



SHANAYA KAPOOR TO MAKE HER BOLLYWOOD DEBUT WITH KARAN JOHAR'S DHARMA PRODUCTIONS
pg 08

JOURNALISM JOBS ARE PRECARIOUS, FINANCIALLY INSECURE AND REQUIRE FAMILY SUPPORT
pg 04

FAHADH FAASIL TO PLAY ANTAGONIST IN 'PUSHPA'
pg 08



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Pages 8 | ₹ 5

Sikkim awarded 'Most Film Friendly State'

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 MAR:**

Sikkim was awarded the 'Most Film Friendly State' title in the 67th National Film Award announced today in New Delhi.

In a Facebook post, the Chief Minister, PS Tamang wrote, "It is a proud moment for Sikkim, as we have been awarded the 'Most Film Friendly State' in the 67th National Films Award announced today in New Delhi.

I congratulate the entire state, particularly the people involved. I hope this sets the foundation for films to be an integral aspect of Sikkim and provide a platform for our talented people, especially the youths to showcase their skills in various capacities."

Lok Sabha passes Bill to raise foreign investment in insurance to 74%

NEW DELHI, 22 MAR [PTI]: A bill to increase foreign direct investment (FDI) in the insurance sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent was approved by Parliament with the Lok Sabha giving green signal to the legislation by a voice vote on Monday.

Piloting the Bill, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that hiking the FDI limit in the insurance sector will help insurers to raise additional funds and tide over financial problems. The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was earlier passed by the Rajya Sabha last week. The minister said that the government will provide funds to the public sector insurance companies but the private players will have to raise capital on their own.

Observing that insurance companies are facing solvency related issues, she said, "if growth capital is hard to come by, there will be a stress situation. In order that the stress situation is not left unattended, we need to raise the FDI limit."

Sikkim gets a no-new-Covid Sunday



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 MAR:**

Sikkim's tally of confirmed cases of COVID-19 held at 6206 today with no new cases of novel coronavirus being detected in the last 24 hours.

The numbers are usually low on Mondays since the VRD labs where RT-PCR tests are conducted

are closed on Sundays. And this Sunday, no TrueNat tests were carried out either.

On the other hand, the State recorded five new recoveries to further improve the figure of recovered cases in Sikkim to 5,925.

The number of active cases of novel coronavirus in Sikkim has now reduced to 49.

In his daily health bulletin on Monday, Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam Gyaltzen Bhutia, detailed that all 28 samples tested through rapid antigen testing on Sunday returned negative for COVID-19.

He further informed no vaccination for COVID-19 was carried out yesterday in the State.

SICA Cricket Fun Fair concludes at Chungthang



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 MAR:**

The Sikkim Cricket Association's (SICA) 'Cricket Fun Fair' that was held in North Sikkim, concludes today at Phu-Phu Stadium, Chungthang, a press release informs. The Fair was inaugurated by Nim Tshering Lepcha, Chairperson of the Social Welfare Commission. Former Zila member Dikki Lepcha, Panchayat members, SKM Sports Wing of Chungthang and teachers were also present at the fair.

Around 300 students from schools around Chungthang attended the

fair. The program was well-received by locals in and-around Chungthang. The chairperson in his address praised SICA for bringing Cricket to such remote corners of Sikkim.

He further mentioned that cricket in Sikkim has become extremely popular under the leadership of Tenzing Lobsang.

SICA president in his speech asked the teachers and students to read the provided brochure and be more aware of the benefits one can get from Cricket. SICA is willing to partner and participate with any institution that is interested, he said.

Summit Times in Nepali

<https://www.facebook.com/SummitTimesSikkim/>

Watch our Nepali broadcast every evening on Facebook at Summit Times Daily Page, Please like, Share, Comment and let us know we can improve.

Thank You!



Ajay Agarwal releases 9-point manifesto for Lower MG Marg

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 MAR:**

Ajay Kumar Agarwal, a candidate from Lower MG Marg under Gangtok Municipal Corporation, today released a nine-point manifesto for the upcoming municipal elections.

He also shared his hopes of being able to become a "strong catalyst" to bring positive change in Gangtok and power a more holistic development.

"If the people are ready to synchronize and coordinate with my thoughts, then I have the will and commitment to do nice things for my town," he said.

Speaking to media persons on his agenda for the election, Mr Agarwal said he will speak up on delimitation and gerrymandering to ensure reinstatement of voters to their wards of residence, Sunday market closure to provide much-needed family time and argued that voters should not be classified as 'others' since, he added, voters deserve to be recognized honorably.

While registering strong objection on these matters, he stated that these matters will be discussed with the stakeholders and then taken to the concerned authorities if the



people gave him the chance to serve them.

Mr Agarwal also said that important on his agenda will be the issuing of permits and licenses to everyone on the voter list and argued that this was the electorate's Right of Livelihood.

He added that if voters can decide who forms the government, their government should also deliver them the right to livelihood.

Highlighting Lal Bazaar as the heart of MG Marg, he said that he would work to get the lifts and generators at the facility operational and ensure proper maintenance of ventilation, drinking water and installation

State Telecom Disaster Coordination Committee meets

GANGTOK, 22 MAR (PIB): The first meeting of State Telecom Disaster Coordination Committee [STDDCC] for Sikkim State was held today in Gangtok under the Chairmanship of N. Murali Krishna, Deputy Director General, Sikkim DoT, WB LSA, Gangtok.

He has emphasized role of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) as a Lead/Primary agency for Emergency Support Function related to provision of telecommunication services. Insisted all Telecom Service Providers to be ready in line with Department of Telecommunication's Standard operating procedure/guidelines, render support



and coordination with DOT, SSDMA and NDRF.

All the participants have actively participated in the discussions exchange their views and requirements and readiness statement in the event of occurrence of any type of disaster.

Rakesh Kumar Meena, DoT welcomed all participants. The meeting

was attended by Phigu Bhutia, Adll director, SSDMA, Government of Sikkim and K.C Roy, Inspector NDRF, Sikkim, D K Jena DGM BSNL, Surajit Sarkar Nodal officer VIL, Suman pradhan Nodal Officer RJIL & Arun Das Nodal officer, M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd. Meeting ended with vote of thanks by R K Gupta, ADG DOT Sikkim.

As Covid rises, India's 'R' Factor highest in a year. What it means

CHANDRASHEKAR SRINIVASAN

NEW DELHI, 22 MAR [NDTV]: Concern over an alarming increase in new coronavirus cases in India - 131,750 over the past 72 hours - was underlined Monday by a spike in the 'R', or 'reproduction rate', of the virus, which has jumped to 1.32 - the highest since April last year, when there were fewer than 27,000 cases.

The 'R' factor - a statistic used worldwide to track, and potentially, control the spread of the virus - is a measure of how many people are being infected by one infected person.

A 'R' of 2.0 indicates that one person with COVID-19 will, on average, infect two others. Each of those two will infect two more (spreading the disease to an average of four people) and so on.

In a pandemic situation the ideal 'R' target is below 1.0, which ensures that the virus will eventually stop spreading because it cannot infect enough people to sustain the outbreak.

In India the 'R' rate was below 1.0 for several weeks starting late November last year, which was welcome news as it forecasted a rapid decline in new Covid cases.

The 'R' rate in India touched 1.32 Monday - the highest since April last year

And that was exactly what happened, with daily numbers dropping from over 90,000 in September last year to around 10,000 in the first two weeks of February this year.

As of Monday morning, however, the number of active cases in India has shot up to nearly 334,000, with a 150 per

cent spike recorded in the past week. Around 132,000 of these new cases have been detected in the past three days, with over 40,000 reported in each 24-hour period.

The spike is the result of new cases in a handful of states, with Maharashtra - the worst-affected - leading the way. By Monday morning the state had over 211,000 active cases, with over 30,000 detected in a 24-hour period ending Sunday night. State capital Mumbai, the worst-affected metro city, has seen a similarly alarming surge, with over 3,000 new cases in each of the past two days.

National capital Delhi has also reported an increase - on Saturday over 800 new infections were reported in a 24-hour period for the first time this year.

In setback for Arvind Kejriwal, Centre's Delhi Bill clears Lok Sabha

New Delhi, 22 Mar [NDTV]: A Bill that gives the centre more power over Delhi moved one step closer today to becoming law, in a setback to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's government. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 has been passed in the Lok Sabha and will now be taken up in the Rajya Sabha.

The Bill gives more powers to the Lieutenant Governor -- the centre's representative in Delhi

-- compared to the city's elected government. It was brought in parliament last week, three years after a constitution bench of the Supreme Court ruled on the dispute between Delhi's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government and the Lieutenant Governor.

The government claimed that the Bill would "further define" the responsibilities of the elected government and the Lieutenant Governor "in line with the constitutional scheme of govern-

nance... as interpreted by the Supreme Court."

Arvind Kejriwal called the development an "insult" to the people of Delhi.

"Passage of GNCTD amendment Bill in Lok Sabha today is an insult to the people of Delhi. The Bill effectively takes away powers from those who were voted by people and gives powers to run Delhi to those who were defeated. BJP has cheated the people," tweeted the Chief Minister.

Ayush for malnutrition eradication at Chungthang

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

MANGAN, 22 MAR:

Awareness on use of Ayush principles and practices for eradication of Malnutrition was organised at model Anganwadi centre, Chungthang in North Sikkim today.

The programme saw participation of Community members, Anganwadi workers, District coordinator (Poshan Abhiyan- North), Poshan Assistants, supervisors, etc.

Resource person for the day was Dr. Dikila Bhutia, MO - Ayush, District hospital, North Sikkim. On the day, a rally was also held which was participated by members of different Self Help Groups.

Umbrella with Poshan logo and message was distributed to all as part of IEC campaign.

CDPO Chungthang, Sonam Laden Bhutia highlighted the five sutras of Poshan Abhiyan.

7-year-old killed in crude bomb blast in Burdwan

BURDWAN, 22 MAR [PTI]:

A seven-year-old boy was killed and another child injured in a crude bomb explosion in Burdwan city in West Bengal on Monday, police said.

The incident happened around 11 am in Rasikpur's Subhaspally area of the city, they said.

Sheikh Afroz (7) and Sheikh Ibrahim (9) were playing near their house when they hit a packet in which the crude bombs were kept, leading to the blast, Burdwan police station's inspector-in-charge Pintu Saha said.

Locals rushed to the spot after hearing the explosion and found the two boys lying in a pool of blood, he said.

They were taken to the Bardhaman Medical College and Hospital where Afroz died a while later, he said.

Ibrahim is at present undergoing treatment, Mr Saha said.

Afroz's uncle Sheikh Feroz told PTI that the children of the locality play at that spot every morning but only two of them were out today.

An investigation has been initiated and the area has been cordoned off, the police officer said.

The explosion triggered tension in the area ahead of the elections.

Following the incident, the Election Commission sought a report from the district magistrate of Purba Bardhaman, an official said.

"A quick report has been sought from the district magistrate. Prior to the elections, this is a very serious matter," he said.

Rasikpur is in the Bardhaman Dakshin constituency where polling will be held in the fifth phase on April 17.

Condemning the incident, chairperson of the West Bengal Commission for the Protection of Child Rights Ananya Chatterjee said a letter has been sent to the district magistrate and superintendent of police, seeking a report about the incident.

