



**HIGH FEVER DANCE KA
NAYA TEVAR WINNERS,
NISHA & TARA, THANK
SIKKIM Pg03**

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DEMISE OF ATAL
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SummitTIMES

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O N T O P O F T H E N E W S

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HAPPY LITTLE KARATEKAS AFTER BELT UPGRADE

GANGTOK, 17 AUG: Thirty-eight young Karatekas of Rey Valley International School have upgraded their belt grade. The belt grade examination was held under the guidance of Chief Coach Bidhan Ballav Subba and national coach, Binam Gurung in the presence of examiner and technical director, Bijoy Gurung and Bhim Bhadur Subba.

Three-day chess camp for Rongyek Prison inmates

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 AUG:

A three-day Chess Camp of Sikkim Chess Association [SCA] for inmates of State Central Prison, Rongyek started on Thursday. In the camp, SCA general secretary, Mahendra Dhakal, who is also an international arbiter, has been providing knowledge on the basic skills, techniques and latest rules and regulations to 32 participants. The second day of the camp also witnessed a rapid chess tournament.

Mr Dhakal mentioned that SCA plans to conduct such chess camps regularly in the State Central Prison to bring change in the thoughts and lifestyle of inmates. He expressed that the camp has been getting encouraging and positive feedback even on the second day.



Mr Dhakal stated that if this initiative brings about positive changes in inmates then the initiative would be taken to the FIDE

to take it further to other parts of the world. He thanked the State Central Prison, Rongyek, ASP Binod Tamang for supporting

the initiative and also thanked the Home Department Secretary, Pratap Pradhan for his cooperation in the initiative.

Golay meets party workers at Boomtar, welcomes new arrivals



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 AUG:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's South District working committee convened a coordination meeting at Boomtar, Namchi, in South Sikkim on Friday.

The meeting was also attended by SKM president, PS Tamang [Golay], advisor Buddha Tamang, working president MP Subba, Sangha MLA Sonam Lama, vice-president Birendra Tamling and other leaders and workers of the party.

An SKM press release informs that Mr Tamang received a warm welcome at the Denchung party office and 32 families aligned to the SDF from Poklok-Kamrang constituency joined SKM today.

The release adds that 24 families from Yangang-Rangrang, 47 families from Namchi-Singhithang, 39 families from Temi-Namphing, 65 families from Barfung, 10 families from Melli and 25 from Namthang-Ratepani also joined SKM at the meet.

Addressing the meeting, Mr Tamang appreciated the party leaders and supporters for having worked continuously for the people through the past year of his absence.

He alleged that the ruling party was of the opinion that SKM would disappear if the party president would put into jail, but SKM workers kept the party alive, thriving and growing instead.

He reiterated his commitment to dedicate the rest of his life to the service of Sikkim and its people.

868 dead due to rains, floods in 7 states during monsoon

NEW DELHI, AUG 17 (PTI): As many as 868 people have lost their lives, 247 of them in Kerala, due to rains, floods and landslides in seven states during the monsoon season so far, the Home Ministry said today.

According to the Home Ministry's

National Emergency Response Centre (NERC), 247 people have died in Kerala, where 2.11 lakh people in 14 districts have been badly hit by the rains and floods and over 32,500 hectares of crops damaged.

turn to pg02



SHSC on a high after lifting five I-Day football trophies

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 AUG:

Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club [SHSC] organised a special function here this evening to celebrate their impressive achievement of winning five Independence Day football tournaments across the State.

The five trophies were won by the Senior team boys at Rangpo; U-18 team at Singtam; Girls team-B at Singtam; Girls team-A at Namchi, and Sub Junior boys at Pakyong.

Coach for the boys team was Pranay Subba while Anuradha

Chettri was the coach for girls and Pawan Chettri as a goal-keeping coach.

They had played a vital role on bringing these five trophies bagged the SHSC players.

Delighted with the achievement, SHSC founder, Tenzin Lamtha, shared his happiness on the big achievement and remarked that this was a first-ever such haul in Sikkim by any football club.

Mr. Lamtha expressed gratitude towards the players, coaches and all officials of SHSC for such a resounding performance

and I-Day gift for him.

"It seems like the hard work of five years has eventually paid off. This club SHSC was launched only in the year of 2012, but the efforts and dedication put in by the entire team is undeniable. The players over here are all from the grassroot level whom SHSC aims to provide the right big platform. Both girls and boys have played well and I must congratulate and applaud them for their performance. Those Independence Day tournaments were tough, however our players managed to play hard. And

this is a result of the hard work they put in since day-One," he said.

During the function, SHSC also felicitated members of the club for their consistent performances as well hard work throughout.

Earlier, two minutes silence was also observed to mourn the demise of former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The function was also addressed by SHSC general secretary, Jigme Youzar, and was attended by the players and members of the club.

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Break-in and theft

GANGTOK, 17 AUG:

A break-in and theft was reported at Topkhani in East Sikkim on 16 Aug. According to the police, some unknown miscreants made away with 02 gold earrings [char anna], 02 ear tops [char anna], 01 gold ring [char anna] and cash Rs 5000 from the house of one Chala Maya Tewari. The owner had gone to the temple and when she returned home at around 3 30 p.m, she found the door of the house open and the almirah in the bedroom broken. No arrests have been made so far and the case is under investigation.

Teenaged girl goes missing

GANGTOK, 17 AUG:

A 14-year-old girl has gone missing from 4th Mile Bhasmey in East Sikkim since 14 Aug. Budhimaya Gurung had gone to school in the morning of 14 Aug but did not return home that day. The family reported the matter to the police after they failed to locate her even after two days of searching. The case is under investigation.

