament players have become heavier by 6.3 kg. Moreover, heavier teams appear to have greater success at the Rugby World Cup.

Rugby is played by over 8.5 million people in 121 different countries. Every year Northern and Southern hemisphere teams contest for the top slot in the rankings. Currently, New Zealand is ranked as the number one team.

The ultimate prize for rugby teams is to win the World Cup series which reaches its denouement this weekend. Teams, fans and the media

are undoubtedly looking for any distinguishing factors, one being body mass, especially in the scrum. The question is, does greater pack mass predict performance?

Since the inception of professional era, rugby players have seen an increase in body stature and mass at a disproportional rate to the general population. This may reflect selection pressures from the physical demands of rugby at the highest playing levels. Indeed, taller and heavier teams have been associated with success.

The focus on body size in rugby is most apparent in the forwards, when scrummaging. A scrum is composed of eight opposing forwards who bind together and in a coordinated manner contest for ball possession. Scrum dominance is essential to a team's match performance.

The issue is particularly pertinent in this World Cup because Japan has reached the quarter finals of the Rugby World Cup. The team will face South Africa in what is Japan's first-ever knockout game in a world cup tournament.

Will greater pack mass predict performance in the game?

In 2003, Japan was the lightest and shortest team in the competition. That year Japan did not win a game. In contrast, finalists Australia fielded the heaviest and tallest team of the competition (on average 10kg heavier and 6cm taller than Japan).

This time round the South African team will be on average 5kg heavier and 6cm taller than the Japanese

team. But, from the masses reported it seems that on average no team has a distinct physical advantage.

What's important to remember is that when scrums are contested, masses may not be the only discriminating feature. Rather scrum outcomes, at the professional level, are largely determined by technical skill, team coordination and partially influenced by referees.

This means that the likelihood of winning rests more with fitness and skill, and those indeterminant factors such as player experience, team spirit, grit – and the calls made, or not made, by the referee.

### CONFLICTING VIEWS ON PACK MASS IN SCRUMS

Teams with dominant scrums are more likely to be awarded scrum-related penalties, affording the teams a potential gain in territory or points. Moreover, teams with higher successful scrums are more likely to win tournaments.

A frequently used metric of scrummaging performance is the total pack mass of a team. However, there are conflicting reports regarding the relationship between body mass and scrum performance (maximal horizontal forces) in rugby players.

The premise for using pack mass as an indicator of scrum dominance is twofold.

Firstly, heavier teams are expected to produce more muscular power and force.

Secondly, heavier teams would

have a higher inertia which their opponents would need to overcome. But inertia is a double edged sword. If players have a high body fat percentage, their inertia will increase, but that fat mass would not actively contribute to scrum performance. That's why players are encouraged to minimise fat mass.

It therefore seems that scrum performance at the professional level may not be exclusively dependent on mass. Teams regularly field players of similar body masses.

Thus, scrummaging performance may be a result of different scrummaging techniques used by teams to achieve their maximal scrummaging forces.

Historically, a number of catastrophic neck and spinal injuries resulted from scrummaging, most stemming from scrums collapses. In response, World Rugby has made a series of rule changes which govern scrum contests, and particularly methods of front row engagement. As a result, referees will closely adjudicate scrums in an attempt to reduce the chance of head and neck injuries.

However, in contrast to popular opinion, the introduction of these new law has not diminished the scrum contest. The contest has remained fair, although it is still open to technical manipulation by the two teams, as they attempt to gain an advantage.

*[the writer is Senior lecturer, University of Johannesburg]*



# Thailand's king strips 'disloyal' royal consort of titles and military ranks

**BANGKOK, 22 OCT [AFP]:** King Maha Vajiralongkorn of Thailand has stripped his 34-year-old consort of all titles for "disloyalty" and apparent "ambition" to match the queen's position, a royal command said, less than three months after Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi was bestowed with the honour.

Wongvajirapakdi – known by her nickname Koi – was gifted the title on the king's 67th birthday on 28 July, the first time in nearly a century a Thai monarch had taken a consort.

A few days later the palace released images of Sineenat in combat fatigues shooting weapons, flying a jet and preparing to parachute from an aircraft, as well as holding the king's hand. It was an intimate and rare glimpse into the private life of Thailand's powerful, ultra-wealthy and inscrutable monarch.

On Monday Sineenat's swift and public downfall was relayed on national television.

She was dismissed from the rank of "Chao Khun Phra" – or noble consort – for "disloyalty to the king" according to the command, as well as "acting against the appointment of Queen [Suthida] ... for her own ambitions".

Suthida was made queen in May, becoming Vajiralongkorn's fourth wife.

The Thai monarchy is protected by a harsh



defamation law, making open discussion on the institution for the public and media based inside the country all but impossible.

The king has dramatically bolstered his authority since his 2016 ascension to the throne, pulling the immense wealth of the crown under his direct control and restructuring key army units to his command.

Sineenat, a qualified pilot and former army nurse, was the first woman to receive the consort title in nearly a century.

Her actions show "she does not give any honour to the king and does not understand royal tradition ... her actions are to benefit herself", the statement said, adding she was attempting

to elevate her position to the same as Queen Suthida. It added that her behaviour is "deemed disrespectful to His Majesty's grace ... and caused divisions among courtiers and misunderstanding among the people". She was stripped of all military ranks, decorations and royal titles, it said.

Sineenat, born in the northern province of Nan on 26 January 1985, graduated from the Royal Thai Army Nursing College at the age of 23.

She has also trained as a pilot in Thailand and abroad and served in the king's royal bodyguard unit. In May she was awarded the rank of a major-general.

During the elaborate three-day coronation ceremony of the king in

May, Sineenat marched in full military uniform in a procession that travelled from the palace to several Buddhist temples.

Her prominence stunned the Thai public, who often glean clues of the royal family's secretive ongoing through imagery and symbolism relayed by the palace.

Her dramatic fall from grace is likely to be as carefully dissected over coming days. "The abrupt move by the king tells us that he wishes to be seen as a very in-charge monarch who will not put up with possible divisions in the royal institution," said Paul Chambers, an analyst at Naresuan University.

Buttressed by the conservative arch-royalist military, which

has carried out a dozen coups since the 1932 establishment of a constitutional monarchy, frank discussion of palace affairs is rare among the Thai public.

Vajiralongkorn came to power in 2016 after the death of his father, Bhumibol Adulyadej, a man widely revered by Thais and considered a figure of moral authority.

The new king – a cycling and aviation enthusiast – is a more remote figure to the public, having spent much of his time abroad, particularly in Germany. His three-day coronation gave many Thais their first full glimpse of the new monarch, as he was carried on a palanquin in full regalia around Bangkok's historic quarter.