NABARD Sikkim celebrates Int'l Women's Day

GANGTOK, 22 MAR (PIB): NABARD, Sikkim Regional Office Celebrates International Women's Day with the theme "Women in Leadership - Achieving an Equal Future in a Covid-19 World" in Gangtok today.

The program was attended by ADC, Radha Pradhan, East Sikkim, MD, Pema Chenzom, SISCO Bank and GM/OIC, Dr Diwakar Hegde, NABARD, Sikkim RO. Women from various walks of life viz., Farmers, Entrepreneurs, Bank Sakhis/Correspondents, DPMs, Journalists, Self Help Groups, FPOs, Agri Scientists, NGOs have also participated in the program.

DGM, G Ramesh Kumar, NABARD in his address welcomed all the participants to the program and highlighted the contribution of women in various fields of life and NABARD's role in women development and empowerment.

GM/OIC, Dr Diwakar



Hegde, NABARD Sikkim RO in his inaugural address has indicated that her bank has launched a number of women centric products through their bank for assisting women entrepreneurs. She wished that all women FPOs could be initiated in future.

ADC, Radha Pradhan, East Sikkim in her address appreciated the efforts of NABARD in women empowerment and gender policies. She has highlighted that women can perform multiple roles in society and ed-

ucated women can help enrich the entire family/society. She has also indicated that she could perform well in her duties in the challenging times of Covid-19 pandemic.

Later, thirty successful women in various fields like progressive farmers, Self Help Groups, NGOs, Entrepreneurs, Bank Sakhis/Correspondents, SRLM-BPMs, Journalists, Agri Scientists were felicitated and honored for their work in respective fields/activities by NABARD.

SMC cum PTA meet at Rhenock Bazaar JHS

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 MAR:

School Management Committee (SMC) cum Parents Teachers Association (PTA) meet was organised by Rhenock Bazaar Government Junior High School today at the school premises today.

A press release informs that the main objective for holding the meeting was to discuss school development as well as the academic wellbeing of respective wards. Several development projects in connection to the infrastructural build of the school was also discussed.

The meeting also



dissolved the old School Management Committee (SMC) and simultaneously a new body along with advisory committee was formed for two years.

The meeting was

chaired by Chairperson cum Zilla Panchayat member, Indira Hingmang along with former panchayats, social activists, headmaster, teachers, and guardians.

New Headmaster, Tek Nath Poudyal highlighted development fees collection, Mid-day Meal Shed, Science Lab, black topping in school premise in his welcome speech.

'Bharat ko Jaano' program held at Ranka school



SUMMIT REPORT

Gangtok, 22 Mar:

The Culture Department, in collaboration with the North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Ministry of Culture, Dimapur (Nagaland) is organizing three-day Bharat ko Jaano (Chain Yatra) at Ranka Senior Secondary School, Martam Secondary School and Lower Syari, Gangtok, East Sikkim from 22 to 24 Mar, 2021.

The main aim of the programme is to understand the Cultural diversities of different states of India. The programme is being participated by artistes from different states of India like Maharashtra, Manipur, Assam, Meghalaya & Sikkim.

Advisor of Culture Department, Bhim Kumari Sharma attended

the first day of the programme as chief guest followed by Principal of Ranka Senior Secondary School as guest of honour. OSD, Culture Department and other officials were also present in the programme. The programme was also attended by the teachers and students of Ranka Senior Secondary School.

Bhim Kumari Sharma while addressing the function said that such programmes provide exposure to artistes of different states to know the rich cultural diversity of India. She also thanked the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Dimapur and Culture Department, Government of Sikkim, for providing exposure to artistes from different states.

North receives 8 EVM sets

MANGAN, 22 MAR (IPR):

The North District Administration received 8 sets of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) with all Elections materials from State Election Commission, Sikkim at 5:15pm today, for the upcoming Municipal Elections 2021 for Mangan Nagar Panchayat.

The EVMs were checked and stored in the strong room located

at Zilla Bhawan Mangan in the presence of District Collector (North) cum Municipal Returning Officer Tenzing .T. Kaleon and SDM (Mangan) cum Sector Magistrate Shri. Karma T Bhutia along with officials of the Election Department. The strong room is under 24x7 CCTV Surveillance and is sealed and guarded by Armed Police Personnel.

Rainbow Trout Broodstock management demonstrated



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 MAR:

One-day demonstration on Broodstock management in Rainbow Trout was conducted at Pangthang today, a press release informs.

The resource person for the said programme was Joint Director, Fisheries Department, CS Rai. He addressed the farmers on various departmental schemes of Fisheries Department and encouraged the farmers to opt for Trout Farming for their economic upliftment.

On the other hand, RO Fisheries, Gauri Mukhya

took a technical session on Trout Farming through a power point presentation, followed by an interaction session with the farmers and the departmental officials.

The participants were provided fish seeds during the programme. Also present were Assistant Director, Nitesh Gurung and Block Technology Manager, Pratima Cintury and other staff. The program was sponsored by Agriculture Technology Management Agency and implemented by Fisheries Department, Government of Sikkim.

Citizen Foundation observes World Water Day

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 MAR:

On the occasion of World Water Day, a non-governmental organisation, Citizen Foundation organised a programme on the theme 'Save Water, Go Solar' at Pakyong community hall on Monday.

The programme had Citizen Foundation CEO, Ganesh Reddy as the chief guest and was also attended by ADC Pakyong, SDM Pakyong, BDO Pakyong along with Principals and teachers of different schools, Anganwadi workers, panchayats and students.

During the programme, Diwash Dhakal, a student of Mamring Senior Secondary School, Ashish Adhikari, a student of Linkey SS and Sarita Chettri, a stu-

dent of Amba Secondary School spoke on the importance of water. Likewise, students of Linkey SS also staged a play on the importance of water during the programme.

While speaking on the importance of water, the ADC stressed that misuse of water may lead to big problems in the future. Citizen Foundation also distributed solar lights to different schools and Anganwadi workers.

In her welcome address, Citizen Foundation project manager, Sangita Dahal gave the report of the organisation. The program ended with the presentation of vote of thanks by Citizen Foundation member, Bhupendra Adhikari.

SANSINGMA YAMBOK/ ANTHYESTHI KRIYA

Sansingma Yambok/ Anthyesthi Kriya of our beloved brother Late Yalamber Subba, s/o Mrs Kamala Subba, who left us for the heavenly abode on 18th March 2021 afternoon, falls on 27th March 2021 [Saturday]. Sansingma Yambok/ Anthyesthi Kriya for the departed soul will be held at Chokasum Hall, Namnang, Gangtok and we request all our relatives, family, friends and well-wishers to kindly join us to offer prayers for the young soul who left us early.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our well-wishers who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

Amar, Lanam, Manghang, Yehang,

Todi Young (Brothers)

Amrita, Anita, Sangita, Ningwa (Sisters),

Sonam Doma Bhutia (sister-in-law)

Kalka Rai (sister-in-law)

Mecal O. Lepcha (sister-in-law) & family



ANTHYESTHI KRIYA

The 16 day Anthyesthi Kriya of late Munni Devi W/O Rama Shanker Prasad, Lall Market, Gangtok, East Sikkim who left for heavenly abode on 08.03.2021 falls on 25.03. 2021. All relatives, family, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering pujas for the departed soul at CHOKASOM, NAMNAM, Gangtok East Sikkim.

also express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

Son

Ashok Kumar Prasad

Sanjay kumar Prasad

Manoj kumar prasad

Raju kumar Prasad

Contact Number:+91 70016 81237

+91 81012 49712



RUCHI DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC

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PH: 03592-203333, 204876, 8509373970

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DR. ONGDEN GYATSO, MS (AIIMS)

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3.00 pm

PAEDIATRIC CLINIC & O P D

8.00 am And 6.00 pm

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Veterinary First Aid Training of OFOJ employees concludes

GANGTOK, 22 MAR (IPR): The Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Government of Sikkim organised a valedictory function of the Veterinary First Aid Training of the One Family One Job employees serving under the Department at Conference Hall of Training and Extension Cell, Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services today.

The programme was graced by the Minister for Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department, LN Sharma as the Chief Guest and attended by Principal Director, AH\$VS Department Directors, Dr Sangay Bhutia and other Departmental officials.

The Minister in his speech stated that, this type of training would benefit the farmers of the State who now have answers during emergencies occurring in the veterinary institutions of the State. He also stated that more such training to other such workforce of the Department is the need of the hour. He suggested the trainees to sincerely and diligently provide the technical knowhow to the livestock farmers of the State.

On the occasion, the Minister also distributed certificates to the trainees.

Additional Director, Training Dr Sanjay M Gajmer in his vote of thanks said that the Department is preparing for such trainings and looking forward to train even Livestock Assistants within Sikkim, which is a ten month long course.

Joint Director, Training and Extension Cell Dr Indira Subba informed that this second batch of training was conducted by the Training and Extension Cell, which was completely residential for a period of fifteen days for twenty five One Family One Job employees attached to different Veterinary Institutions of the State.

Joint Director, AH\$VS Pakyong Dr Angella Pradhan in her address informed on the procedures of imparting training, where the trainees were given both theory and practical so that they are capable to handle emergencies, if any in the State.

SIRD&PR observes World Water Day



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 MAR: State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR), Rural Development Department, Government of Sikkim, observed World Water Day 2021 with the theme "Valuing Water" in all 4 District Headquarters of the State today, a press release informs.

World Water Day is observed every year on 22 March since 1993. The day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. A core focus of World Water Day is to

support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: Water and Sanitation for all by 2030.

Apart from observing World Water Day 2021 display and awareness generation of "Jal Shakti Abhiyan - Catch the Rain" was also carried out in all 4 district headquarters of the State by SIRD&PR.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan II was launched today by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, with the tagline "Catch the Rain - Where it falls, when it falls". The campaign is an initiative of National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, GoI and is

mainly focused on water conservation. Under this campaign Jal Shakti Kendras will be established in all Districts who will map all water resources as well as prepare water conservation plans apart from other activities.

On the launch of the campaign today "Jal Shapath" was taken by SIRD&PR team along with the public in all 4 district headquarters and various BACs. Sensitization on the objectives of the campaign and our role in water conservation as individuals and community was also shared by SIRD&PR, RDD, GoS.

AOL Meditation & Breath Workshop



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 MAR: Ten participants benefited from the first of-line Meditation & Breath Workshop of the Art of Living held at Kazi Road, Gangtok, from 17 to 21 March. The programme was facilitated by AOL

teacher, Ratna Pradhan.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all the programs of the Art of Living Organization were being conducted through online mode for the past one year, a press release informs.

The organisation started conducting offline

programs recently with adequate safety measures, duly abiding by all the guidelines in place.

The local Art of Living Centre at Durga Mandir Complex, Tadong has also opened its doors for weekly follow-up sessions.

CONTACT

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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR RABDENTSE, WEST SIKKIM

Memo No. 439/DCW

Date: 10/03/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE Under Section 3G of national highway Act, 1956

Whereas the Central Government, in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the notification bearing No. 175 (E) dated 14.01.2021 published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, issued under sub-section (1) of Section 4A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act) for building (Widening/ four-laning, etc), maintenance management and operation of NH No.510 On the stretch of land from Km 75.000 to Km 90.210 (Legship to Gyalshing) in the district of West in the state of Sikkim.