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SDF condoles demise of Atal Bihari Vajpayee

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 17 AUG:

Sikkim Democratic Front paid rich tribute to the former Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee in a condolence meeting held today. The ruling party has expressed its heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of the great leader Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

During the meeting, SDF remembered the close relationship the State had with the former Prime Minister. The meeting also observed two minutes silence as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

SDF Spokesperson, Bhim Dahal said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a great visionary leader and SDF deeply mourns his demise. He mentioned about the close relationship of the former PM with Sikkim and Chief Minister Pawan Chamling.

"Atal Bihari Vajpayee was very close to Sikkim and our leader Pawan Chamling. He



visited Sikkim during his tenure as the PM and was always concerned and sensitive towards the demands, progress and development of Sikkim," Mr Dahal expressed.

SDF Spokesperson, KT Gyaltsen mentioned that the

nation has lost a great son and visionary leader and his demise was the end of an era. He stated that Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a non-Congress PM to successfully complete the 5 years tenure and his political career is an inspiration to all.

He added that it is a time to contemplate and discuss his vision and ideology in politics.

SDF Spokesperson, TN Sharma stated that Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a great statesman and spoke about the bold decisions and works of the

former PM.

SDF general secretary [press & publicity], Kavita Subba said that he was a great icon of Raj Dharma and the nation has lost a great poet, leader and personality.

SDF publicity secretary,

Krishna Kharel stated that the people of Sikkim will always remember the former PM adding that Sikkim made significant achievements during his tenure as PM.

Press Club of Sikkim president, Joseph Lepcha stated that the demise of Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the end of an era and a great loss to the nation. He mentioned that media fraternity has paid rich tribute and heartfelt condolence on the demise of a journalist and a poet. While sharing his personal meeting with the former PM during his Sikkim visit in 2003, Mr Lepcha stated that the former PM was like a friend to Sikkim.

Likewise, senior journalist Padam Chettri also spoke about the life of Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee and another journalist Prabin Khaling recited a poem written by the former PM translated in Nepali.

It is informed that SDF has also postponed the first semi-final of its talent hunt programme, Himali Pratibha Ko Khoj.

State Govt confusing people on 5th Pay Committee recommendations: HSP

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 17 AUG:

Hamro Sikkim Party today held a press meet at the HSP office, Deorali regarding the statements on the 5th Pay Committee made by the Chief Minister in his Independence Day address. Before the press meet, HSP vice president, Tara Shrestha and party workers expressed their condolences on the demise of former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

HSP spokesperson, Biraj Adhikari spoke about the contributions of Late Vajpayee for the development and progress of the country.

Mr Adhikari alleged that the CM had creat-



ed confusion about the implementation of the recommendations of the 5th Pay Committee. He said that the Department of Personnel released a note on 16 Aug stating that revised pay of government employees is effective from 1st January 2016.

The directive issued is not a notification and the government is cheating the employees again, he alleged.

He urged the government to give the correct date of implementation of the recommendations rather than dilly-dally with such confusing pa-

pers. He also demanded that the government pay the arrear at one go that too from 1st January 2016 onwards.

"If this is not done our party is ready to stage protests on our own or jointly with other political parties," said Mr Adhikari.

HSP leader and former Minister, KN Upreti said that the claim of the CM that the State is fully literate is untrue. He challenged the State Government to carry out field tours to get the correct picture on the literacy rate in Sikkim.

"We feel even today

there exists 25-30% illiteracy in the state," he said.

Mr Upreti further said that HSP welcomes the organic mission and the farmers cultivating and availing good price for their produce but the imposition of ban is really unwarranted as it leaves no choice for the poor who cannot pay high prices for the organic produce.

We want the government to regulate the rates of organic vegetables so that each and every consumer can eat vegetables of their choice at low rates, he said.

With respect to LPG distribution system, he mentioned that the rates the consumers pay is for the delivery of LPG refilled cylinders at their door steps but today the consumers are forced to stand in queue to get one refilled cylinder.

The SDF government claims to be pro-poor but in reality there isn't any policy or scheme that is pro-poor and benefits the state's population, he alleged. The ruling government claims credit for schemes which are of the Central government to woo the innocent people of the state, he added.

868 dead due to rains...

contd from pg01

As many as 191 people have died in Uttar Pradesh, 183 people in West Bengal, 139 in Maharashtra, 52 in Gujarat, 45 in Assam and 11 in Nagaland.

A total of 33 people have also been missing, 28 in Kerala and five in West Bengal, while 274 have been injured in rain-related incidents in the states.

The deluge and rains have hit 26 districts in Maharashtra, 23 in Assam, 23 in West Bengal, 14 in Kerala, 13 in Uttar Pradesh, 11 in Nagaland and 10 in Gujarat.

Nearly two lakh people have been living in relief camps in Kerala and 43 teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) consisting of nearly 2,000 rescuers and 163 boats have been deployed in the state.

The IAF has deployed 23 helicopters and 11 transport aircraft. Some of the aircraft are being flown in from Yelahanka (Karnataka) and Nagpur (Maharashtra).

The Indian Navy has deployed 51 boats along with diving teams, 1,000 life jackets and 1,300 gumboots are being rushed to Kerala today. It has flown 16 sorties in last two days in rescue

operations. It will airdrop 1,600 food packets today.

The Coast Guard has deployed 30 boats along with rescue teams, 300 life jackets, seven life rafts and 144 life buoys.

The Army has pressed into service 10 columns, 10 Engineering Task Forces (ETFs), 60 boats and 100 life jackets.

One unit of the Territorial Army has also been deployed in Kerala.

In Assam, 11.45 lakh people have borne the brunt of the rains and floods, which have also hit crops in 27,600 hectares of land.