## Bangladesh minister urges India to lift onion export ban

**GUWAHATI, OCT 22 (PTI):** Bangladesh on Tuesday urged India to lift ban on onion export to the neighbouring country at the earliest as prices of the commodity have skyrocketed there due to drop in supply. Addressing the India-Bangladesh Stakeholders' Meet here, Bangladesh Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi requested the Indian government to take a humanitarian look into the issue as people are impacted due to high prices of the produce.

"We are short of six lakh tonnes of onion. Out of this, 80 per cent comes from India. After the ban on onion export from India, prices have gone up drastically and people are asking when it will come down," he added.

India had recently banned exports of onion to increase availability of the commodity in the domestic market and contain spiralling prices.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while addressing India-Bangladesh Business Forum meet in Delhi on October 4 last had expressed difficulties faced by her country post export ban by saying in a lighter vein that she told her cook not to use onion in food. The Bangladesh commerce minister said most of the neighbouring countries in South Asia depend on India for food security and import essential commodities from here.

"We understand that Indian authority is well aware of this and always analyse this from humanitarian perspective. We are eagerly waiting for the withdrawal of the export ban recently imposed on onion. "I spoke to Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on the issue. He said India will try to lift the ban after Maharashtra elections. We are waiting for that," he added.

Bangladesh hopes that India will inform us well ahead of time while taking such measures so that they may take necessary preparation in sourcing the food items from other alternative sources at competitive prices, he requested. On



the business between the two countries, Munshi said India is the second largest trading partner of Bangladesh, next to China, and bilateral trade between them has registered an impressive growth in the recent years.

Over the period of last 10 years, the total trade between the two countries increased from USD 5.08 billion in 2010-11 to USD 8.9 billion in 2018-19. Bangladesh's export to India, however, is only USD 1.25 billion, he added.

Bangladesh is yet to fully utilise the duty-free market access for most of the products under SAFTA and it needs to expeditiously resolve the non-tariff barriers such as testing of product quality, presence of para tariff, post restriction and application of trade remedial measures among others, he said.

"We strongly believe that proactive actions will help expand our bilateral trade with India, particularly with the North East India. The regulatory barriers are now the serious concerns for all of us.

"Despite high level political commitment, we are far behind in removing regulatory barriers," Munshi said.

In many cases, these are mounting over the time with unpredictable and non-transparent regulatory barriers being the major hindrance of trade facilitation in the regions, he added.

"I believe that this stakeholders meeting will expeditiously look into these issues and provide pragmatic solutions so that these could be immediately implemented for a win-win benefit," he said. The Minister also said that absence of seamless connectivity between Bangladesh and

India along with other countries in South Asia remains one of the key barriers for increasing trade. "Though a number of projects have been initiated under South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation to construct roads and upgrade facilities and a number of agreements have been signed, but we are yet to reap full benefits of these initiatives," he added. Munshi opined that both Bangladesh and North East India can be benefited from improved physical connectivity and people-to-people contact. "Hence it is important to invest in upgrading and expanding road and rail network with North East India. Recently we signed the SOP on use of Chittagong and Mongla port may be considered as a significant step for ensuring multi-modal connectivity with North East India.

Better connectivity will enhance consumers' welfare through access to goods at a competitive price, enhance profit of the firms through access to cheaper inputs and enhance opportunities of the exporter of finished goods to a new market, he added.

Munshi also said that South Asian countries, including Bangladesh and India, are experiencing accelerated economic growth. Under the leadership of prime minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh is moving ahead. We have achieved 8.13 GDP growth in this year, he said. The government has been implementing a pro-business and pro-investment policy to spur industrialisation of the country, he added.

Bangladeshi government is in the process of establishing 100 Special Economic Zones and a good number of hi-tech parks in the coming years, the minister said.

## Border-related issues to top agenda of Indo-Bangla meet

**AGARTALA, OCT 22 (PTI):** Issues related to border fencing and trans-border crime will feature in a strategic meeting here on Wednesday between officials of Tripura and its neighbouring districts of Bangladesh.

The district magistrates of West, Sepahijala and Khowai would be present in the meeting from the Indian side, while Bangladesh would be represented by DMs/Deputy Commissioners of Brahmanbaria, Co-

milla and Maulavi Bazar, an official said. "Issues such as border fencing, trans-border crimes and trafficking of narcotics will form the agenda for discussion. "The progress of the Agartala-Akhaura rail line would feature in the meeting, too," District Magistrate of West Tripura, Sandeep Mahatme, told PTI.

Superintendents of police of the three Tripura districts and senior BSF officials will also be present in the meeting.

## Chittagong port will help both Tripura, Bangladesh: Deb

Guwahati, Oct 22 (PTI): Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb on Tuesday said the use of Chittagong port in Bangladesh and waterways will immensely help both his state and that country. Tripura's development cannot be achieved without the support of Bangladesh, Deb said while addressing the India-Bangladesh Stakeholders' Meet here.

"Currently, our nearest port is Haldia (in West Bengal) which is 1,200 kilometres away from Guwahati. However, the distance between Guwahati and Chittagong port via Tripura is just 620 kilometres. Once we use that, the transportation cost will be reduced by half," he said. The chief minister stressed on maximum use of waterways to reduce cost and said by this way, Bangladesh will be the biggest beneficiary.

Deb said better connectivity between North

East and the neighbouring country is essential for the development of the entire region. "Without Bangladesh, I cannot develop Tripura. The state shares 80 per cent of its border with Bangladesh. We (Tripura) share only a little portion of our border with Assam and Mizoram," he added.

The recent MoUs signed between India and Bangladesh in the presence of the two prime ministers will benefit the North East immensely and Tripura the most, Deb asserted. "North East is a very large area with very less population... of about 4 crores only. It is rich in minerals, greeneries and many tourist destinations. India's economy can now be developed by the North East," he added.

States like Gujarat and Maharashtra have already got enough exposure and the next development destination should be the North East, Deb said.

## Censorship in place in Bengal, behaviour of govt unconstitutional: Guv Jagdeep Dhankhar

**KOLKATA, OCT 22 (PTI):** In a fresh face off with the West Bengal government and the Raj Bhavan, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday accused it of "unconstitutional behaviour" with him and wondered whether some "sort of censorship" is in place in the state as district officials have refused to meet him.

Dhankhar said that the district officials had told him that government permission is needed to attend meetings with him.

The officials, the governor said, had told him that permission to attend the meeting with him is not available as all senior government officials are presently in north Bengal, where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is on an administrative tour.

The refusal by the district officials to attend a meeting called by the governor is "unconstitutional", Dhankhar said.

He had last week expressed his wish to hold meetings with district magistrates, bureaucrats and elected representatives of North and South 24 Parganas districts, a tour of which he has begun from Tuesday.

The office of the governor had on Monday evening received letters from the two district magistrates stating that the officials would not be able to attend his meetings as they will be busy with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's ongoing tour of north Bengal, Raj Bhavan sources said.