And whereas, the substance of the said notification was published in Hamro Prajasakti and SummitTimes dated 17 January 2021 and 18 January 2021 respectively under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act.

And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under Section 3-C, considered and disallowed the same appropriately.

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Competent Authority had submitted its report to the Central Government.

And whereas, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government has declared that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for aforesaid purpose.

And whereas, the said declaration has been published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II bearing No.1121(E), dated 10.03.2021 as required under Section 4D of the said Act.

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Officials Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

Now, therefore, in compliance of sub-section (3) of Section 4G, the Competent Authority hereby invites all the landowners or persons interested in the land being acquired under these proceedings to submit their claims in respect of the land mentioned in the Schedule given here-in-below within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this Public Notice in the office of the Competent Authority i.e. Office of District Collector, Gyalshing, West Sikkim by 03.04.2021.

All the persons interested (owner of the lands and other interested person(s)) in the lands specified in the Schedule given below are hereby called upon to submit their claims in the said land (their share, area of land, any assets attached there to e.g. structures/tress etc. and state the nature of the respective interest in such lands along with relevant records. The said landowners or persons interested therein shall also furnish the particulars of their Bank Accounts to which they would like their compensation amount to be credited. The claims may be submitted in the following indicative format:

Name of Village/ town	Name of Land-owner/ interested person	Field Survey No.	Area of Land in his share	Any structure/trees/ tube well attached to the land	Name of the Bank & Branch in which he/ she holds the Account	Particulars of the Bank Account No. IFSC Code of the Bank Branch.
1						
2						
3						
4						

SCHEDULE
Schedule is attached herewith to this notice

R.O No. 274/IPR/Pub/Calssi./20-21
Dated: 22.03.21

Sd/-
District Collector
West District, Gyalshing
Sikkim.

Seminar for artisans by Tribal Research Institute



GANGTOK, 22 MAR

(IPR): Tribal Research Institute, Social Justice and Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim conducted a daylong seminar on Value Addition, Market Linkage and Products of Tribal Artisans at the Conference Hall of Samaj Kalyan Bhawan at Lumsey in Gangtok today. The programme, which was supported by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India had the presence of Minister for Social Justice and Welfare Department, Dr MK Sharma as the Chief Guest.

The programme also had the presence of Secretary, Social Justice and Welfare Department, Tshewang Gyachho, Additional Secretary, MoTA, Social Justice and Welfare Department Shri Suman Gurung, Deputy Director/ MoTA, (SJ\$WD), Tshering Dorjee Bhutia along with the officials of line departments and representatives of Tribal communities.

Minister for Social Justice and Welfare Department, Dr MK Sharma in his brief address stressed on the noteworthy efforts and contributions of tribal artisans who have been trying to preserve the arts, crafts and traditions of their communities. He reiterated the State Government's support in facilitating its role for the progress and economic welfare of the tribal communities of the State.

Dr Sharma also expressed the need for modulation, preparation and active participation from all in order to increase the market value of tribal products throughout the nation. He further added that a spirit of perseverance and adaptation is much required for product value establishment while also tapping on the field of rediscovering the exquisite culture.

He urged all the participants of the seminar

to share and encourage their creative ideas for strengthening and accelerating the economic development of the tribal communities and the society. He also extended gratitude to the resource persons of the programme and motivated all to practice constructive and contextual thinking.

In his keynote address, Secretary, Shri Gyachho, highlighted various initiatives undertaken by the department with the support of the State Government for the welfare and development of the tribal communities of Sikkim. He also touched upon the significance of packaging, which plays a major role in increasing market value of tribal products and urged all to explore innovative ideas while also keeping the tribal essence of the State intact.

The inaugural session was followed by a tech-

nical meet that included a list of presentations made by Deputy Director, Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Government of Sikkim, Poonam Khatiwara, Deputy Director, Indian Institute of Packaging, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, Bidhan Das, Assistant Director, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India, DR Sharma, Handicraft Promotion Officer, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Shashikant Gupta, Deputy Director, Spices Board, Government of India, MS Ramalingam, representatives of Science and Technology, Government of Sikkim and representatives of tribal communities.

The seminar concluded with a group discussion and interaction session, which was followed by the valedictory programme wherein certificates were distributed to the participants.



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Memo No: 993/GSCDL/2021

Dated: 18/03/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

Gangtok Smart City Development Limited (GSCDL) is undertaking the work 'Improvement of Pedestrian Walkway/ Footpath (12 km approx. from Vajra Cinema Hall, Baluwakhani to Ranipool, Gangtok'.

However, it is observed that the public are requesting for changes after the work has been completed which is causing repetitive execution of the work resulting in time and cost overrun

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Weather Related

Make meteorology about more than stats and forecasts

Given the number of Special Days that abound nowadays, it has become difficult to keep track of which days are more than just the dates that the almanac announces them to be and which require more attention for specific issues. And because there are so many of such days, it is only natural that some pass away unnoticed. 23 March, for instance, is World Meteorological Day, and one that is unlikely to see even a token observation by whichever agency is supposed to claim a celebration of the day through at least a press release. But then again, because of the way the weather has been and the fact that despite March coming to a close and Holi almost here, the woolens have still not been packed away completely, we should be taking keener notice of meteorological issues. Be that as it may, meteorological matters and weather patterns don't seem to excite much interest anymore save for putting together bullet-points for a school debate or an essay-writing competition. People, who increasingly converse on social media, don't even talk about the weather any more it seems. But they should.

While one may have reservations over how effective such days are in generating interest and information on vital issues, it is time we accepted that we ignore the weather at our own peril. Data bears out that earth's temperature has risen in the past century. Scientists may differ on what caused it – man's use of fossil fuel energy or the depletion in the green cover – but are unanimous in accepting that catastrophe awaits if global warming and climate change continue unabated and unaddressed. And yet, climate change debates and environmental issues are being discussed in an increasingly disconnected way – from a sanitized distance in which arguments are accurate, but commitment to resolve issues only superficial. There was a time, which perhaps lasted till about a decade back, when everyone was discussing global warming. No school examination was complete without a demand for an essay on global warming. Unfortunately, this did not help much because text books, those typically difficult reads and classrooms, those dangerously stifling traps to suffocate learning, ensured that what was learned by rote was never felt in the core. And as even rural areas have started living increasingly urban lives, disconnected from the land and distanced from nature, the need for seasons and weather and what they mean for life and sustaining it is increasingly being lost. Not too many people are working in farms anymore, and that many fewer people are hence missing the benefits of a sustained monsoon drizzle or praying for sustained sunshine through the month of Mangsir. The Winter Sun is after all required for more than just enjoying oranges.

Because the young are growing up disconnected from such organic connections to the land, a day sounding as boring as the World Meteorological Day needs to be observed on a much larger scale. This year's World Meteorological Day, for instance, was themed "Weather Ready, Climate Smart". Why this theme? The World Meteorological Organisation explains it thus: "The ever-growing global population faces a wide range of hazards such as tropical cyclone storm surges, heavy rains, heatwaves, droughts and many more. Long-term climate change is increasing the intensity and frequency of extreme weather and climate events and causing sea level rise and ocean acidification. Urbanization and the spread of megacities means that more of us are exposed and vulnerable. Now more than ever, we need to be weather-ready, climate-smart and water-wise." Makes sense. We are living the experience even in the middle Himalayas. Not very difficult then to appreciate that early warning systems and other disaster risk reduction measures are vital for boosting the resilience of our communities. But we continue to not pay heed. Today's youth will benefit from the dramatic advances being made in science's ability to understand and forecast the Earth's weather and climate. By now every school should have been provided a weather station to take some basic readings and clubs formed to understand and explain weather phenomena. This way, the young can be pulled in to notice the weather, recognize climate change and get engaged in issues of weather and climate. This could save them given that most of them will live into the second half of this century and experience the increasing impacts of global warming that we have burdened them with...

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

Journalism Jobs are Precarious, Financially Insecure and Require Family Support

Erin Reid & Farnaz Ghaedipour
theconversation.com

HuffPost recently laid off dozens of Canadian journalists and closed its news site. Bell Media Inc. has also laid off hundreds of journalists.

Journalism is a notoriously precarious profession. Downsizing and layoffs are almost routine, and many journalists find themselves bouncing between news organizations and periods of freelance work during their careers. Yet journalism is not the only precarious profession — for decades, scholars have been documenting the increasing precarity of employment

There has been a rise in freelance and gig work in low-skilled jobs such as care work, domestic services, trade work, delivery services and transportation. And there has been a recent increase in gig work in higher-skilled fields such as information technology and creative work as well. People in these precarious fields of work describe their work as intense and demanding, but at the same time, unstable and insecure.

NAVIGATING INSTABILITY

As scholars of work and organizations, we wanted to understand how people in fields offering mainly precarious employment handle the day-to-day demands of their work as they navigate this instability. We analyzed in-depth interviews gathered from more than 100 journalists — some employed full time, others working as freelancers — about their careers and work experiences.

Our interviewees described their work hours as unpredictable and dictated by the news cycle or editors' demands. Journalists also described being expected by editors to be geographically mobile for their work, either within a given job to report a particular story, or between contracts in order to move upward or to simply remain in the occupation. Many were concerned that not being amenable to such demands might result in them being perceived to have "lost their legs," marking them as someone to be laid off.

These demands echo what scholars have termed the ideal worker norm: expectations that good workers will dedicate themselves to their tasks and place their work ahead of other parts

of their life. In exchange for this dedication, workers traditionally received rewards, in the form of steady employment, promotions and pay raises. Yet, for journalists, these rewards were mostly absent or lasted only until the next news organization downsized.

Most of the people we interviewed described persistent financial insecurity and anxiety about the stability of their jobs. Nearly all participants had been laid off — in most cases, multiple times. Recalled one: "I was laid off in a phone call. And, with no reason really. I mean they had laid off a lot of people."

The journalists we studied were caught between intense demands from employers for near-total commitment and persistent anxiety and financial insecurity rooted in the precarious conditions of their work. We find that they make peace between these different pressures by, for the most part, making themselves fully available for their work, and leaning on their families to make up the gaps.

FAMILY AS SUPPORT SYSTEM

In our sample, journalists with families relied heavily on them for logistical support to meet the occupation's demands, as well as financial support necessary to weather financial insecurity.

Many relied on their spouses or extended family members for household labour, including child care and housework, so they could meet the occupation's demands for availability and mobility. Some also leaned on their spouses' work to provide a financial cushion for the unpredictability of their own income.

One, speaking of the importance of her spouse's steady income to her ability to work in journalism, admitted, "I could not do what I'm doing now if [my spouse] were not footing the bills."

Some journalists also described relying on extended family members, such as their parents, for ongoing financial support, child care and other logistical help. One told us, "I think even more than gender, race and socio-economics dictate whether you even go into this field, because ... I've always known that I have a safety net of my parents. I always know that I have a financial and residential safety net should I ever lose my job or have a prob-

lem."

Yet not all journalists had families. Many in our sample described sacrificing family life entirely — not having children or a long-term partner — due to the demands of the job. For some, these decisions were conscious, for others, it was an outcome of the demands of the work.

When asked about combining work and personal life, one participant who worked in the profession for 30 years admitted he did not really have a personal life and that his life outside of work was limited to meet-up groups and Saturday night entertainment when he "could afford it" financially.