Altogether 14 teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), comprising 357 rescuers, were engaged in rescue and relief operations in Assam, the NERC said.

In West Bengal, 2.27 lakh people have been affected by the floods and crops in 48,550 hectares are damaged.

In Uttar Pradesh, 1.74 lakh people are affected by the monsoon rains which have also damaged 33,855 hectares of crops.

Nine NDRF teams were deployed in Uttar Pradesh, eight in West Bengal, seven in Gujarat, four in Maharashtra and one in Nagaland.



Swachhata Pakhwada concludes at Tharpu Sr Sec School

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 AUG:

Fortnight long Swachhata Pakhwada organised by National Service Scheme unit of Tharpu Government Senior Secondary School in West Sikkim concluded

today. The programme covered massive cleanliness drives at the school premises, Gram Prasashan Kendra, ICDS Center, Limboo Cultural Bhawan, roads, community water reservoir tank and local Adopted villages. Open quiz com-

petitions, debate competition, Essay Writing competition, drawing painting and slogan writing competition along with awareness on Swachhata were also held during the programme, a press release informs.

BJP mourns Vajpayee

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 AUG:

Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh organised a Shradhanjali evam Prathna Sabha at MG Marg and BJP office at Golitar in Singtam in the memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee whose funeral was held in New Delhi today.

Party workers, representatives from differ-

ent organisations and general public paid their respects and tribute at these meets.

A BJP press release shares that the nation has lost a respected poet, writer, journalist, editor and sincere political leader.

The release informs that the party has withheld all its programmes scheduled for the seven-day mourning.

Kerala floods: NCMC meets again, directs mobilisation of add'l resources

NEW DELHI, AUG 17 (PTI):

The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC), the country's apex body to handle emergency situation, met for the second time in two days today and directed to mobilise additional resources to all agencies who were engaged in rescue and relief operations in flood-hit Kerala.

So far, the central government has mobilised deployment of 339 motorised boats, 2,800 life jackets, 1,400 life buoys, 27 light towers and 1,000 raincoats, an official spokesperson said here.

Further, 72 motor boats, 5,000 life jackets, 2,000 life buoys, 13 light towers and 1,000 raincoats are being deployed, 1,00,000 food packets have been distributed and arrangements are being made to supply another 1,00,000 food packets. Provision has been made for supply of milk powder as well.

The railways has provided 1,20,000 water bottles. Another 1,20,000 bottles are ready to be despatched. It is also running a special train carrying 2.9 lakh litres of drinking water that will reach Kayamkulam tomorrow.

The NCMC meeting, chaired by Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha, also held a video conference with the chief secretaries of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

It was decided to mobilise additional resources of all agencies including the Army, Navy,

Air Force, Coast Guard and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to provide the required assistance to Kerala, the spokesperson said.

The Indian Navy has deployed 51 boats along with diving teams, 1,000 life jackets and 1,300 gumboots are being rushed to Kerala today. It flew 16 sorties in last two days in rescue operations. It will airdrop 1,600 food packets today.

The Coast Guard has deployed 30 boats along with rescue teams, 300 life jackets, seven life rafts and 144 life buoys.

The IAF deployed 23 helicopters and 11 transport aircraft. Some of the aircraft are being flown in from Yelahanka and Nagpur.

The Army pressed into service 10 columns, 10 Engineering Task Forces (ETFs), 60 boats and 100 life jackets.

The NDRF has mobilised 43 rescue teams and 163 boats along with other equipment.

The NCMC directed these organisations to provide boats, helicopters, life jackets, life buoys, raincoats, gumboots, inflatable tower lights etc.

The Kerala chief secretary requested for motorised boats to reach people marooned in flood-affected areas.

The cabinet secretary directed these organisations to mobilise additional boats and equipment, including from CAPFs such as CRPF, BSF and SSB.

Gangtok on Friday, 17 Aug

Temp: 26°C/17°C
Forecast: A morning thundershower in spots; otherwise, some sun, then turning cloudy.
Sunrise: 05:07 AM
Sunset: 6:12 PM

Awareness prog on menstrual health and hygiene at 4th Mile

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 17 AUG:

As part of the Independence Day celebrations, the Panchayats of 4th Mile conducted a day long program on Menstrual Hygiene and Drug Abuse at 4th Mile Junior High School on 15 August.

The program was attended by students, panchayat members and people of the local community and had former Minister TT Bhutia present as the chief guest.

Addressing the gathering, Upashna Khawas, president, ESS India, highlighted the various aspects of menstrual hygiene and informed the gathering about menstrual cups, a unique product that would help reduce environmental pollution by reducing sanitary napkins going to the dumping sites.

She also spoke on health issues and the importance of taking care of their bodies during menstruation.

The chief guest appreciated the efforts of the school and the organization and lauded the efforts of the Panchayats in bringing a relevant and important topic for the people to understand better.

Speaking about the program, IK Rasaily, Panchayat President, 4th Mile, lauded the team for their effort in generating wider awareness on menstrual hygiene among the students and community members.

The program also had SAATHI members who highlighted the issue of drug abuse in the society.

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SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 17 AUG:

Former Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, was more than just a Prime Minister, he was a tall statesman who is remembered for his soft eloquence and steely grit in handling matters of the nation and its states. Many Sikkimese remember him fondly for his sensitive approach towards issues of Sikkim. Inclusion of Limboo and Tamang communities in the Scheduled Tribes list happened during his term as PM, as did the historic agreement with China which led to resumption of border trade through Nathula.