In South 24 parga-

nas district too none of the senior government officials or public representatives attended his meeting.

The letters by the district magistrates said, "This is to kindly inform you that permission of the state government is required for the undersigned to request the invitees to attend the scheduled meeting".

"I am astonished to receive the letters from the district officials in which they have expressed their inability to attend the meetings, that too four days after my intimation. I do not know whether some sort of censorship is in place in West Bengal," the Governor told PTI over phone.

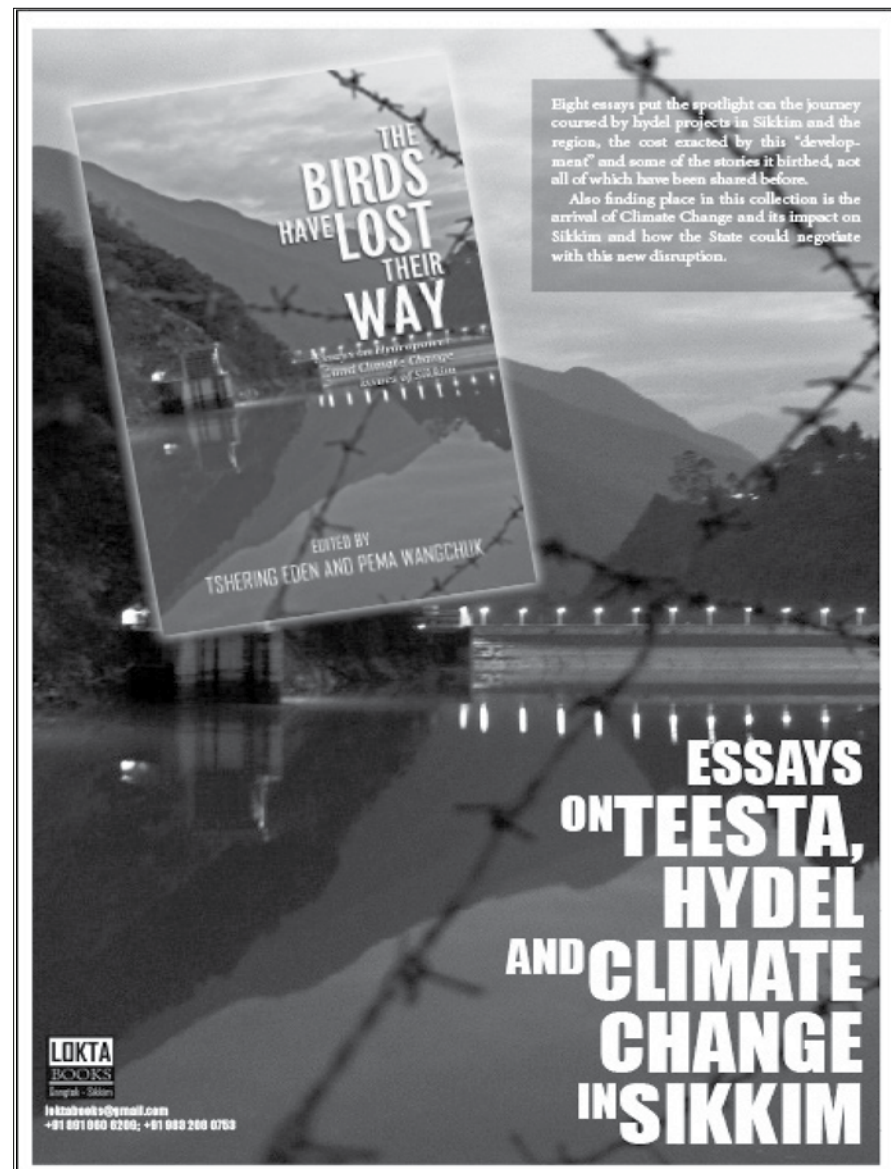
"Despite this I will continue my tour of the districts," he added.

Later while speaking to reporters, Dhankhar wondered whether the state government goes on a holiday when the chief minister is on a district tour.

"Is it appropriate that whenever the governor wants to meet someone there has to be censorship, an approval from the state government? I am not subordinate to the state government. I find it unconstitutional," Dhankhar said.

Although a guard of honour was accorded to him at Dhamakhali in North 24 Parganas, but none of the senior government officials of the district attended his meeting.

visit us at: [www.summittimes.com](http://www.summittimes.com)





# ‘Gentle giant’ Lukaku thriving at Inter Milan after Man United flop

**MILAN, OCT 22 (AFP):** Italian coach Antonio Conte has made his “gentle giant” Romelu Lukaku the focus of Inter Milan’s attack this season where the striker has found his scoring touch again after leaving Manchester United.

The Belgian got off the mark in his first league match against Lecce and has since scored five goals in eight Serie A games since departing Old Trafford under a cloud last summer.

The 26-year-old scored a brace last weekend against Sassuolo to keep Inter second in Serie A, one point behind defending champions Juventus, after eight games.

It followed his double as Belgium sealed their Euro 2020 ticket, extending his national all-time record to 51 goals in 83 appearances.

Conte’s side host Group F leaders Borussia Dortmund in their third Champions League game on Wednesday having been held 1-1 to Slavia Prague and losing 2-1 to

Barcelona, with Lukaku missing the trip to Spain with a thigh injury.

Inter gambled big by investing around 80 million euros (USD 89 million) in Lukaku to restore the pairing he composed under the Red Devils’ jersey with Alexis Sanchez.

Chilean Sanchez made just four appearances for Inter before being ruled out for three months with an ankle injury.

But Lukaku has still impressed with a rich vein of form alongside Argentine Lautaro Martinez, who also scored a double at the weekend against Sassuolo.

“We’re working with Romelu to get to know one another better,” said Martinez. “We’re looking to improve our understanding to help Inter to win.”

The Belgian’s high energy levels and sharp play are in contrast to United where he spent two seasons, scoring 42 goals in 96 appearances, but just 15 last season.

He was never far from



fan criticism, over his weight and professionalism, as he fell down the pecking order once Ole Gunnar Solskjaer replaced Jose Mourinho.

Hopes had been high that Lukaku could spearhead a new era for United when he joined from Everton for GBP 75 million ( 91 million) in

2017, but he left Manchester having failed to win a trophy. “At the end, I thought it was better for me to move on and try different things,” said Lukaku, who took the number nine jersey of former Inter captain Mauro Icardi, who fell out of favour and moved to Paris Saint-Germain.

**- ‘MAD HUNGER’ -**

Conte had been a long-time admirer of Lukaku, who started his career at Anderlecht, and tried to sign him for Chelsea before the Belgian’s move from Everton to United.