He shared: "There's so much emphasis and so much focus on career advancement at the expense of everything else, both suffer ... when I work a Tuesday-to-Saturday schedule, it's hard to have a personal life, especially when you're on call, like when I was covering breaking news."

PRECARITY IS A REALITY

Amid the undeniable growth of the gig economy that is predicted to accelerate even more in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, precarity has become the reality of the working lives of both professionals and low-skilled workers. The current thinking on the implications of this economy has mostly focused on implications for the workers themselves.

Our work suggests that the gig economy imposes costs not only upon the workers, but also upon their families of origin, the families they create and the families they choose not to create. Governments and labour market policy-makers must take these spiralling implications of the gig economy into account as they work to create new policy regulations and solutions for workers and families.

Furthermore, organizations that employ freelance workers must be aware that in a precarious occupation, they're likely to do everything they can to meet the employer's demands. That's a devotion that could result in significant negative emotional and mental health-related consequences.

[Erin Reid is Associate professor, Human Resources & Management, McMaster University; Farnaz Ghaedipour is PhD Candidate, Business, McMaster University]



US Has a Long History of Violence Against Asian Women

KAREN LEONG
theconversation.com

Asian American women understand that the alleged murderer of eight people in Atlanta was acting in keeping with a culture filled with racialized and sexualized views of Asian women. Of the people murdered, four women were of Korean descent and two of Chinese heritage.

The shooter himself, Robert Long, has said he was motivated to act violently because of his self-proclaimed "sex addiction." He allegedly told investigators that the businesses he attacked represented "a temptation for him that he wanted to eliminate."

Long sought to eliminate the objects of his sexual temptations, Asian women. In doing so, he drew on the U.S.'s long history of sexualizing Asian American women.

A LONG HISTORY OF STEREOTYPES

Harmful stereotypes of Asian women in American popular culture date back to at least the 19th century. Back then, American missionaries and military personnel in Asia viewed the women they met there as exotic and submissive.

These stereotypes influenced the first U.S. immigration law based on race, the 1875 Page Act, which prevented Chinese women from entering the United States. The official assumption was that, unless proven otherwise, Chinese women seeking to enter the United States lacked moral character and were prostitutes. In fact, many were wives seeking to

reunite with their husbands who had already come to the U.S.

Around the same time, Chinese women in San Francisco also were scapegoated by local public health officials who feared they would spread sexually transmitted diseases to white men, who would then spread it to their wives.

In the mid-20th century, U.S. wars and military bases in China, Japan, the Philippines, Korea and Vietnam resulted in increased interracial contact between American soldiers and Asian women. The GIs' restricted interactions with the larger Asian population meant that they met Asian women that worked on or near the military bases: on-base service workers who cleaned or cooked, or sex workers in the surrounding communities.

Some soldiers married Asian women and brought them home as war brides, while others primarily viewed Asian women as sexual objects. Both approaches perpetuated stereotypes of Asian women as sexually submissive, either as ideal wives or sexually exotic prostitutes.

These stereotypes are evident throughout U.S. popular culture in the form of novels and movies, including "The Teahouse of the August Moon" and James Michener's "The Bridges at Toko-Ri," which feature romances between GIs and Asian women. Vietnam War-era films like "Full Metal Jacket" and "Platoon" depict graphic sexual violence committed by American GIs against Vietnamese women.

VIOLENCE AGAINST ASIAN AMERICAN WOMEN

In online digital pornography,

Asian women are disproportionately presented as victims of rape, compared to white women or women of other racial backgrounds. Asian American feminist and activist Helen Zia has argued that there is a connection between the portrayals of Asian women in pornography and violence against Asian American women.

Rosalind Chou, a sociologist, describes how in 2000, a group of white men kidnapped five Japanese female exchange students in Spokane, Washington, to fulfill their sexual fantasies of Asian female bondage, a subgenre of pornography.

Sexual attacks targeting Asian American women are more likely to come from non-Asians. Though most attacks on white or Black women come from men of the same ethnic background, Asian American women — and Native American women — are more likely to be sexually assaulted by males of a different ethnicity.

The most recent high-profile example of this dynamic is the 2015 rape of a woman by white Stanford student Brock Turner. Not until 2019 did the woman, Chanel Miller, reveal her name and identity as an Asian American woman. At that point many Asian American women understood another element of what had already been a troubling case of white male sexual aggression: Turner likely felt entitled to use and abuse Miller's unconscious body not just because she is a woman, but because of her Asian identity.

TARGETED ATTACKS

In March 2020, Asian American and Pacific Islander community or-

ganizations joined with San Francisco State University's Asian American Studies Program to document incidents of anti-Asian racism occurring across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The group they formed, called StopAAPIHate, has recorded an average of 11 anti-Asian hate incidents in the U.S. each day since its creation, including in-person and online verbal harassment, civil rights violations and physical assaults.

The group has found that Asian women report hate incidents 2.3 times as often as Asian men. The data doesn't distinguish between sexual assaults or harassment and other types of physical attacks and harassment, but it nevertheless emphasizes the vulnerability of being Asian and being female.

OPPRESSION OF WOMEN OF COLOR

Asian women are not the only targets of racial and sexual violence. Any non-white woman has a greater risk of these perils than white women do.

One day after the white male shooter in Georgia killed six Asian women, an armed white man was detained outside Vice President Kamala Harris' official residence in Washington, D.C. As a mixed-race South Asian and Black woman, Harris is not exempt from this culture that racializes and sexualizes Asian women and all women of color. None of us is.

[The writer is Associate Professor of Women and Gender Studies, and Asian Pacific American Studies, Arizona State University]

BJP alone can free Assam from infiltration, insurgency and floods: Shah

MAJULI/JONAI, MAR 22 (PTI): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday asserted the BJP alone could free Assam from the dangers of infiltration, insurgency and floods.

Shah said that he had recently visited the birthplace of Srimanta Sankardeva at Borduwa, where the land had been encroached upon by infiltrators during the Congress rule.

"I had asked the officials where my helicopter would land and they said at the place where the encroachers once lived. I was surprised that there was not a single encroacher (now) and this has been possible in the last five years under the Sarbananda Sonowal government in the state," he said.

The Congress had not spared the holy land where the neo-Vaishnav saint was born, but the BJP is committed to take his message across the country.

The BJP government in the state has taken a major step to protect the religious institutions of the state by giving grants for the infrastructural development of 'namghars' which are more than 50 years old, he said.

He alleged that in the famous Kaziranga forests, the Congress and AIUDF had patronised both encroachers and poachers, but the BJP government had ensured that encroachers were removed and poaching of rhinos, the pride of Assam, stopped.

"Can a government, where there is Ajmal, be able to stop infiltration. It is only the BJP under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which can do it," he said.

Shah also alleged that five years ago when Congress was in power, there was agitation, violence, bomb blasts, deaths and curfews were common. "Aatankwad ka nanga naach charo aur chal rahi thi (the naked dance of insurgency was going on all around)".

"In 2016, I had come to you as the party president promising that if the BJP forms the government in the state we will make it 'aatankwad' (insurgency), 'ghuspetia' (infiltrators), 'andolan' (agitation) and curfew 'mukt' (free).

"Today, I have come to tell you that the Sonowal-led BJP government has done that and taken the state on the path of development," Shah said.

During the 15 years of Congress rule, there were different insurgent outfits in the state. However, during the last five years of BJP more than two thousand insurgents have surrendered and the Bodo Accord was signed with different factions of the NDFB which has brought permanent peace in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), he claimed.

He also accused the Congress of a policy of divide and rule, while stating that BJP's policy is 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas'.

India asks Nepal to check authenticity of certificate of origin of soybean oil

KRISHANA PRASAIN KATHMANDU, 22 MAR [KATHMANDUPOST]: With Nepal's soybean oil exports starting to reach sky-high levels despite near zero domestic production, the Indian government has officially asked the Nepal government to check the authenticity of the certificate of origin issued to local exporters.

Soybean oil became Nepal's largest export in less than a year, knocking palm oil from the number-one spot, as traders switched products to continue exploiting trade preferential loopholes after the Indian government squeezed palm oil imports.

Nepal produces very little soybean oil, not even enough to fulfil its own requirement. Paradoxically, this vegetable oil, which is used in cooking, is Nepal's top export commodity with shipments valued in the billions annually.

According to the Department of Customs, the country exported soybean oil worth Rs23.12 billion in the first eight months of the current fiscal year 2020-21 beginning

mid-July, a threefold jump year-on-year. The exports totalled 151,708 tonnes.

During the same period in the last fiscal year, shipments amounted to Rs7.52 billion.

Nepal also imported crude soybean oil worth Rs24.04 billion in the first eight months of the current fiscal year, mainly from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Egypt, Turkey and Ukraine.

India is becoming increasingly concerned as swelling Nepali exports are hurting Indian refiners and farmers, besides causing loss of revenue to the government, according to Indian media reports.

A certificate of origin is a document declaring in which country a commodity or good was produced or manufactured. The paperwork contains information regarding the product, its destination and the country of export.

It is required by many treaty agreements for cross-border trade, and can help determine whether certain goods are eligible for import, or whether goods are subject to duties.

Tariff exemptions on Nepali exports to India under the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement give domestic traders an advantage. Countries outside of South Asia are slapped with tariffs of 54 percent on palm oil and 45 percent on soybean oil.

"Yes, there are some issues raised on the export of edible oil after the ban on palm oil," said Prakash Dahal, joint secretary at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies. "We have decided to discuss the issue with the associations concerned, mainly private sector organisations, whom we have authorised to issue the certificate of origin."

A proof of origin is required to claim preferential tariff treatment. The government has authorised three associations—the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Confederation Nepalese Industries and Nepal Chamber of Commerce—to provide the certificate of origin.

The Solvent Extractors' Association, one of the oldest associations of vegetable oil

in India, said that there had been an influx of soybean oil from Nepal into India leading to the loss of revenue to the government.

It has also requested the government to take immediate steps to regulate the flow of refined edible oils into the country.

The association said that the current import duty on refined palmolein and on soya refined is 45 percent plus 10 percent Swachh Bharat Cess, a tax earmarked for a particular purpose.

The reports said that at current values, the Indian government was losing around IRs35,000 per tonne (Rs56,000) on refined soybean oil, and around IRs30,000 per tonne (Rs48,000) on palmolein oil coming via Nepal.

In January 2020, India's Directorate General of Foreign Trade issued a notification putting refined palm oil trade under foreign trade policy from 'free' to 'restricted' commodity.

Nepali traders simply shifted to importing crude soybean oil and exporting the

processed product to India instead of palm oil. Consequently, Nepal's palm oil exports plunged by 99.99 percent to Rs443,000 from Rs15.35 billion in the first eight months of the current fiscal year.

According to the Nepal Development Update released by the World Bank in December 2019, Nepal capitalised on this arbitrage opportunity and significantly increased exports of the two products—palm oil and soybean oil. "However, it might not be a sustainable option in the long run," the report said.

"The Indian embassy has sent documents related to a dozen suspicious cases of exploiting the certificate of origin. We are dealing with the issue," Dahal told the Post. "We will respond to the Indian government accordingly once we investigate the matter and discuss with the concerned authorities."

Last week, the embassy wrote to Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to 'confirm the genuineness and authenticity' of the originating criteria of the certificate of origin issued

by Nepali authorities for the export of edible oil to India under SAFTA.