Sikkimese today not just closed down shops and businesses in tribute



to the former Prime Minister, but also organised

"Shradhanjali" programs at towns across the State

by lighting candles and paying floral tributes to

the departed soul. The former PM was

BK Roka and Jas Lal Pradhan nominated Observers for Asian Games

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 17 AUG:

The Indian Olympic Association has nominated BK Roka as an Observer of Indian Olympic Association while the Boxing Federation of India has nominated Jas Lal Pradhan as a Technical Observer to represent India for the upcoming 18th Asian Games 2018 from 18 Aug to 02 Sept to be held at Jakarta, Palembang, Indonesia, a press release from Sikkim Olympic Association informs.

Mr Roka is president of Sikkim Olympic Association and



also a Member of Executive



Council of IOA, while Jas Lal

Pradhan is general secretary of Sikkim Olympic Association.

"It is a very proud moment both for the Sikkim Olympic Association fraternity as well as our tiny State of Sikkim. The experience garnered by them would be especially beneficial while hosting the upcoming State Games which will be held for the very first time in Sikkim and other sporting events in the State," the release states.

Sikkim Olympic Association has wished the duo and team India the very best.

I-Day celebrations at SRM Univ Sikkim



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 17 AUG:

Independence Day was celebrated in grand manner at SRM University Sikkim.

Dr. Santosh Sharma, the founder and Chairperson of "Education for All," Gangtok, graced the occasion as the chief guest for a special function which had the SRM fraternity present a short cultural program after the flag hoisting.

Registrar, Prof. Ch Sathis Kumar, spoke on India's freedom struggle and the challenges which still need to be overcome.

The chief guest, Mr Sharma, expressed his gratitude on having received the chance to be part of the celebrations and called on all to respect and follow the ideals that the freedom fighters have established and never forget their sacrifices.

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4023 4341 4448 4496 4814 4834 4876 4988 5160 5235
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Government Of Sikkim ,Deorali - 737102 ,Sikkim**



I-DAY AT HIGH COURT

GANGTOK, 17 AUG: Acting Chief Justice of Sikkim, Meenakshi Madan Rai unfurled the National Flag on the eve of the country's 72nd Independence Day at the High Court of Sikkim.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **San Man Rai**, S/o Late Chhabilal Rai, aged about 79 years, resident of Takuthank, West Sikkim, P.O. Mangalbaria & P.O. Naya Bazar, West Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows :-

1. That my actual and correct name is "**San Man Rai**" which is reflected/recorded in my Parcha Khatyan bearing Khatyan No.91, issued by the Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Government of Sikkim.
2. That my name has also been recorded as "**Sanmam Rai**" in my old Sikkim Subject Register under Sikkim Subject Register SL No. 6 Volume No. XIII, issued by Secretary, Land Revenue Department, Government of Sikkim.
3. That army No. 10374892F rank HAV. Hawalder, Mr Dai Bahadur Rai (107(TA) 11 G.R. is my natural son and in his Service Document record my name has been recorded as **Sun Man Rai** instead of **San Man Rai**.
4. That this affidavit is made to, affirm on oath that my name is "**San Man Rai**" and further to declare that the person by names "**San Man Rai**", **Sun Man Rai** and "**Sanmam Rai**" are the names belongs to one and the same person i.e. myself.
5. That this affidavit is made bonafide.

VERIFICATION

That the statements made herein above paragraphs 1 to 5 are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein. I have signed this affidavit on this the 16th day of August, 2018 at Gyalshing West Sikkim, at around 11:30 am.

DEPONENT

High Fever Dance Ka Naya Tevar winners, Nisha & Tara, thank Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 17 AUG:

Winners of &TV's 'High Fever Dance Ka Naya Tevar' reality dance talent show, Nisha Rasaily [26] from Gangtok and Tara Prasad [24] from Delhi have extended gratitude to the public as well the State Government for their constant support throughout their journey in the show.

The unique blend of Tara's strength in ballet & salsa along with Nisha's prowess in Indian classical & Bollywood played a part in bringing them closer to the coveted reality show's winner's trophy.

Addressing media persons today here in the capital, Ms Rasaily said that she and Tara will be conducting workshops shortly for youngsters here in Sikkim.



"We will be happy to get support from the State Government on this. Now that we have won the show, we will be moving towards Mumbai for further projects on choreography. However, we aren't allowed to switch to other

TV shows for at least two years. I hope to be successful as an assistant choreographer soon and later work towards being a full-fledged choreographer," she expressed.

Sharing their experience in the

dance reality show, the duo said, "Though competition was tough, we didn't receive any pressure as all competitors were very friendly. Before the show, we met each other during salsa and latin dance night where our chemistry just clicked. The show wasn't just about dancing and singing. It also evaluated our confidence and progress. If you can't impress the audience, all goes in vain."

The duo has been consistently in the top performers' list of the show and was known for their undeniable chemistry. They have won many hearts with their performances.

It is informed that Tara has several years of dancing experience and runs his dance school 'Star Dance Company' in Delhi.

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Come Together.
Any Time Now

**Supporting local teams can
lead to bigger things**

Independence Day celebrations in Sikkim are synonymous not only with patriotism but also football fervor. Every venue hosting an I-Day event invariably includes a football tournament. The weather is perfect for the beautiful game, there are no major festivals to keep people distracted and work on the fields is relatively mild to allow for a lot of free time. Soccer has hence grown into an integral part of I-Day celebrations in Sikkim and also in the neighbouring Hills.

Over the past decade or so however, attendance had been dropping for these events. This disinterest has been especially noticeable in urban areas which offer too many other engagements to keep one busy. It is not quite the same outside the towns where I-Day football tournaments continue to be major events and draw handsome crowds. That said, there has been a slight uptick in attendance over the last couple of years. One cannot pinpoint what changed over the last two seasons – maybe people tired of satellite TV and its hundreds of channels with nothing on, or maybe the sponsors started stitching together more exciting teams, but the crowds have begun returning to the grounds and stadiums. It must have been two years ago that attendance and excitement levels hit a new high for I-Day matches, especially in Gangtok, with local teams drawing passionate support.