“Lukaku entered the Inter world in the best of ways, with great humility,

he’s a good giant, a giant with a smile,” said Conte, who is trying to break Juventus’s stranglehold in Italy and win Inter’s first title since their treble under Mourinho in 2010.

Despite being targeted by racist chants during a league game in Cagliari, Lukaku has no regrets about choosing

Italy, and above all Conte.

“Between him and I there is a very strong relationship. I’m happy. At the age of 26, I want a coach like this, who helps me every day and gives me motivation,” said Lukaku. “He’s the best manager in the world.”

His move to Italy was also eased by the pres-

ence of his brother Jordan Lukaku, 25, who has played as a defender for Lazio since 2016.

Former Inter Milan star Samuel Eto’o has praised Lukaku for how he has adapted.

“We played together at Everton, he was already big and strong even though he is like a baby, but he is very intelligent and on the issue of racism, he said important things,” said the Cameroonian.

“Some players think they are stars and others feel like normal people, he’s in the second category, and you’ll see how many goals he’s going to score.” Ex-United teammate Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who won three Serie A titles with Inter Milan, added:

“Lukaku has this mad hunger to prove himself to the world and I’m sure he will do well at Inter too.” United may be missing Lukaku’s goals as they languish in 13th place in the Premier League having scored 10 in nine games.

## Landmark study reveals link between football and dementia

**SEAN INGLE**  
**LONDON, 22 OCT [THEGUARDIAN]:** Former professional footballers are three and a half times more likely to suffer from dementia and other serious neurological diseases, a landmark study has found, confirming a long-suspected link between the sport and brain damage.

A 22-month research project by the University of Glasgow’s Brain Injury Group also discovered there was a five-fold increase in the risk of Alzheimer’s, a four-fold increase in motor neurone disease and a two-fold increase in Parkinson’s.

The report was unable to establish whether the cause of the higher levels of brain disease was due to repeated concussions, heading leather footballs, or some other factor. However, the Football Association, which helped fund the research, said it would be setting up a task force to examine the potential causes more deeply.

The family of the former West Bromwich Albion striker Jeff Astle, who died in 2002 of what a coroner said was an “industrial disease” partly caused by heading heavy footballs during his career, said they were shocked at the scale of the problem.

“My overall feeling is that I am staggered even though my own research and instinct was always that there was a serious problem,” said his daughter Dawn Astle, who has been contacted by more than 400 families of former players with dementia.

“There will be no celebrations. We knew dad could not be the only one. We just wanted that question an-

swered. We just wanted to see that football cared enough to find out the scale of the problem, to do the right thing and be there for these people when they need them most. Whatever they do next, it must be across all parts of the game. And these players who have suffered dementia must not be a statistic – they must never be forgotten.”

The FA confirmed that despite the study, which used recently digitised NHS Scotland data to compare the causes of death of 7,676 former male professional players who were born between 1900 and 1976 against those of more than 23,000 people from the general population, there was not yet enough evidence to change any aspect of the game.

“Our research shows the number of aerial challenges has already been reduced significantly over the years as we have changed to smaller pitches and possession-based football,” the FA chief executive, Marc Bullingham, said. “However, as new evidence comes to light, we will continue to monitor and reassess all aspects of the game.”

Data from Opta backs up Bullingham’s assessment, with high crosses in the Premier League having declined from a peak – since Opta records began in 2006 – of 38.2 per game in 2008-09 to a low of 24.2 last season. However, the research is still bound to increase the pressure on the International Football Association board, which meets in Zurich on Wednesday, to consider implementing rules that allow “concussion substitutes” if a player gets

assessed for a head injury during a match.

Many doctors and former players have been critical of the slow response of the Professional Footballers’ Association to the dementia problem over the past decade, with Chris Sutton, whose father Mike – also a former Norwich player – suffered from dementia, calling for an apology.

“If Gordon Taylor had anything about him he would apologise to all his union members and their families who he has failed ... his own members dying in the most horrible and humiliating way ... he failed my dad and hundreds more,” he said on Twitter. However, the PFA’s deputy chief executive, Bobby Barnes, said the organisation now better understands the scale of the problem. He added that five members of the PFA had also agreed to donate their brains to medical science after they die.

The Glasgow University study also found former footballers were less likely to die of other common problems, such as heart disease and some cancers, and lived on average three and a quarter years longer.

Dr Carol Routledge, the director of research of Alzheimer’s UK, said the benefits of playing football outweigh the disadvantages.

“Dementia is caused by complex brain diseases and our risk is influenced by our genes, lifestyle and health,” she added. “The best evidence suggests that good heart health is the best way to keep the brain healthy, so when played safely, a kickaround with friends is still a great way to stay mentally and physically active.”

## Ronaldo not ready for retirement: ‘Age is just a number’

**TURIN, OCT 22 (AP):** Cristiano Ronaldo reassured Juventus supporters and his legions of fans worldwide that at 34 he’s not ready for retirement yet.

“Age is just a number. It does not mean that at 34, 35, 36 you are at the end of your career,” Ronaldo said at a news conference ahead of Juventus’ Champions League match against Lokomotiv Moscow on Tuesday. “I can show that with my performances, how I play, the way I play, the way I still feel good, sharp, thinking about the game, more mature. This makes the difference.”

In the second season of a four-year deal at Juventus, Ronaldo had sparked concern among his fans when he said in an interview published a few weeks ago that he was starting to enjoy seeing himself “outside of football, so who knows what will happen in the next year or two?”

Ronaldo recently scored his 700th goal as a professional while on international duty with Portugal and has been nominated for a record sixth Ballon d’Or award which would break his tie of five with Lionel Messi. But Ronaldo said he’s more interested in winning a treble with Juventus.

“We want to win Serie A, we want to win the Cup, the Champions League,” he said. “Juventus should think big. ... We are going to try to win all the trophies, we know it will be difficult, especially the league and the Champions League, but I think it is possible. Everything is possible.

“In terms of individual, I have nothing to say as this is individual. It is not the most important thing,” Ronaldo added.

## India complete formalities, blow away South Africa for 3-0 clean sweep



**TAPAN MOHANTA**  
**RANCHI, OCT 22 (PTI):** A formidable Indian team ticked all the boxes with ease as it completed a 3-0 rout of an out-of-sorts South Africa with an innings and 202 runs victory in the third and final Test here on Tuesday.

With another 120 points in the ongoing World Test Championship, India now sit pretty on top of the table with 240 points as the formalities were completed within the first two overs of the fourth day.

This was Virat Kohli’s 11th series win as captain and the first clean sweep over the Proteas who were no match for the hosts. This was India’s 11th successive series triumph on home soil.

The scoreline was not only an indicator of India’s absolute dominance but also the decline in standard of South African cricket as the visitors couldn’t handle the might of India’s batting and the fiery pace attack led by Mohammed Shami (13 wickets in the series).