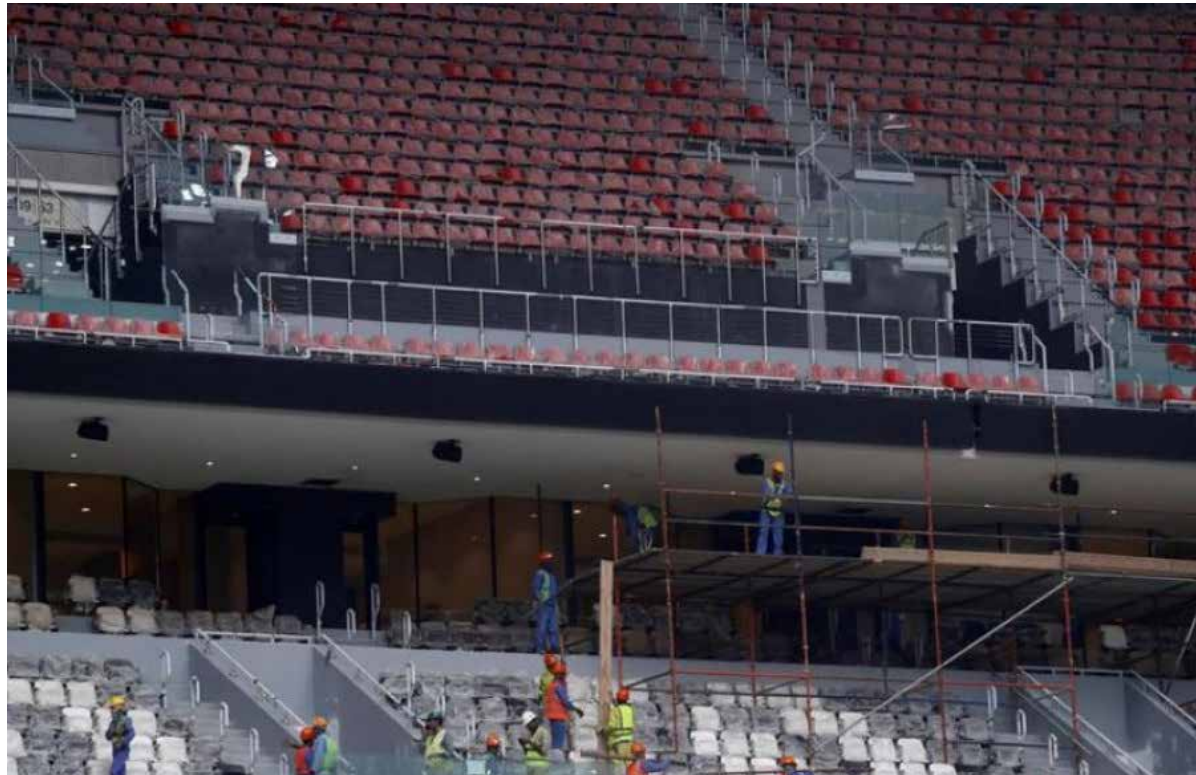
The embassy has asked to respond in three months 'using the time limit for the parties to respond using the Article 15 of the Operational Certificate Procedure for SAFTA rules of origin'.

"The concerned authorities of the government of India would be at liberty of taking suitable action in this matter," reads the letter sent to the ministry, a copy of which was posted by ekagaj.com news portal.

The SAFTA agreement, to which Nepal is a party, stipulates that goods with preferential origin are eligible to be imported and re-exported with lower duty rates or at zero rates if the requirements are met.

For Nepali exports to India to be eligible for tariff exemptions under this treaty, imported goods need to have at least a 30 percent value addition. Nepali trade experts have been saying that Nepali traders do not meet the 30 percent value addition requirement.

Amnesty urges FIFA to act on abuses against migrant workers in Qatar as World Cup qualifiers set to kick off



KATHMANDU, 22 MAR [KATHMANDUPOST]: Just days ahead of the qualification matches for the 2022 Qatar World Cup kick off, Amnesty International has called on FIFA, the global football governing agency, to use its leverage with the Qatari authorities to help end the abuse of migrant workers.

In a letter to FIFA President Gianni Infantino, the London-based rights human rights advocacy group called on FIFA to live up to its responsibilities to prevent, mitigate and remedy human rights risks connected to the tournament and to "use the full extent of its influence" to urge Qatar to fulfil its programme of labour reforms before the World Cup kicks off.

The 2022 Qatar World Cup qualifier matches are scheduled to begin on Wednesday and the first round of qualifiers will see countries from Europe and North, Central America and Caribbean countries competing for their berths for the event next year.

"This World Cup simply would not be possible without migrant workers, who comprise 95 per cent of Qatar's workforce. From stadiums and roads to hospitality and

security, the tournament depends on the hard work of men and women who have travelled thousands of miles to provide for their families," Steve Cockburn, head of economic and social justice at Amnesty International, was quoted as saying in the right body's press release on Monday. "But too often, these workers still find that their time in Qatar is defined by abuse and exploitation."

The right watch group pointed out that Qatar has made a number of positive reforms in recent years, partly in response to increased scrutiny after the World Cup contract was awarded, but too often these are not properly implemented and thousands of migrant workers continue to be exploited and abused.

A recent investigation by the Guardian revealed that more than 6,500 migrant workers from the South Asian countries, including 1,641 Nepali migrant workers, have died in Qatar since it won the hosting rights for the FIFA World Cup 2022.

Several reports have revealed exploitation of migrant workers, who are building infrastructures for the World Cup projects or working else-

where in Qatar, have continued in the Gulf state for several years.

Amnesty, in its statement, said, recently Qatar's Shura Council, an advisory body, put forward a set of recommendations which, if accepted by the government, would undo much of the progress brought about by reforms, including by re-imposing restrictions on the rights of workers to change jobs and leave the country.

"As the World Cup organizing body, FIFA has a responsibility under international standards to mitigate human rights risks arising from the tournament. This includes risks to workers in industries like hospitality and transport, which have expanded massively to facilitate the delivery of the games," said Cockburn. "This week's qualifiers are a reminder that the window for FIFA to influence Qatar is closing – it must act now to ensure that the 2022 World Cup is a tournament to be proud of, and not one tainted by labour abuses."

Last year in June, Amnesty International had found that nearly 100 migrant workers, including Nepali workers, who were working for a con-

struction project for a FIFA World Cup stadium in Qatar, had remained unpaid for months.

On March 15, Amnesty had written to FIFA and called on it to live up to its international human rights responsibilities.

According to the human rights group, under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, FIFA must ensure human rights are respected in the organization and delivery of the World Cup, including by carrying out its own independent and regular monitoring of World Cup projects and venues, and conducting due diligence to identify and prevent any human rights abuses associated with the tournament.

FIFA also has a responsibility to ensure that all harms suffered by workers on World Cup-related projects to date are properly remedied, in cooperation with the Qatari authorities and other relevant stakeholders, said the statement Monday.

"FIFA must use its voice to urge Qatar to urgently implement and enforce existing reforms, and to reject proposals to strip workers of their newly gained rights," said Cockburn.

Bhutan PM thanks India for 4 Lakh doses of Covid vaccine

THIMPHU, 22 MAR [PTI]: Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering on Monday expressed gratitude to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi for making the nationwide rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in the Himalayan country possible, as it received additional 400,000 doses of Covishield from India.

Indian Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj handed over the vaccine consignment to Foreign Minister Tandi Dorji at Paro airport, according to a press release issued by the Indian Embassy in Bhutan.

Mr Tshering, in a tweet, prayed that these gestures from India during the pandemic turn into boundless blessings for the people of India.

"Pleased to receive additional 400,000 doses of Covishield, making possible the nationwide rollout of our vaccination programme. People of Bhutan and I remain grateful@narendramodi," he said in a tweet.

Recalling Prime Minister Modi's virtual address to the UN General Assembly in September last year on India's vaccine production and de-

livery capacity to help humanity in fighting the COVID-19 crisis, Mr Kamboj reiterated that "India will be a force for good in the neighbourhood. It is committed to improving the well-being of the region."

Bhutan received the first consignment of 1.5 lakh doses of COVID-19 vaccine Covishield as a gift from India in January.

Bhutan was the first country to receive the Government of India's gift of the COVID-19 vaccines, manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII).

The 550,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine by India will enable Bhutan to launch its nationwide vaccination drive from March 27 onwards.

The entire eligible population of Bhutan will, thus, be inoculated with the first dose of the made-in-India COVID-19 vaccine. Thus, Bhutan is likely to be one of the first countries to protect its entire population against COVID-19, with assistance from India, the release said.

As a reflection of the special bonds of trust and understanding between India and Bhutan

that have existed over decades, the Indian government had earlier handed over ten consignments of medical supplies, one portable X-Ray machine, essential medicines and medical equipment in addition to the vaccine consignments.

Going forward India will continue to resolutely stand by Bhutan in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, it said.

According to Johns Hopkins University data, Bhutan has reported 869 coronavirus cases and one death.

As part of the "Vaccine Maitri" initiative, India has supplied over 60 million doses of made-in-India COVID-19 vaccine to 72 nations.

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FA Cup: Leicester ousts Man United; Chelsea reaches semis

LONDON, MAR 22 (AP): While its neighbor is chasing a quadruple, Manchester United now has only one route to ending a four-year trophy drought.

Losing 3-1 to Leicester in the FA Cup quarter-finals on Sunday leaves Ole Gunnar Solskjaer with realistically only the Europa League to produce his first trophy as United manager. United faces Granada in the quarterfinals of the Europa League.

"We didn't have the spark tonight and it's understandable," Solskjaer said.

"They've been unbelievable, the last three or four months, playing every three or four days, and it's just caught up with us all the games, all the traveling. Thursday night in Milan took a lot out of us, today we didn't have that extra zip. We just didn't have enough against a good team."

But with United second in the Premier League, albeit 14 points behind Manchester City, securing Champions League qualification



could be the most significant achievement.

It will be lucrative, too, and for Leicester, which is only a point behind United in third.

But while Brendan Rodgers knows the value of steering Leicester back into the Champions League for the first time since Claudio Ranieri's side won the Premier League in 2016, the sta-

tus of a trip to a first FA Cup semifinal since 1982 is notable.

After Kelechi Iheanacho's double eliminated United, Leicester has the easier route to the final after being drawn to play Southampton. The other semifinal will pit Man City against Chelsea, which beat Sheffield United 2-0 in Sunday's other quarterfinal.

The FA Cup semifinals next month take place a week before the League Cup final between City and Tottenham. That is Jose Mourinho's only way of delivering Tottenham's first trophy since 2008 after the north London club's elimination from the Europa League on Thursday. Tottenham, which

was playing Aston Villa in the Premier League on Sunday, is struggling to break into the top four. But it received some assistance from neighbor Arsenal recovering from 3-0 down to draw 3-3 with West Ham, which missed a chance to dislodge Chelsea from fourth after conceding Alexandre Lacazette's equaliser.

Proteas women's historic win in India brings some relief amid tensions at Cricket South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, MAR 22 (PTI): The historic double victory of the South African women's cricket squad over India brought some welcome weekend relief to fans and Cricket South Africa amid heightened tensions in the top echelons of the body.