Football has always had passionate fans, but Sikkim had lost this, and to find it resuscitated is a heart-warming sign. A welcome sign not just because football needs more fans, but because Sikkim could use some spontaneous collaborations. The camaraderie with which the young turned up to cheer for Aakraman and USFC cannot be dismissed as inconsequential just because it was limited to a sliver of the Sikkimese society. Finding the young unanimously excited about something is always exciting, particularly when it is in a Sikkim where spontaneity is in precariously low supply and infectious bonding almost nonexistent.

But why is it good, even necessary, for the Sikkimese to get together more spontaneously for celebrations and not just unite in complaints and resentment?

Several case studies and felt experiences in diverse communities and cultures have established beyond doubt that one of the main reasons for “backwardness” is the failure of communities to work together. Writing in 1958, political scientist and influential thinker, Edward Banfield, in his seminal work, “The Moral Basis of a Backward Society”, concluded that the real reasons behind underdevelopment in a village he was studying in Italy “is to be explained largely by the inability of villagers to act together for their common good.” Another village, governed by the same laws, living on similar land, but peopled by a community with a different, more developed sense of belonging, was doing noticeably better in all indices – per capita incomes, low crime, more accountable leaders, better looked after children etc. This was credited to the civic traditions that the “better” community had nurtured. There must have been more factors also, but researchers have recorded that this community was more likely to get involved in neighbourhood activities – singing groups, football clubs, cooperatives and networks of small entrepreneurs, while in the other village, the people did not engage with any cohesion at the community level. This was an even shorter than precise-writing introduction to the concept expounded by Banfield, but will have to do for now.

Now, measure Sikkim against this theory and the worries become apparent. Accept it, the Sikkimese rarely form excited impromptu clubs or groups. There have been instances when big social groups have come together, but those have been more about following a leader into a group and were not an equal-footing coming together. There are many NGOs and clubs, but most are either family affairs or a collection of friends. Community participation has to involve a wider circle. That does not happen enough in Sikkim. That is why, when one saw youngsters come together in support for a local club without any external prodding, but because they unanimously felt like it, one gets excited about a possible new direction that community participation could take.

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

VS Naipaul: a man who cast doubt on post-colonial liberal certainties

DILIP MENON
theconversation.com

No author in contemporary times more wilfully damaged his reputation with cantankerous observations as did VS Naipaul. He had extreme and contrarian opinions on the big issues of the day, from colonialism to Islam and the travesties of nationalism in Asia and Africa.

A generation of readers who came of age in the last decade of the 20th century saw, and heard, him at his worst, even as his literary career was capped with the ultimate accolade of the Nobel Prize in 2001. The citation emphasised his, “perceptive narrative and incorruptible scrutiny in works that compel us to see the presence of suppressed histories.”

But it must have seemed incomprehensible to those who had only listened to his intemperate words and read his later work which seemed like tired caricatures of his earlier oeuvre.

COLONIAL HISTORY

Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul’s early life was lived in the detritus of the colonial history of indenture and the vast forced movement of people from the South Asian subcontinent to Africa and the Caribbean. Between 1833 (the abolition of slavery) and 1922, 3.5 million Indians were transported under a system of debt bondage to work on sugar plantations in European colonies.

The memory of Indian civilisation was scattered along an archipelago of labour across two oceans – the Indian and the Pacific. Men and women living in countries as disparate as South Africa, Trinidad and Fiji were trapped in small lives of drudgery, gossip and congealed tradition yet still aspiring to a life of the mind.

Vidia’s father Seepersaud Naipaul was the first Indo-Trinidadian reporter for the Trinidad Guardian. He wrote short stories that he hoped would be published in London and lift the family from its genteel poverty. He, and his sons, Vidia and Shiva, mined the messy intricate lives around them for affectionate and searing portrayals of ambition, intrigue and ennui within the Indo-Trinidadian community.

Never has so small a community been mined for so large a literary canvas. A House for Mr Biswas, Flag on the Island, The Suffrage of Elvira, The



Mystic Masseur, and his brother Shiva’s Chip Chip Gatherers and Fireflies were the first great novels coming out of the history of indenture.

Both Vidia and Shiva went up to Oxford, but their writing was both an act of faith to their origins as much as an act of treason against the language bequeathed them by Empire. Naipaul’s early novels affectionately and grittily recreated the Indo-Trinidadian argot at a time when postcolonial writing was marked by the well-behaved cadences of the Queen’s English. This act of temerity is often forgotten, as every word committed treason against a colonial enterprise of education.

CHARACTERS THAT SPOKE TO THE WORLD

His novels were not simply quaint local evocations as became clear in the literary accolades that came his way so easily. Mr Biswas (A House for Mr Biswas 1961), Ganesh Ramsamir in The Mystic Masseur (1957) (who would retitling himself Ramsay Muir) and others were characters that spoke to the world much as did characters from the books of French literary artist Balzac: small people who occupied the world in large ways.

It’s worth remembering that this act of rendering the register of Trinidadian lives as universal marks an ambition that few postcolonial writers possess even today. Indian and African writers in English write correct, unambitious prose where the register of local English is always rendered as comical. This embarrassment is

evident even in Salman Rushdie’s “chutnified” English which bears no relation to forms of English spoken anywhere in India, but is a form of caricature that marks the yawning distance between the writer and the landscape that he occupies.