Debutant left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem (2/18 in 6 overs) wrapped it up in the second over of the day as South Africa were all out for 133 in their second innings, 29 runs short of their dismal first innings score of 162.

This was India’s sixth clean sweep at home in a three-Test series and the side didn’t put a foot wrong during the three-match series, winning the first Test by 203 runs and the second one by an innings and 137 runs.

If Rohit Sharma’s coming of age in his new role as an opener with 529 runs, turned out to be a masterstroke in home conditions, Mayank Agarwal also consolidated his place in the side with a double century and a ton, easing India’s long time opening woes. “I was very happy to make my debut in Australia and make little contributions to the team. It’s hard work over a period of many areas,” Agarwal said after the match.

However, what stood out during the series was

how lethal the Indian pace attack looked despite their premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah’s absence due to a stress fracture.

Rarely has there been a series where the impact of pacers has been as much as the spinners.

If Ravindra Jadeja (13 wickets) and Ravichandran Ashwin (15 wickets) shared 28 among themselves, Mohammed Shami (13 in 3 Tests), Umesh Yadav (11 in two Tests) and Ishant Sharma (2 in 2 Tests) picked 26 wickets.

“We are always ready to fulfill our responsibility. As a captain, Virat gives you confidence, lets you do what you want. We try to keep the ball in the right areas and bowl the right length,” Shami said at the end of match.

“Fitness matters a lot, the atmosphere in the team is such that we are focussed on fitness. The Indian team has become a unit which enjoys each other’s success and that helps our confidence. As fast bowlers, we have gone up a rung,” said the senior speedster.

It was one such se-

ries, where South African batsmen looked scared and scarred by the ferocity of India’s pace attack. The pacers did a lot of damage with the new ball and reversed the old ball.

Two hundreds and four fifties is all that the South African batting line-up managed and South African skipper Faf du Plessis agreed that they were completely outplayed on sporting tracks unlike the ones in 2015 where the ball was turning square.

“They were ruthless and they were better than us in every department - spin bowling, fast bowling, batting and even the fielding. They are a difficult team to overcome,” Du Plessis agreed.

Pleased as punch, skipper Kohli couldn’t agree more with his opposite number.

“You guys have seen how we’re playing. Making things happen on pitches that don’t seem to offer too much, is something we’re very proud of,” Kohli summed it up aptly.



# Bolivia braces for general strike after vote chaos

Bolivia braced for a general strike on Tuesday hours after violence broke out in several cities when the main opposition candidate rejected presidential election results that seemed set to hand a controversial victory to long-time incumbent Evo Morales.

Opposition supporters reacted with fury, torching electoral offices in the southwestern cities of Sucre and Potosi, while rival supporters clashed in the capital La Paz. Incidents were reported in cities across the South American country.

Carlos Mesa, who came a close second to Morales in Sunday's polls -- forcing a run-off, according to preliminary results -- denounced revised results released by election authorities as a "fraud. "We are not going to recognize those results that are part of a shameful, consummated fraud, that is putting Bolivian society in a situation of unnecessary tension," said Mesa.

International monitors from the Organization of American States voiced "deep concern" at sudden changes to the election count to show Morales closing in on an outright victory in the first round. Preliminary results released late Sunday showed neither Morales, 59, nor 66-year-old Mesa with a majority and "clearly indicated a second round," the OAS mission said.

The partial results put Morales in the lead with 45 percent of the votes, with Mesa on 38 percent, meaning Mo-



rales would have to contest a run-off for the first time. But results released late Monday, after a long and unexplained delay, showed Morales edging towards an outright victory with 95 percent of the votes counted.

Mesa, a former president of the country between 2001-2005, accused Morales of colluding with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) to tweak delayed results and avoid a run-off.

- Opposition call general strike -

The call for a general strike was issued by Fernando Camacho, head of an influential civil society organization in Bolivia's biggest city, Santa Cruz, where transport and businesses were expected to shut down from noon.

"Tomorrow we start at 12:00 to block this country," Camacho told opposition demonstra-

tors late Monday, before holding talks with leaders from other regions. Long lines formed at gas stations amid fears of shortages. Riot-police dispersed a crowd who tried to storm the electoral offices in the Andean city of Oruro, south of La Paz.

Clashes were also reported in Tarija in the south, Cochabamba in the center and Cobija in the north.

- 'Subverting democracy' -

The United States' top diplomat for Latin America said the Electoral Tribunal was attempting "to subvert Bolivia's democracy by delaying the vote count and taking actions that undermine the credibility of Bolivia's elections."

"We call on the TSE to immediately act to restore credibility in the vote counting process," the official, Michael Kozak, said on Twitter.

The OAS observer mission in the country

expressed "surprise at the drastic and hard-to-explain change in the trend of the preliminary results revealed after the closing of the polls," it said in a statement.

It urged the election authority to "firmly defend the will of the Bolivian people" and called for calm on the streets.

"It is extremely important that calm is maintained and any form of violence is avoided in this delicate situation."

- Longest serving president -

Morales, Latin America's longest-serving president, is controversially seeking a fourth term.

He obtained Constitutional Court permission in 2017 to run again for president even though the constitution allows only two consecutive terms.

The former coca farmer and leftist union leader has led the poor

but resource-rich Latin American country for the past 13 years, though his popularity has waned amid allegations of corruption and authoritarianism. He has led the country since taking office in 2006, when he became its first indigenous president.

A new mandate would keep him in power until 2025.

As leader of his Movement for Socialism Party (MAS), Morales points to a decade of economic stability and considerable industrialization as his achievements, while insisting he has brought "dignity" to Bolivia's indigenous population, the largest in Latin America.

He has come under severe criticism this year as wildfires in August and September ravaged Bolivia's forests and grasslands, with activists saying his policies encouraged the use of blazes to clear farmland.

# EU fires budget warning shots to Italy, France

The European Commission on Tuesday demanded urgent clarifications from Italy and France on their budget plans for next year, worried they veer widely from spending cut commitments made to Brussels.

The letters from the EU's executive arm requested a response by Wednesday and could be the first step before the commission rejects a budget outright and demands a new draft.

Portugal, Spain, Belgium and Finland were also contacted with concerns.

"Italy's plan does not comply with the debt reduction benchmark in 2020," said a letter signed by EU economics affairs commissioner Pierre Moscovici and commission vice president Valdis Dombrovskis.

Rome hopes to get Brussels to agree to a deficit of 2.2 percent of GDP.

But the EU said that risked delaying the reduction of Italy's massive debt mountain, which is the second highest in the

euro zone behind Greece at 180 percent of national output.

The spending plans were the product of fraught negotiations between the new coalition in Italy, an unlikely partnership between the anti-establishment Five Star Movement and the centre-left Democratic Party.

"We will provide all clarifications to the EU, we are not concerned," said Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.

"It is a necessary dialogue with Brussels from which we will not escape."