The visitors clinched the T20 International series on Sunday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. They won the second match in Lucknow by six wickets in a thriller that went down to the final ball. This was the first time that the team beat India in a T20 series.

The T20 win follows their success in the ODI series, which ended with a 4-1 win.

"Winning the series with a match to spare and making it five wins in a row across the two white-ball formats is a huge achievement and reflects well on everybody involved," said CSA acting Chief Executive Officer Pholetsi Moseki.

"What really stood out on this tour is the way we are building our depth which has enabled us to keep win-

ning against one of the strongest teams in world cricket in spite of being without stalwarts like our captain Dane van Niekerk and Chloe Tryon. "Equally impressive has been the way Sune Luus and Laura Wolvaardt have stepped into the main leadership role in Dane's absence," he added.

Moseki said many players have become household names around the women's cricket world and they are in much demand for domestic T20 tournaments abroad.

Head Coach Hilton Moreeng also came in for praise.

"(He) is clearly running a very good ship at the moment that is riding the crest of the wave," Moseki said.

The India triumph brought some cheer to South African cricket fans on a weekend that saw a gloomy picture being painted of tensions within CSA as the Members' Council and the Interim Board (IB) released media statements on Saturday effectively attacking each other.

India Legends beat Sri Lanka Legends by 14 runs to win Road Safety World Series title

RAIPUR, MAR 22 (PTI): India Legends emerged champions in the first edition of the Road Safety World Series T20 after defeating Sri Lanka Legends by 14 runs in the final here.

All-rounder Yusuf Pathan starred in the team's victory with an unbeaten 62 and two wickets for 26 runs, which restricted Sri Lanka to 167/7 in 20 overs while chasing 182 on Sunday night.

Swashbuckling opener Sanath Jayasuriya scored 43 while skipper Tillakaratne Dilshan perished cheaply for 21. Earlier, Yuvraj Singh and Yusuf went on a rampage, slamming half centuries to see India Legends post a competitive 181/4.

Yuvraj made 60 off 41 balls with four boundaries and as many sixes, while Yusuf remained unbeaten on 62 in 36 balls, with four hits to the ropes and five sixes.

Apart from the two, legendary opener and skipper Sachin Tendulkar

got a classy 30, which included five boundaries. For the Lankans, none of the bowlers were impressive as Rangana Herath, Sanath Jayasuriya, Farveez Maharoof and Kaushalya Weeraratne took one wicket each.

India lost their first wicket in the third over itself when Virender Sehwag was castled by Rangana Herath.

In the next over, Tendulkar swept Dilshan for back-to-back boundaries, before S Badrinath was trapped in front of the wicket by Jayasuriya.

Yuvraj got a classy boundary off Dhammika Prasad before the two went silent for the next few overs.

Yuvraj then smacked Dilshan for two sixes and by the end of 10th over, India were 77/2.

Brief scores: India Legends 181/4 (Yusuf Pathan 62*, Yuvraj Singh 60) beat Sri Lanka legends 167/7 (Sanath Jayasuriya 43, Chinthaka Jayasinghe 40; Yusuf Pathan 2/26) by 14 runs.

Mbappe scores 2 as PSG beats Lyon 4-2 to top French league

PARIS, MAR 22 (AP): Kylian Mbappe scored twice as Paris Saint-Germain won 4-2 at title rival Lyon to move top of the French league on goal difference.

Second-place Lille lost 2-1 at home to Nimes.

PSG took control with first-half goals from Mbappe and midfielder Danilo against a surprisingly lackluster Lyon, which won 1-0 in Paris earlier this season.

Winger Angel Di Maria scored early in the second half with a free kick which Lyon failed to clear, and the ball bounced just in front of goalkeeper Anthony Lopes before going in.

Neymar returned after five weeks out with a left adductor injury, replacing Mbappe for the last 20 minutes after he notched his 100th goal in the French league.

"We came here to win, we knew Lyon often cause problems for us," Mbappe said.

"They are a good side."

There are eight games left in the closest title race for many years, with Lille visiting PSG on April 3 following the international break and fourth-place Monaco lurking just one point behind third-place Lyon.

Monaco has beaten PSG twice this season, Mbappe, who won the title with Monaco in 2017, fired a shot through the legs of Lopes in the 14th minute and Danilo struck a sweet half-volley into the bottom left in the 31st.

Soon after Di Maria's free kick from the right eluded everyone, midfielder Marco Verratti's pass sent Mbappe through on goal and he finished confidently in the 51st.

Substitute Islam Slimani pulled one back for Lyon 10 minutes later with a fine strike from



the edge of the area, and winger Maxwel Cornet made it 4-2 in the 80th as PSG backed off too much.

Earlier, Lille paid the price for poor defending. "We didn't play well."

There are no excuses, we just weren't in the game," Lille captain Jose Fonte told broadcaster Canal Plus.

"It's not about pressure, that's the same for everyone, it's more about attitude ... When you don't defend as a team things become difficult."

In 30 games Lille has only conceded 19 goals two fewer than PSG. But it was sloppy this time. Coach Christophe Galtier warned his players not to take struggling Nimes lightly, but they could not prevent a third defeat of the season.

The visitors took an 11th-minute lead through striker Moussa Kone's powerful shot into the top corner after Lille lost the ball on the edge of the penalty area.

Midfielder Xeka equalized with a downward header from a corner in the 20th.

Galtier's fears resurfaced when striker Renaud Ripart made a great run behind the defense and deftly flicked the ball

past goalkeeper Mike Maignan on halftime.

EUROPE IN MIND

Lens moved three points clear in fifth place and a Europa League spot after winning 2-1 at Strasbourg. Midfielder Massadio Haidara put the visitors ahead in the fourth minute, and playmaker Seko Fofana restored the lead shortly before halftime after midfielder Jean-Ricner Bellegarde equalized.

OTHER MATCHES

Nantes followed up its unexpected win at PSG last weekend by drawing 1-1 at home to Lorient in their relegation fight.

After scoring against PSG, striker Randal Kolo Muani put Nantes ahead in the first minute but forward Armand Lauriente equalized near the end with a stunning 40-meter free kick into the top right corner.

Lorient is 17th, Nimes 18th and Nantes 19th.

South Korea striker Hwang Ui-joo's early goal turned out to be Bordeaux's consolation in a 3-1 defeat at eighth-place Montpellier.

Last-place Dijon lost 1-0 at home to Reims and is 13 points behind Nantes, while Brest drew 0-0 with midtable Angers.

Women more powerful than men, but do not understand and are fooled by them: Rahul to students

KOCHI, MAR 22 (PTI): Women are much more powerful than men but are being fooled by them as they do not understand how their power works, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said here on Monday.

Interacting with students at St Teresa's College for women, an autonomous institution here, the 50-year-old leader also helped the students learn a basic lesson from a martial art on how to gather inner strength while being pushed aside.

"I will tell you a secret that men will never tell you.

Women are much more powerful than men. They are fooling you.

There is a problem. Women do not understand how their power works and where their power comes from. And that is the whole point of empowerment " Gandhi said.

He was disagreeing with a student who said men and women are equal in society.

According to teachers of the college, when a student requested the Wayanad MP to display some skills useful for the women for self-defence,



he taught them a 'principle' from a martial art which they can use to protect themselves.

After imparting the lesson to the girl students by staging a demo involving them, Gandhi told them about the need to gather inner strength while being pushed by the society.

"Society is going to push you. I will be right blunt.

Society treats you very badly in India. It insults you every single day. It doesn't let you do what you want.

"It attacks you. So you have to gain strength from inside. For that you have to understand the way you have been

pushed, understand the forces that are hurting you and then position yourself properly", he said. The Congress leader, who is on a two-day campaign visit to Kerala for the April 6 assembly elections, exhorted women that they should not be under the illusion that they are less powerful.

"Society wants to convince you that you are less powerful. Don't buy it," the former Congress president said.

He, however, advised women not to misuse their power.

"Once you have realised that you are more powerful, then the tendency to misuse it also comes," Gandhi said.

Taiwan kicks off vaccination drive with AstraZeneca shot

TAIPEI, MAR 22 (AP): Health care workers received the first shots in Taiwan's COVID-19 vaccination drive Monday, beginning a campaign that won't use supplies from China amid uneven distribution of the vaccines globally.

Taiwan has on hand 117,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, which it is distributing to healthcare workers across 57 hospitals.

Taiwanese premier Su Tseng-chang launched the drive by receiving the first shot at National Taiwan University Hospital in the capital Taipei. After 30 minutes of rest, there's no signs of any discomfort, he said.

The rest period is for monitoring recipients for any adverse reactions.

Last week, more than a dozen nations suspended use of the AstraZeneca vaccine after a few dozen people among the millions who've received the vaccine developed blood clots.

The European Union's drug regulatory agency concluded after a review it couldn't rule out a direct link but the benefits of using the vaccine outweigh the possible risks.

Taiwan has signed contracts securing 10 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, 5.05 million doses of the Moderna vaccine, and 4.76 million doses of vaccines through COVAX.

The island is planning to administer its full initial supply to 117,000 individuals to ensure the broadest protection. The first dose provides an efficacy rate of 71 per cent and the second dose meant to be given eight weeks later boosts its effectiveness to 81 per cent, authorities have said previously.

Taiwan has yet to announce a vaccination campaign for the public.

Countries around the world are scrambling for vaccines, which have been distributed unevenly with rich countries buying up a majority of the doses. China has stepped in to offer hundreds of millions of doses of its own vaccines across the developing world, but Taiwan has refrained from buying them.

Taiwanese law bans import of Chinese vaccines made for human use. The island's health minister had said in February there were no considerations to amending the law and no experts have made a special recommendation for Chinese vaccines.

Cyber attack tied to China boosts development bank's chief

MIAMI (US), MAR 22 (AP): The cyberattack crested just as finance officials from across Latin America were descending on Washington to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Inter-American Development Bank.

On Sept. 24, 2019, requests from more than 15,000 internet addresses throughout China flooded the bank's website, knocking part of it intermittently offline. To unclog the network, the bank took the drastic step of blocking all traffic from China.

But the attackers persisted, and as officials gathered for a day of conferences with athletes, academics and celebrity chefs the bombardment intensified.

Details of the attack, which has not been previously reported, are contained in an IDB internal document reviewed by The Associated Press.

News of the attacks is surfacing just as the bank's new president, Mauricio Claver-Carone, seeks to leverage his hawkish views on China from his time in the Trump administration to outmaneu-



ver those in Washington and beyond still fuming over his politically charged election last year.

Claver-Carone, the former National Security Council's senior director for Western Hemisphere affairs, chaired last week in Colombia his first annual meeting of the IDB since he was elected last fall over the objections of Democrats and some regional governments who complained he was breaking the longstanding tradition of a Latin American being at the helm.

A geopolitical ideologue, Claver-Carone seems in no rush to abandon his disdain for Beijing's growing influence in Washington's backyard. In sharp contrast to his predecessor, Luis Alberto Moreno of Colombia, who eagerly promoted Chinese investment in the region, Claver-Carone recently floated the possibility of inviting Taiwan, the island democracy claimed by the communist Beijing government as part of its territory.

In curtailing China's influ-

ence, Claver-Carone is looking to curry favour with Democrats who question his leadership but share his mistrust of Beijing. If he succeeds, they can help him deliver on what was the main pledge of his unorthodox candidacy: US support for a capital increase so the bank can help the region dig out from a pandemic-induced recession that's the worst in more than a century.