Indo-Anglian writers are most comfortable in ventriloquising their own class. Naipaul’s characters and their speech are not the result of mere acute observation, but of a location within a matrix of social relations.

This attention to, and affection for, the odd and the eccentric, even repugnant, individual characterised his later move into a higher journalism in books like India: A Million Mutinies Now (1990) and his closely observed travel account of the southern states of the US, A Turn in the South (1989). He is able to summon up the fertile anarchy of one space and the underlying melancholy of the other through fine-grained conversations, attentive to every word spoken even by people lost to the national imagination.

The epigraph to A Turn in the South is from Shakespeare: “There is a history in all men’s lives.”

What irritated critics bred on liberal hypocrisy was the fact that Naipaul wore his opinions on his sleeve. Even as he lavished a single-minded devotion to the rhythms of speech of his interlocutors, and rendered their selves in an uncannily distinctive fashion, he never held back on his disappointment on what could have been.

The experience of having pulled himself up from a narrow world

meant that he judged harshly; even himself. Readers of his letters to his father from Oxford Between Father and Son (2000) are exposed to a self-indulgent, self-pitying and entitled son. He’s prodigal in every way, writing, and not often, to a father who waited to live vicariously, through every letter, a life that he could never have had.

NAIPAULIAN CREDO

Naipaul was hard on himself as on others. Patrick French, in his magisterial biography titled it with the Naipaulian credo: The world is what it is. One made one’s life or one didn’t. It was the harsh lesson of someone for whom the experience of indenture was one generation away.

What lay behind his novels – set in Africa – as well as his historical accounts of the Caribbean, was what he saw as the refusal of the postcolonial citizen to take the world for what it was, and move on.

He saw both the coloniser and colonised as wrapped in sentimental nostalgia for what might have been. The Middle Passage and The Loss of El Dorado are as much about the overweening ambition and rapacity of the Europeans as much as their failure. And the inept violence of the coloniser was mirrored in the inability of the colonised to come into their own.

When he wrote An Area of Darkness in 1964, it was too close to the euphoria of independence for Indian elites to accept. It prompted prissy nationalist ripostes, like that of the poet Nissim Ezekiel who accused Naipaul of solipsism, that “he wrote exclusively from the point of view of his own dilemma.”

Time has shown that the dilemma stains all Indian thought, the burden of a non-modernity.

On Naipaul’s passing, another Indian poet, Keki Daruwalla, was to write about him that he was like “a mother bird rummaging in a nest of doubts.”

And doubt about liberal certainties and postures was what Naipaul left us with, even as he devoted his entire focus and lapidary prose to the little people.

VS Naipaul, writer, born 17 August 1932; died 11 August 2018.

[the writer is Mellon Chair of Indian Studies and the Director of the Centre for Indian Studies in Africa, University of the Witwatersrand]

Madonna: pop’s superlative shapeshifter turns 60 with style

FREYA JARMAN
theconversation.com

One of the first albums I owned was a tape of Madonna’s 1987 remix collection You Can Dance. I’m not sure where I got it from – and I’m not sure I even liked it – but the bright red cover and Madonna’s hard, direct stare are etched in my mind’s eye even now, 30 years later.

What I know I did like was her previous studio album, True Blue – and especially the title track, which I played on repeat (of course, in the days before CDs, “repeat” meant endlessly rewinding the tape on my Walkman). But it turned out in years to come that what I was really enjoying about that track was what it was riffing on. She fused the rhythms, melodies and harmonies of 1960s pop with the iconic 1980s drum machine sound to create a soundtrack to the Marilyn Monroe look Madonna sported at the time, a look most visible in the video for Material Girl.

This is what Madonna is known for – at best she’s an alchemist, repackaging signifiers from the fringes of popular culture, transforming them into nuggets of commercial gold. At worst – if you believe her critics – she arguably treats popular culture like “one great big pick’n’mix counter”, taking the bits she likes best and somehow making them her own. All the while, she’s a shape-shifting shaman, mutating her own image to accompany whatever soundtrack she’s peddling – whether it’s the 1960s hippy chick style (Ray of Light), the African-American drag scene (Vogue), S&M iconography (Human Nature) or any of the other dozens of iconic looks she’s sported over a 35-year career.

And, at each turn, she’s needed away at conservative conceptions of identity and “appropriate” behaviour. The black Jesus in the Like a Prayer video was one incident, strapping herself to a crucifix on the Confessions tour was another. She was threatened with arrest in Toronto in 1990 for simulating masturbation on the Blond Ambition tour and kissed both Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera at the MTV Music Awards in 2003.



ilera at the MTV Music Awards in 2003.

But perhaps the most challenging of her metamorphoses is the one she hasn’t been able to orchestrate completely herself, the one that which we can mark every August 16 – her ageing. “Age is just a number,” we might proclaim (louder as each year passes), or “You’re only as old as you feel.” If we do go as far as setting store by a specific number, then let’s not forget that “life begins at 40” – or even, as has been asserted in recent years, that “60 is the new 40” (I turned 40 recently myself, so this is excellent news).

AGE AS SEXISM

So what does age mean for Madonna, as she turns 60 this week? Even as long ago as 2005’s Confessions on a Dancefloor, at the tender age of 47, she found herself at odds with the standards of the popular music industry – which often have operated at the intersection of ageism and sexism.

The video for the lead single from the album Hung Up saw Madonna writhing around on a dance studio floor in a pink leotard. This quickly turned out to be ripe for parody: pregnant mums, Naomi Grossman and French & Saunders all had a pop. The parodies themselves are obviously not conclusive evidence of misogyny and ageism in the industry, but we should certainly pay them some heed

– given that the video was voted the “least sexy” video of all time in 2009 by music video website Muzu.tv (and reported on with glee by the Daily Telegraph).