- French tax cuts -

France's government unveiled a draft 2020 budget last month with more than nine billion euros (\$10 billion) in tax cuts for households in its bid to move on from "yellow vest" protests while still cutting the deficit.

But the EU warned that these plans were "not in line" with commitments made to Brussels, and risked a "significant deviation" from the European

rulebook on budgets.

Crucially, the commission criticised Rome and Paris for under-delivering on so-called structural reforms, changes to long-term costs such as pensions, hiring and firing laws and other politically difficult reforms.

Both the French and Italy budgets however promise deficits that meet EU rules that demand a deficit under three percent of annual GDP.

High debt is increasingly the endemic problem in the eurozone, where ultra low inflation and slow growth makes it very difficult to dig into the problem.

The European Commission a year ago for the first time rejected a national budget when it turned down Italy's 2019 spending plans that were submitted by the populist far right coalition.

After loudly refusing to cave to Europe's demand, Rome later acquiesced and accepted the tighter spending and debt reduction demanded by Brussels.

# China foreign minister slams 'unacceptable' violence in Hong Kong

China's foreign minister on Monday denounced months of pro-democracy unrest in Hong Kong as "violence pure and simple", accusing foreign forces and the international media of fuelling the political crisis. The comments, in an exclusive interview with AFP, were the most direct condemnation from a top Chinese official of the protests that erupted five months ago and have seen millions of people take to the streets calling for greater democracy.

"What is happening in Hong Kong today are in no way peaceful protests," Wang Yi said during the interview with AFP during a trip to Paris on Monday.

"It's violence pure and simple. These are unacceptable acts in any country," he added, accusing the protesters of attacking police, members of the public and paralysing transport.

Hong Kong has been riven by seething protests for the past 20 weeks, with violence spiralling on both sides of the ideological divide. While huge crowds have regularly marched peacefully, clashes have repeatedly broken out between smaller groups of hardcore protesters and riot police. The hardline protesters have thrown molotov cocktails and bricks at police, as well as vandalised businesses perceived as being pro-China. Police have responded with rubber bullets and tear gas.

With no political solution in sight the clashes have intensified with each passing month. China has run Hong Kong under a special "one country, two systems" model, which allows the city liberties not seen on the mainland,

since the financial hub's handover from the British in 1997. But public anger has been building for years over fears that Beijing has begun eroding those freedoms, especially since President Xi Jinping came to power in 2012.

This summer's protests were initially sparked by opposition to a now-scraped proposal to allow extraditions of criminal suspects to mainland China.

They quickly snowballed into a wider anti-government movement after Beijing and local leaders in Hong Kong took a hard line.

- 'Foreign forces and media' -

China has regularly accused "external forces" of fuelling unrest in Hong Kong, often citing comments by some western politicians supportive of the protests. In his interview with AFP, Wang again alleged foreigners were involved. "There are foreign forces which are encouraging this sort of violence in the streets with the aim of destabilising Hong Kong, sowing chaos... to wipe out the historic progress made since the one-country-two-systems policy was applied," said Wang.

"Such action will never succeed," he added, insisting that the Hong Kong government would be able to re-establish "social order and respect for the rule of law". With "support from Beijing, Hong Kong will continue to apply the one-country-two-systems formula", Wang stressed.

Wang also took aim at foreign media, complaining that some of them "call this violence democratic and peaceful, in total disregard to reality".

## In Russia for talks, Erdogan threatens to restart Syria offensive

Russian President Vladimir Putin held talks with Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday as the Turkish leader threatened to restart Ankara's military offensive against Kurdish forces in Syria. The two leaders met in southern Russia with just hours to go before a deadline for the withdrawal of Kurdish fighters from parts of Syria under a US-brokered deal. Putin -- who has emerged as the key powerbroker in Syria -- said he hoped to find a way to deal with the "very severe" situation in the country's north.

Sitting down with Erdogan in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi, Putin said he believed that good ties between the two countries "will let us find an answer to even the most difficult questions". Russia and Turkey have emerged as the main foreign players in Syria's conflict, with Moscow's position strengthened after US President Donald Trump announced this month he would be withdrawing American forces from the north of the country.

The announcement cleared the way for Turkey to launch a cross-border offensive on October 9 against the Kurdish YPG militia, viewed by Ankara as "terrorists" linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

# Britain's Johnson races Brexit clock as deadline looms

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson faces two crucial Brexit votes Tuesday that could decide if he still has a reasonable shot at securing his EU divorce by next week's deadline.

The UK is entering a cliffhanger finale to a drama that has divided families and embittered politics ever since voters backed a split from Britain's 27 EU allies and trading partners in 2016.

Johnson has set himself a very high bar by promising that he will get Brexit done -- "do or die" -- by the twice-delayed October 31 departure date.

The Conservative leader now hopes parliament gives initial support to a Brexit bill that translates the revised withdrawal agreement he struck with Brussels last week into UK law.

He then hopes the lower House of Commons commits to passing the entire legislation in three days -- a heavy lift for a 110-page text designed to unwind 46 years of intricate EU-UK ties.

Failure in either of Tuesday's votes could deliver a potentially devastating blow to Johnson that will probably see the process prolonged again.

Parliament has al-

ready forced Johnson to request a three-month extension that European leaders will consider once they get a clearer picture of how the battles in parliament play out.

Outgoing European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said Tuesday the EU has "done all in our power" to assure an orderly divorce.

Extra time could allow opposition lawmakers to try and secure much closer future trade relations with the bloc than the firmer break envisioned by Johnson.

Pro-European Britons have also held massive rallies in London demanding a second Brexit referendum, which could allow for the result of the first to be overturned.

A delay would give Johnson a fresh stab at an early election designed to give him the parliamentary majority needed to avoid these scenarios and get his legislation through. - "Move on" -

And victory in both of Tuesday's votes would be no means guarantee that Johnson will manage to get Britain out in the remaining eight days.

The main opposition Labour Party has vowed to fight the government's attempt to ram through

the legislation at breakneck speed.

A three-day process would still likely see Labour and its allies try to attach amendments that are unpalatable to the government.

"Labour will seize every opportunity through the passage of the Withdrawal Agreement Bill to safeguard workers' rights, protect our economy and ensure the people are given the final say," the left-wing party's finance spokesman John McDonnell wrote in the Daily Mirror newspaper.

"MPs have an opportunity to reject the false choice between Boris Johnson's bad deal and no deal," he wrote.

Government sources told The Daily Telegraph newspaper that Johnson could pull the bill if it gets weighed down with amendments his Conservatives cannot accept.

The same sources warned that Johnson would then try to call an "immediate" election that could be held as early as next month.

Johnson said most Britons just wanted to get Brexit resolved.

"The public doesn't want any more delays, neither do other European leaders and neither do I," Johnson said Monday.