There are early signs he may be making some headway. This month, a bipartisan group of five lawmakers led

by Sen Bob Menendez, head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, proposed legislation authorizing an 80 billion capital increase that would boost lending at the Washington-based bank by 60%.

People need to accept that he won, said Dan Runde, a former official with the U.S. Agency for International Development in the George W. Bush administration and an expert on multilateral institutions at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Those who are not happy haven't gone through the five stages of grief yet. They're stuck somewhere between denial and anger.

But Sen Patrick Leahy, the powerful chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, has yet to sign on after warning last year that the choice of Claver-Carone, a polarizing American, to lead the IDB would hurt not help the case for a funding boost. There's also an expectation that some in the region who supported Claver-Carone when Trump was in office such as Brazil and Colombia might switch allegiances to

appeal to the new sheriff in town: President Joe Biden.

The argument that an underfunded bank is an opportunity for China is very compelling, said Dan Restrepo, who served in the same National Security Council role as Claver-Carone during the Obama administration. But it doesn't answer how you adequately fund the bank and with what leadership.

As far as cyber-disruptions go, the attack against the IDB was too small to generate concern beyond the bank. Last year, more than 10 million similar distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks were observed throughout the world, according to digital security firm NETSCOUT.

But occurring amid the IDB's gala celebration it was fraught with symbolism.

The bash in Washington was hastily organized after the Trump administration six months earlier rallied allies to force the cancellation of the IDB gathering in the Chinese city of Chengdu, which was to be something of a breaking out party for China a decade after it joined the bank.

In Myanmar's hinterland, army uproots ethnic Karen villagers

BANGKOK (AP): In the jungles of southeast Myanmar, the army was shooting and otherwise oppressing civilians long before last month's military coup.

This largely unseen repression continues even now. In the country's remote southeast, an army offensive has driven as many as 8,000 ethnic Karen people to flee their homes in what aid groups say is the worst upheaval there for nearly 10 years.

They're now living in the jungle, with fears growing for their health and security, and no prospect of an early return.

This crisis in the borderlands has been overshadowed by the deadly crackdown on the mass movement protesting the military's takeover of power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

But it also is a reminder of the brutal force Myanmar's army has long used against civilians, and in particular the country's ethnic minorities.

The Karen National Union, the leading political body for the Karen, for now is shouldering all of the displaced people's basic needs for food, shelter and security.

But in the long run, that will be a challenge for the group, said Padoh Saw Taw Nee, head of the KNU's foreign affairs department, in an email interview.

"Therefore the international community should reach out with humanitarian assistance to these people who are in need as soon as possible," he said.

The Karen are among more than a dozen ethnic groups that have been seeking greater autonomy from the central government since Myanmar, then known as Burma, became independent from Britain in 1948.

At times the ethnic groups' guerrilla forces have engaged in full-on armed conflict



with the government; in recent years, many have reached an uneasy cease-fire. Their talks with Suu Kyi's government failed to reach a comprehensive political resolution before it was deposed by the coup.

The army, meanwhile, has aggressively expanded its reach in at least two districts in Karen state since 2017, building new bases and roads to try to dominate an area that doesn't want it there.

In the last few months, troop numbers and activity have scaled up dramatically, according to relief organizations active there.

The Karen's own armed force, the Karen National Liberation Army, has fought back. In retaliation, the army has increased its attacks and shelled surrounding villages.

Relief agencies say the 8,000 or so people who abandoned their homes for the privations of the jungle are safe and are adapting as well as they can, building bamboo shelters and holding school classes in the open.

But no one knows when they can return or whether their villages will still be standing when they do. Meanwhile, the fields where their crops would grow are untended, threatening food supplies later in the year.

A humanitarian group, the Free Bur-

ma Rangers, has been bringing in aid since the attacks began and documenting the Karens' plight. The group was formed in the late 1990s during intense attacks that displaced more than 100,000 Karen people.

Its founder and director, Dave Eubank, is a former member of the U.S. Special Forces who combines evangelical activities with well-disciplined forays by Karen volunteers to deliver medical aid to villagers.

In a recent interview with The Associated Press via satellite phone from the affected area, Eubank spoke of what the displaced Karen desperately need.

He said that stopping attacks by Myanmar troops — "security and survival" — is the top priority.

Food comes next. "As they get displaced they've got to eat," he said. "They can't go back and start their crops. They can't prepare for the next fields, they can't look after the animals," he said.

Medical care and shelter are also essential, Eubank said.

In 2012, the Karen National Union signed a cease-fire with the government, which it hoped would end decades of military aggression. But Myanmar's army has repeatedly breached it. This is the worst breach yet, aid groups say.

Hsa Moo from the Karen Environmental and Social Action Network has just returned from the affected area. A former refugee herself, she says it's heart-breaking.

"This is not a good time for us. This is after the cease-fire; but we thought the cease-fire can help them, but actually not. So they have to flee and they have to hide, so it is very difficult for them to hide in the jungle," she said.

The Karen long ago learned the brutal nature of the military, independent analyst David Mathieson told The Associated Press.

"What's interesting about Karen state is a lot of people there see the fighting and now the coup and the civil disobedience movement as intricately linked," he said. "It's like 'Look, we've been telling you for years that the enemy is the military.'"

"For all those people who wanted to accommodate the military, when you live in these areas of ongoing armed conflict you know exactly who you are dealing with and you know that you can't trust them," he explained.

The lesson he takes from the army's actions in the cities and in the hinterlands: "This is the military trying to subjugate the entire country once again."

Donations pour in for families of Atlanta shooting victims

WASHINGTON, MAR 22 (AP): Shortly after his mother was killed in the Atlanta-area shootings, Randy Park launched a GoFundMe page asking for USD 20,000 to pay for funeral expenses. By Sunday, the donations were approaching USD 3 million.

With many people seeking a way to support the families of the dead, Park's page and others have offered an outlet for tens of thousands of donors, and the accounts have surpassed their goals only days after they were opened.

I've never had a good understanding how much money was worth, but every cent of it will be used only in pure necessity, wrote Park, son of Hyun Jung Grant, 51, who was one of the eight people killed in the attacks on massage businesses.

Rani Ban contributed to Park just to show kindness.

It's important that he knows there are still good people. That's simply it, said Ban, who is from the San Francisco

Bay Area. To date, no central fund been created to aid families of the victims a contrast with some other mass shootings where groups were set up to collect and distribute money to those directly affected.

For example, following the 2017 attack on the Las Vegas Strip that killed 58 people that night and at least two others who died later, a nonprofit corporation was formed to pay 275,000 to the families. The nonprofit stemmed from a GoFundMe account that received more than 90,000 donations.

In 2019, a group of nonprofits organised a relief effort after a gunman opened fire in El Paso, Texas, killing 22 people in an attack that police said targeted Mexicans.

For now, donors to victims of the Atlanta shootings must scour individual GoFundMe accounts.

We all have to stand up for all the innocent lives that fall victim to such reckless hate, Malory Spalding wrote on a

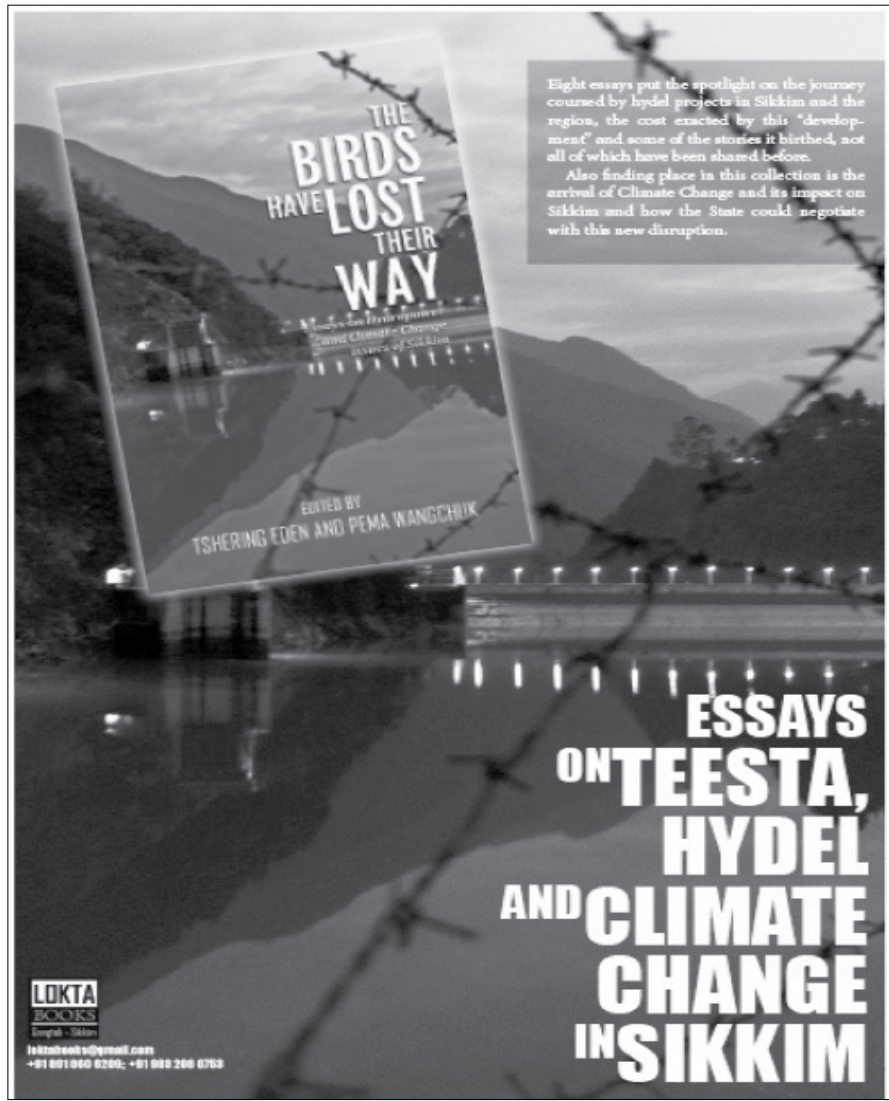
GoFundMe page set up for Suncha Kim, 69, who was fatally shot in the chest. The page has seen more than USD 125,000 in donations in a single day.

It brings tears to our eyes that you are all standing with us and our beloved halmoni, mother, and wife. Suncha was such a strong, loving presence in all of our lives, and we miss her so much, the family said in a statement posted on the page.

A page for Delaina Yaun has collected more than USD 102,000, and one for survivors of Paul Michels has raised more than USD 57,000. A page for Yong Yue's family drew more than USD 94,000.

The donations will help pay for travel for family members who would otherwise be unable to attend funerals.

Yong Yue's family issued a statement less than 24 hours after creating the GoFundMe page that the money would be used to fly her six grandchildren to the funeral, as well to take care of Yue's business and home affairs.



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Shanaya Kapoor To Make Her Bollywood Debut With Karan Johar's Dharma Productions

Actor Sanjay Kapoor and Maheep's daughter Shanaya Kapoor is all set to make her debut as an actress in Bollywood with Karan Johar's Dharma Productions. She will start shooting for her first film in July this year. Shanaya announced the news about joining Karan Johar's Dharma Cornerstone Agency (DCA) on her Instagram account on Monday and wrote: "Woke up today with the most grateful heart! Here's to a great journey ahead with the Dharma Cornerstone Agency family. Excited to kickstart my FIRST FILM (ahh!) this July by Dharma Productions, can't wait for you all to see what we're up to! Stay tuned! #DCASquad."