And we should certainly start to get worried when we compare them with The Sun’s description of a 64-year-old topless David Hasselhoff as “flashing his honed body”. Or how about The Daily Mail’s reassurance in 2015 that Richard Gere had “still got it” at 65 as he was spotted sunbathing with his 32-year-old girlfriend.

Popular culture points to these men and so many others like them with admiration, framing the visible signs of their ageing as evidence of sophistication, not degeneration. Nobody’s telling them to “put it away”, like (oh, so predictably) the Daily Mail did to

Madonna nearly ten years ago.

AGE AS TRIUMPH

But Madonna remains visibly physical at 60. She emphasises her body instead of hiding it “gracefully” – in outfits like the one she wore at the Met Gala in 2016, or by spreading her legs for a Louis Vuitton ad in 2009. She sets out to situate herself in a provocative position in popular culture – as has been her trademark ever since Like a Virgin.

Although the Twitter storms of disgust rage on in response to her persistently unapologetic embodiment, there is in turn a backlash against those storms, with The Huffington Post reminding readers that the underlying cause of the discomfort is the lack of potential to commodify the body in question.

Madonna has consistently railed against contemporary taste, battling fiercely on the fronts of race, religion, age, gender and sexuality. In so doing, she paved the way for the likes of Lady Gaga, who will carry the torch as we continue to explore new expressions of identity in all these areas. But Madonna still has the edge, simply because what she’s doing now cannot be done by someone younger.

[the writer is Reader in the Department of Music, University of Liverpool]

Vajpayee made path-breaking contributions to Sino-India ties: China

BEIJING, AUG 17 (PTI): China today paid homage to former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, describing him as an outstanding politician who made path-breaking contributions to the development of bilateral relations.

Vajpayee, one of India's most charismatic leaders and inspirational orators, died yesterday at the age of 93 in New Delhi.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement: "Vajpayee is an outstanding politician in India and has made path-breaking contributions to the development of Sino-Indian relations".

The Chinese side expressed deep condolences over his death to the Indian government and people and to the relatives of Vajpayee, the ministry said in the statement to PTI.

Premier Li Keqiang has sent a condolence message, the ministry said. Vajpayee visited China in 2003 during which the two countries set up the Special Representative mechanism to resolve the boundary dispute.

Nepal Govt under fire for curbing press freedom through new criminal code

SHIRISH PRADHAN KATHMANDU, AUG 17 (PTI): Nepal's Communist government today introduced a new criminal code that makes publishing confidential information, recording audio or taking pictures without permission a jailable offence, triggering concerns among activists and journalists that it could curb press freedom.

Lawyers and rights activists have warned that the Communist-led two third majority government, which has shown an "increasing intolerance for dissent", could use the new laws to silence those criticising the government.

The government's new Criminal Code and Criminal Procedures Code, expected to reform the country's legal system by replacing ages-old Muluki Ain, came into effect today, amid fears that the new privacy provisions outlined in the codes would hamper free press in the country.

A number of provisions in the Criminal Code say violation of any individual's right to privacy would result in up to three years imprisonment and fines in thousands of rupees.

The new law also makes listening to or recording a conversation between two or more people, or photographing any individual, without consent a criminal offence.

Anyone found violating these rules faces one year in prison and a fine of Rs 10,000 or both.

Publishing content that damages a person's reputation directly or through satire is also subject to punishment, according to the new law.

"These general laws can be misused to silence journalists

and discourage investigative reporting," said senior advocate Dinesh Tripathi. The new laws have put press freedom at stake, he warned.

This is total violation of the constitution and aimed at controlling the free press which is totally unacceptable, said Badri Sigdel, president of Nepal Press Union, a pro-democracy working journalists' organisation.

This is an indication that the communist government is gradually imposing authoritarian rule in the country by undermining people's right to information and press freedom, said. Nepalese journalists had faced intimidation, arrest and press censorship during the direct rule of then King Gyanendra, who took executive powers in 2005.

The people's movement of

2006 overthrew the autocratic monarchy and established federal democratic republic Nepal. "The new press laws try to snatch the achievements of the people's movement," warned president of NPU Sigdel.

"The government has tightened screw on the journalists by introducing the code and there is every possibility of misuse of the law, which could curtail press freedom," said Hari Thapa, editor of Annapurna Post national daily.

The new law is "regressive" which is counterproductive for a free press, he added.

Although, the new constitution promulgated in 2015 guarantees press freedom and right to information, the new code introduced by the government has raised suspicion in the minds of journalists and rights activists.



Dalai Lama condoles Vajpayee's demise, says India lost 'eminent national leader'

DHARAMSALA, AUG 17 (PTI): Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama has extended his condolences over the sad demise of India's former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and said the country has lost an "eminent national leader".

"I feel privileged to have known him and am honoured to have counted him as a friend," the Dalai Lama said in a letter he wrote to the poet-politician's foster daughter Namita Bhattacharya yesterday, shortly after the doctors announced that Vajpayee had passed away.

"We met regularly during the course of his career and I continued to visit him at (his) home after he retired. Shri Vajpayee was a truly dedicated politician. With his

passing away, India has lost an eminent national leader. His eloquent support of the Tibetan people began in the late 1950s. Since then, he regularly took Indian governments to task in Parliament, prompting them to take a stronger stand on Tibet," the exiled spiritual leader said.

He also offered his condolences to Vajpayee's relatives, friends and colleagues.

Vajpayee, who served as India's prime minister three times, died at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) hospital in Delhi following prolonged illness. He was 93.