"Let's get Brexit

done on 31 October and move on."

- 'Repetitive and disorderly' -

Johnson is coming off a string of parliamentary defeats that underscore the travails his minority government faces as it oversees a historic break from Europe.

His initial attempts to get a version of the new Brexit legislation through were thwarted at a very rare weekend sitting and then again Monday.

House of Commons Speaker John Bercow ruled the government's bid to push the same Brexit proposal through parliament twice in three days "repetitive and disorderly".

British newspapers expect Johnson to win the first vote Tuesday that essentially agrees to examine the proposed legislation.

But the second vote on the shortened timeline is widely seen as too close to call.

Johnson's rapid success would see the legislation move to the upper House of Lords of Friday.

The debate there is expected to last two days. The new deal must further ratified by the European Parliament before Brexit finally takes effect.

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

**VIDEO NEWS SECTION**

**GANGTOK:**  
For circulation details Contact: +91-9749897695, +91-9467102692  
For Advertisement booking at +91-9932427505 or at office no 03592  
2016/19 Mailusatadvertiser@summittimes.com

**SILIGURI:**  
Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, Ist floor, Opp. Ganga Hotel, Hill Cart Road, Siliguri - 03. Ph. +91-9832318644/  
980062789/9153035100 or mail at mani\_siliger@yahoo.co.in.

**KOLKATA OFFICE:**  
Irrshad Ali/ Irrshayal, Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mazine - 2, 2nd floor, Kolkata - 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. +91-9830547774/ +91-983108397. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/irshad\_ali023@rediffmail.com

**Phone:**  
03592-208698  
+91-9832554698  
+91-9832080753

**www.summittimes.com**  
news@summittimes.com  
summittimes@gmail.com  
advertiser@summittimes.com

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





**SHE'S BACK!** Actress, Linda Hamilton posed with a movie prop at the premiere of Terminator: Dark Fate at the IFC mall in Seoul, South Korea.

## Showtime's 'Yellowjackets' casts Melanie Lynskey in pivotal part

**LOS ANGELES, OCT 22 (PTI):** Actor Melanie Lynskey is set to play one of the lead roles in Showtime's drama pilot "Yellowjackets".

According to Variety, the show focuses on a team of high school girls soccer players who survive a plane crash deep in the Ontario wilderness.

It chronicles their transformation from a complicated but thriving team to warring, cannibalistic clans, while also tracking the lives

they've attempted to piece back together nearly 25 years later.

Lynskey will play Shauna Sheridan, one of the few survivors of the plane crash.

The pilot will get into production later this year.

Ashley Lyle and Bart Nickerson have created the series and will also executive produce and serve as showrunners.

Karyn Kusama is attached to direct the co-production between Showtime and eOne.

## Fans React to New Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker Trailer



The first teaser for Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker debuted this past spring and, in the months since its release, fans have conjured all sorts of theories about how the final chapter in the Skywalker Saga could conclude. Earlier this summer, fans were given a teaser which chronicled the entire span of the saga, concluding with brief looks at the upcoming adventure, igniting even more theories about what the new film could hold. With the final trailer having

officially debuted, fans can hardly contain their excitement about the new film, analyzing each and every frame in search of clues for the new film.

Shortly after its debut, fans have latched onto all sorts of teasers from the trailer, from first looks at returning characters to the dire fates some characters could suffer.

Scroll down to see what fans are saying about the final Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker trailer before it lands in theaters on December 20th

## Apple's new movie bundle sale starts at \$10, more from \$5, plus \$1 rental of the week



Apple has launched a new movie sale today with a heavy focus on bundles starting at \$10. Given that you'd regularly pay at least that for a single film, and as much as \$20, this is a great way to expand your library of content. There's also the usual smattering of \$5 movies and this week's \$1 HD rental of the week. Hit the jump for all of our top picks. Movie bundle deals start at \$10

There are plenty of movie bundle price drops to go around via Apple's storefront this week. This includes 4K HDR collections, like this Sci-Fi bundle with three films for \$15. It includes popular titles like I Am Legend, Jupiter Ascending, and Blade Runner: The Final Cut at upwards of 75% off the regular going rate. Here are the rest of our top picks:

Batman 4-film Collection: \$20 (Reg. \$40)  
 Rambo 4-film Collection: \$10 (Reg. \$40)  
 The Hunger Games Complete Collection: \$20 (Reg. \$30)  
 Ghostbusters 3-film Collection: \$20 (Reg. \$15)  
 Fifty Shades 3-film Collection: \$20 (Reg. \$30)  
 Lara Croft Tomb Raider Collection: \$15 (Reg. \$30)  
 4K HDR Comedy Collection: \$15 (Reg. \$30)  
 4K HDR Action & Adventure Collection: \$20 (Reg. \$30)  
 4K HDR Drama Collection: \$15 (Reg. \$30)  
 ...and many more!  
 Other notable deals this week include:  
 Texas Chainsaw Massacre: \$5 (Reg. \$10)  
 Mad Max Fury Road: \$10 (Reg. \$15)  
 Master and Commander: \$8 (Reg. \$15)  
 Child's Play: \$10 (Reg. \$20)  
 The Hobbit: \$10 (Reg. \$20)  
 Gremlins: \$10 (Reg. \$15)  
 Wonder Woman: \$10 (Reg. \$15)  
 Troy Director's Cut: \$8 (Reg. \$15)

This week's \$1 HD rental of the week is Shadow. It typically rents for over \$5 at competing services and has collected a 3.7/5 star rating so far. Stars Li Sun as this film "pushes the boundaries of the wuxia action genre."

## Jennifer Aniston's daily schedule: a 16-hour fast – and celery juice as a treat

The star's wellbeing secrets include fasting, meditation and five workouts a week. But when does she have fun?

**Name:** Jennifer Aniston.

**Age:** 50.

**Appearance:** Almost the same.

Almost the same as what?

Almost the same as how she looked 20 years ago, when she was starring in the hit series Friends, according to the Mail Online.

Amazing. What is the secret of her youthful appearance? Not eating.

That doesn't sound ideal at all. Well, more specifically, she's adopted an "intermittent fasting" regime, more commonly known as the 16:8 diet.

Is it like the 5:2 diet, except you starve for 16 days and then binge for 8 days? No, in this case the numbers represent hours. "I noticed a big difference in going without solid food for 16 hours," Aniston told the Radio Times.

Sixteen hours without food? By the time you're allowed to eat, it would be past your bedtime! Fortunately, your sleeping hours are counted as part of the fasting period. You just have to delay breakfast until 10am.

I could probably just stay in bed until then, as long as I were allowed to eat what I liked afterwards. You eat anything, but you must stop by 5 or 6pm, when the fasting begins anew.

And does it actually keep you young? Who knows. Some people believe it is supposed to keep you slim, improve blood sugar control, boost brain function and increase life expectancy.