Welcoming Shanaya Kapoor to the DCA squad, Karan Johar, who has launched celebs like Alia Bhatt, Varun Dhawan and Janhvi Kapoor in Bollywood, wrote: "Welcome to the #DCASquad, Shanaya! It's going to be an unforgettable and exciting journey that begins with your first film with Dharma Productions, this July."

Proud parents Maheep and Sanjay

Kapoor's excitement spilled onto Instagram as they cheered for their daughter: "With her unabashed enthusiasm, resilience and sparkle - My daughter is all set

poor's friends such as Suhana Khan and family members like Anil Kapoor, Karisma Kapoor, Anshula Kapoor and Mohit Marwah gave her shout-outs on social media.



to take over your screens soon. Give her your love and blessings as she is ready to start the journey of her FIRST FILM with Dharma Movies this July. Watch out for the announcement of the film! #DCASquad," read the caption on both Sanjay and Maheep's posts. Shanaya Ka-

Shanaya Kapoor, Suhana Khan and Ananya Panday are besties. While Ananya made her Bollywood debut with Dharma Productions' Student Of The Year 2, Suhana, who is the daughter of Shah Rukh Khan, is yet to reveal her plans of joining film industry.

Christopher Storer to write and direct 'The Bear' pilot for FX

LOS ANGELES, MAR 22 (PTI): Christopher Storer, known for directing multiple episodes of hit show "Ramy", will tackle the pilot episode of "The Bear" for FX.

The Disney-owned cable network has handed out a pilot order for the half-hour show, which is about a young chef who takes over his family's restaurant in Chicago.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Storer will write and direct the pilot episode.

The director will also executive produce alongside Hiro Murai, Nate Matteson and Joanna Calo.

"The Bear" will be produced by FX Productions.

The show joins a roster of upcoming projects at FX Networks that includes "City Primeval: High Noon in Detroit", limited series "Fleishman Is in Trouble", Danny Boyle's limited series "Pistol"; and a drama based on non-fiction book This Is How They Tell Me the World Ends.

Steve Harvey Reveals How Daughter Lori's Boyfriend Michael B. Jordan Compares to Her Exes



Steve Harvey talked with Ellen DeGeneres about daughter Lori Harvey's relationship with Michael B. Jordan and explained how the actor stacks up to her previous romances.

Steve Harvey wouldn't be a regular dad if he didn't give daughter Lori Harvey a hard time about her exes.

The 64-year-old Family Feud host appears on The Ellen DeGeneres Show's Monday, March 22 episode. During the visit, Steve shared his thoughts about Lori's current boyfriend, Michael B. Jordan.

"You know, I have tried not to like him," Steve quipped to Ellen DeGeneres, as seen in preview footage. "I have tried to find something wrong with him that I could dig in and go. 'Cause I done got rid of all of them. All of them. Some of them that snuck in the back door on me and lasted a lot longer than I wanted it to."

Steve did not specify which of Lori's exes weren't his favorites, or why he didn't think as highly of these previous suitors. Lori, 24, was with rapper Future in 2019,

and was rumored to have dated Sean "Diddy" Combs and his son Justin Combs in 2018.

The tough-to-please papa went on to tell Ellen that he has spent plenty of time bonding with the 34-year-old Just Mercy star, and he has yet to notice any flaws.

"This guy is such a good guy, man," the comedian continued. "He is one of the nicest guys, man. I've met his father. I've set up with him, we've talked for hours. I just can't find nothin' wrong with him. Between me and you, I'm hoping this lasts 'cause this is a really, really good guy, man. I can't whoop him. Most guys, I say I can jump on 'em and take 'em out, but he just looks like a real ass-whoopin' in the making. So I'm just hoping they make it."

Ellen similarly shared her praise for Michael and then said she expected him to be in Steve's life "for a while." At this, Steve comedically replied with a sigh and said, "Oh, god, let's hope so."

Here's hoping Steve gets his wish and will have plenty of time to develop this adorable bromance.



LOOKING CHIC! The Netflix star of Bling Empire, Jaime Xie stuns in her stylish athleisure wear.

Fahadh Faasil to play antagonist in 'Pushpa'

Mumbai, Mar 22 (PTI): Malayalam star Fahadh Faasil will play the villain opposite Telugu star Allu Arjun in "Pushpa", the upcoming multilingual action thriller movie.

Written and directed by Sukumar, the film chronicles the red sanders heist in the hills of Andhra and depicts the convoluted nexus that unfurls in the course of the narrative of a man who is taken by avarice.

Producers Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar of Mythri Movie Makers praised Faasil for his versatility and welcomed the actor to the cast.

"Fahadh Faasil has entertained viewers with varied films and earned tremendous acclaim along with it. It makes us very happy to welcome him into the world of 'Pushpa'.

"We are confident that his portrayal of the villain will engage viewers in a way that's unique to his delivery of performance," the

producers said in a statement. Faasil has featured in acclaimed films like "Bangalore Days", "Kumbalangi Nights", "Super Deluxe", "Trance" and last year's lockdown project "CU Soon".

"Pushpa" also stars Rashmika Mandanna,



Dhananjay and Sunil.

Produced by Mythri Movie Makers in association with Muttamsetty Media, the film will have a theatrical release on August 13 in Telugu along with Tamil, Hindi, Kannada and Malayalam.

Elizabeth Lail joins 'Gossip Girl' reboot

LOS ANGELES, MAR 22 (PTI): "You" star Elizabeth Lail is the latest addition to the cast of HBO Max's "Gossip Girl" reboot. Based on the book by Cecily von Ziegesar like the original, the new show is set eight years after the parent series and will follow a new generation of New York school teens who get to know about the social surveillance of the Gossip Girl site. The 10-episode series also hails from original creators Josh Schwartz and Stephanie Savage, reported Deadline.

Lail joins an ensemble cast of the reboot that includes Jordan Alexander, Julian Calloway, Whitney Peak,

Thomas Doherty, Evan Mock, Eli Brown, Tavi Gevinson, Emily Alyn Lind, Zion Moreno and Savannah Lee Smith, among others. Actor Kristen Bell is returning as the voice of Gossip Girl.

The new show will address just how much social media -- and the landscape of New York itself -- has changed in the intervening years.

Warner Bros Television and CBS Television Studios are producing the reboot.

The original series, which ran from 2007 to 2012, starred Blake Lively, Penn Badgley, Taylor Momsen, Leighton Meester and Ed Westwick.

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Aries: You are a master manifestor, and you are attracting all the right opportunities into your physical reality. So, trust the doorways that are opening for you as you march forward and onwards. Unyielding faith in your own power will help you manifest miracles, Aries. Abundance is also going to be a big theme for you this week. But it's not just your profit margins that you're celebrating. You're grateful for the intangible blessings as well as the soul connections that are helping raise your vibrations. Tip: Abundance is going to be a big theme for you.

Taurus: Philosophers Alan Watts once said: "This is the real secret of life—to be completely engaged with what you are doing in the here and now. And instead of calling it work, realise it is play." Your thoughts exactly, Taurus. The secret to your success? Staying in the energy of passion, focusing on doing what you do best, and surrendering the outcome to the Universe. There was a time you worried about money and gave it more importance than it deserves. But the new you trusts that you're fully supported and that both your wants and your needs will be taken care of. Tip: Stay in the energy of passion. That's all! Gemini:

We all have an idea of how the people in our lives should and shouldn't be, and these ideas keep us from seeing the love and light in them. Today, you're being asked to become an observer of your expectations, to collect them in a metaphorical box and offer them to the sacred fire in order to be transmuted. The inner shift you will notice as a result of this ritual will be magnificent. What the cards want you to know: you are stepping into a time when unconditional love will become your superpower. Tip: Honour the love and light in every individual.

Cancer: 'Purpose' is such a big word, one that we may not always have perspective on. So, what if we change our vocabulary a little? What if we replaced it with 'play' and commit with a vengeance to that which brings a smile to our face? Stay connected to the cosmic currents, Cancer. Be present to where your life is taking you towards. When in doubt, replace fear with faith. Tip: Tap into the energy of play.

Leo: We're so hung up on money and the role that it plays in our lives that we forget why we embarked upon a certain journey in the first place. Now is such a time in your life, Leo. A time where you could be losing perspective. So, think about changing the approach a little. Think about how you can serve rather than what

you will gain. Believe it or not, staying in the energy of love will alleviate your financial troubles. Tip: Think about how you can serve the collective.

Virgo: Uh-oh! We've got a 'return of the ex' situation at hand. But, have they really changed like they claim they have? Probably not, Virgo. Word for the wise: tread cautiously. Try not to get attached to the given person or the memories attached with them. This could be a time of seeking closure rather than beginning a new cycle once again. Tip: We've got a 'return of the ex' situation at hand.

Libra: Something you're working on right now looks rather promising and has the potential to yield magnificent results. We're talking big money, Libra! More than you've ever dreamed of. Bear in mind that things don't manifest overnight, though. So, adopt 'patience and persistence' as your mantra with a healthy dose of discipline on the side. It's a good idea to keep that vision board handy so you don't lose focus. Tip: Something you're working on looks rather promising.

Scorpio: The truth is, we "know". We always know what's best for us and how to navigate any given situation. It's the

noise and commotion of the outside world that takes us away from tapping into this space of deep, inner wisdom. Today, the cards are urging you to tune into your inner Oracle and pay attention to what it is shedding light upon. The decision you will be guided to make may or may not make sense logically, and that's okay. Trust that you're being led in the right decision and that the outcome will eventually be in your favour. Tip: Tap into your inner Oracle.

Sagittarius: The cards are bringing your attention to your dreams and desires. While you have the big vision in place, what are you doing to actively manifest this in your physical reality? Your lofty ideas need both initiative and action, Sagittarius. So, break up with complacency. Get out of that space of inertia. Fix your gaze upon the long-term goals as you commit to showing up for what you love, every single day. Tip: Action and initiative will prove to be the secret to your success.

Capricorn: Chaos and commotion could be a constant in your physical reality. What is the lack of order bringing your attention towards? Are you holding on when the Universe is urging you to let go? It's time to follow the path of least resistance. It's time to trust that bigger

and better things await you. Tip: Recognise that which is no longer in alignment with your highest good.

Aquarius: Puffy eyes + dark circles is not a cute look on you, Aquarius. It's time to revisit your sacred self-care rituals. It's time to indulge yourself in lotions and potions that make you bring out your inner radiance. Remember, when you look good, you feel good! What you don't want to do today is make any important decisions. There is something that's weighing you down and it's a good idea to get some distance from it. Tip: Practice sacred self-care rituals.

Pisces: "Surrender is not a weakness, it is a strength. It takes tremendous strength to surrender life to the supreme—to the cosmic unfolding." These beautiful words by Mooji accurately describe what you're experiencing at this moment. You are at a point where you understand that your duty is to merely show up for what you believe in and stay committed to your goals. The outcome is something you're no longer hung up on. PS: The Universe is supporting you fully and wants you to know that you're being led to a beautiful place. Tip: 'Surrender' is the magic word.