You know what's guaranteed to make you feel old? Eating dinner at 5pm. Most intermittent fasters prefer the more convenient 12 to 8 eating window, but 10 to 6 is considered optimal.

Optimally joyless, do you mean? Obviously Aniston isn't completely rigid about the whole thing. She has a "cheat" day once a week where she treats herself outside fasting hours.

And what does she have? Celery juice.

She treats herself to a celery juice? What

an example to us all. Indeed she is.

I was being sarcastic. She is certainly an example to Reese Witherspoon, her co-star in the new series The Morning Show. "Jen knows so much about health and fitness that I always defer to her," she told the Radio Times. "She's



great at wellbeing advice."

Is there more to her wellbeing regime? In addition to fasting, Jen does meditation, followed by five workouts per week. Witherspoon, the swot, manages six.

I don't understand how these people find time in their schedule to get drunk. They don't need to get drunk; they get high on being a better person than you.

Do say: "Fasting, meditation, exercise: what a great way to use up the hours between now and death."

Don't say: "Focus, Jen. It's nearly 6pm, and this box of doughnuts isn't going to eat itself."

## Siddharth Shukla, Paras Chhabra And Others Will Fight To Save Themselves From Nominations

In tonight's episode of Bigg Boss 13, the contestants will wake up to the tunes of the song Gulabo, which will be a subtle hint on what's in store for them. Keeping into consideration, the show's host Salman Khan's suggestion, all the contestants will be seen happily dancing to the morning alarm. Bigg Boss will introduce the nominations task for the week. The task will be called 'Rose Day' task, as a part of which, all the male contestants will have to gift a rose to the girl that they like. The female contestants will have the power to nominate one of the boys. Interestingly, only one female contestant will benefit from this task and be spared from the nominations process.

In order to emerge victorious in the task, Siddharth

Shukla, Paras Chhabra and Asim will be seen rushing towards the flowers, during

other twist in tonight's episode by asking Shefali Bagga to spy on her fellow contes-



which they will slip. This is the first time that Rashmai Daesi will be made the moderator for the task. It will be interesting to see who will be safe and who will be nominated in tonight's episode.

Bigg Boss will bring an-

As a part of the task, she will be asked to bring out the true sides of any 3 contestants from the house. It will be interesting to see if the bonds will get stronger through the task. She will also be seen interviewing her fellow contestants.

**ARIES:** Arians in the process of manifesting love, set clear intentions. What if I said you have a direct connection with the Divine? The rest of you need to put your swords down and listen to what other people have to say. There is no need to jump to conclusions before understanding both sides of the story. Exercise a little more kindness and a little more compassion, especially in your interpersonal relationships. Tip: Be kind.

**TAURUS:** Small things make a big difference, Taurus. Make an effort to pick them up after work or send them flowers in the middle of a stressful day. Remember, the kindness you put out into the Universe will come back to you manifold. Tuesday also brings with itself the promise of joy, laughter and madness. Connect with your good vibes tribe. Forget about being adults for a bit, share anecdotes from your lives, and laugh like you're in kindergarten. Tip: Joy and laughter promise to be the secret ingredients.

**GEMINI:** This is the season to love and be loved. Family planning is going to be a big theme for coupled Geminis. Are you enjoying

the material comforts that were once a distant dream? Looks like you're ready to invite your child to the physical realm. Those who are in the market for the forever kind of love should keep both their eyes and ears open. A proposal with major potential is likely to come your way. Tip: Family planning is on the cards.

**CANCER:** Your life is living proof of the fact that absolutely anything can happen. Cancer, you are in the process of manifesting miracles, healing old wounds and making space for the good stuff. When in doubt, continue to let go of fear in favour of love. When was the last time you spent time in the company of trees and plants? Tuesday also brings with itself the reminder that there's little Mother Nature cannot solve. Tip: When in doubt, choose love.

**LEO:** The conflict is self-created, Leo. You already know which way to go from here. Admit your true feelings to yourself. Now is a good time to start listening to your heart. As such, today is going to require a lot of juggling. You may find yourself torn between multiple aspects of your life. Staying in your centre will help you achieve that elusive balance.

Tip: Stay in your centre, Leo.

**VIRGO:** Don't assume, ask. There's so much you don't know about this situation. Plus, that overactive imagination is not doing you any favours by conjuring up tragic images. This could be a particularly challenging week for some of you. Resist the urge to switch off when things go downhill. Reaching out for support will actually prove to be a boon for your mental health. Tip: Open the channels of communication.

**LIBRA:** Too much, too soon? Get out of your head and trust what your instincts are telling you. It's time to put your chunkiest sneakers on and make a big move. You'll be surprised by the speed at which things start to manifest once you are clear about your goals. When was the last time you spent time in the company of the trees and the birds? PS: Don't forget to schedule an appointment with Mother Nature this week. Tip: Trust your instincts and make that big move.

**SCORPIO:** It's not about playing dress up and being seen at fancy places. It's about doing things that matter with the people who matter. Make time for your good vibes tribe, Scorpio.

The crew that allows you to be exactly who you are minus the filters you have to don for the outside world. Those who are in the initial stages of the relationship, get innovative with your dates. Choose a day of lounging in the park or devouring ice cream in your PJs over dinner and drinks. Tip: Spend time with your good vibe tribe.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Don't you love when things fall in place seamlessly? Expect a big change in the realm of relationships this week. Chasing sunsets or dancing in the rain with an orchestra playing in the background may not be such an unrealistic idea after all. Those who are playing the dating and mating game will realise there is more to the chemistry they're feeling with a certain somebody. Don't be afraid to explore this connection and see how things materialise.

Tip: A passionate affair is on the cards.

**CAPRICORN:** Sometimes it's better to do things by the book. Allow yourself to be wooed, Capricorn. Allow yourself to be treated like the goddess you are. Saturnians who are getting ready to tie the knot, could be planning

a traditional ceremony. Remember, it's not just about you. There's a good chance your families are involved at this point. To keep things harmonious, find a middle ground.

Tip: A traditional ceremony could be on the cards. **AQUARIUS:** It all starts with you, Aquarius. How you treat yourself sets the bar for others. This week, you're being asked to turn your attention inwards. To give yourself the love and nurture you deserve. This will help you sever codependent ties and make space for healthier relationships. As always, the choice to make a positive change is yours. Some of you could be thinking about getting into business with someone or supporting the business of a loved one. Tip: Give yourself the love and care you deserve.

**PISCES:** When somebody wants to be a part of your life, they'll let you how much you matter through both actions and words. Stop giving your all to people who are only making half an effort. Your time and energy are precious, Pisces. Today is a good day to pluck out a few weeds from your garden and set intentions for the kind of trees you'd like to grow. Tip: Invest where you see returns.