The BJP veteran was admitted to AIIMS on June 11 with a kidney tract infection, urinary tract infection, low urine output and chest congestion.

Agnivesh attacked on way to BJP office to pay homage to Vajpayee

NEW DELHI, AUG 17 (PTI): Swami Agnivesh was allegedly heckled and assaulted near the BJP headquarters here today by some people, who the social activist said were BJP workers, when he was on his way to pay homage to former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

A video of the alleged attack that circulated on social media showed some people heckling the 79-year-old social activist.

"I was attacked while



walking towards BJP headquarters to pay my respects to Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Around 20-30 BJP workers came and surrounded me and

pushed me. My pagdi fell down and they started calling me a traitor," Agnivesh told reporters.

"They pushed me towards the Vishnu Digamber roundabout and kept abusing me. Some policemen were standing there but these persons, including some women, carrying slippers, kept abusing me," he added.

The social activist claimed that he had informed BJP leader and Union minister Harsh Vardhan before visiting

there and will be lodging a formal complaint with the police about the assault.

"The police have so far not reached out to me. I will be filing a police complaint. I was attacked earlier also and no arrests have been made in the case. There is an atmosphere of violence and intolerance," he said.

Last month, he was allegedly assaulted by Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) activists, during his visit to Pakur in Jharkhand.



SINGTAM MOURNS FORMER PM: Among the busiest towns of Sikkim remained quiet this Friday despite it being a haat day in Singtam bazaar as almost all shops remained closed today in the memory of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee whose funeral was held in Delhi today. [from YOGEN THATAL]

Rotarians celebrated I-Day at Special School for the Deaf



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 17 AUG:

Rotary Club of Gangtok South observed Independence Day at the Special School for the Deaf here at Sichey.

The children gave a rendition of the National Anthem in sign language when the Tricolor was hoisted

by senior Rotarian PK Dong and followed it up with a cultural programme. Sweets and board games were distributed among the children by the Club, a press release informs.

Addressing the gathering Rotarian Geeta Sapkota said that the focus of Rotary Club of Gangtok

South this year would be to help rehabilitate the differently abled in the state by extending them all necessary support.

As a first step in this direction, the club would explore the possibility of engaging a speech therapist for the Special School for the Deaf, she suggested.

Bangladesh to ramp power import from India to 10,000MW

KOLKATA, AUG 17 (PTI): Bangladesh, which is currently importing around 700 MW of power from India, is looking to ramp up its electricity import from the country to 10,000MW in the long term, a power division official of the neighbouring nation said here today.

The power capacity in Bangladesh has been increased by five times in the last 10 years, Power Grid Corporation of Bangladesh

chairman Abdul Kalam Azad said.

"We are currently importing around 700 mw of power from India. Some 500 MW of additional power import will be commenced soon with more transmission line of 400 KVA has been completed," Azad said on the sidelines of the CII organised Energy Conclave 2018.

The Damodar Valley Corporation will also export 300MW to

Bangladesh hopefully from next month, he said.

"We have signed an agreement with an Indian private power company to import 600-800 mw of power through a dedicated transmission line. We have received more proposals from several other Indian power generating companies desiring to set up dedicated transmission line to sell power to Bangladesh," he said.



Ronaldo set for Serie A debut amid sombre mood in Italy

MILAN, AUG 17 (AFP): Cristiano Ronaldo will make his much-anticipated Serie A debut for Juventus who open their campaign for an eighth straight Italian league title on Saturday against a sombre backdrop of a country in mourning following the Genoa bridge disaster.

The five-time Ballon d’Or winner was the star signing of the summer season arriving amid great pomp and ceremony following a 100 million euro (USD 117 million) deal from Real Madrid.

But it could be a low-key start for the 33-year-old Portuguese superstar against minnows Chievo in Verona’s Stadio Bentegodi on Saturday on a day of national mourning for the victims of the Morandi bridge tragedy in the north-western port city.

The emotional impact of the disaster has led to the postponement of Serie A games involving local teams Sampdoria and Genoa who had been due to open their campaigns against Fiorentina and AC Milan.

But all other games will go ahead starting on Saturday -- the day of the 38 victims’ funerals --



with last season’s top two teams Juventus and Napoli in action.

A minute’s silence will be held before each match with the players taking to the pitch wearing black armbands.

Much is expected of Ronaldo’s

presence in the Italian league this season after the low of Italy missing out on qualifying for the World Cup in Russia.

“He’s going to raise the level of the championship,” said Italian football legend Dino Zoff.

“Everyone can benefit. With Ronaldo all eyes will be on us and Serie A can regain ground. His purchase will result in the arrival of other big names to Serie A.”

Midfielder Sami Khedira said he was eager to play alongside

Ronaldo again, and forget his own bidire World Cup campaign where Germany crashed out in the group stage.

“I can’t wait to start the new season, and it’s also fantastic to be able to play with Ronaldo again after the time we shared together at Real Madrid,” Khedira said on Instagram.

“Despite the excitement for the new season though, this was one of the most difficult summers of my career.

“After a good season at Juventus in which I scored nine goals, I played my two worst games at the World Cup and it was awful.”

As Ronaldo takes centre stage at his new team the surprise could be in defence with Andrea Barzagli and new signing Joao Cancelo vying for the role of right-back.

World Cup winner Blaise Matuidi has just returned to action, and coach Massimiliano Allegri could play new midfield signing Emre Can and Khedira alongside Miralem Pjanic and Juan Cuadrado.

- ANCELOTTI RETURN -
Napoli turn back to their quest for a first title since the days of Argentine star Diego Maradona in

1987 and 1990 after pushing Juventus to the line last season.

After claiming a record 91 points for a league runner-up, Maurizio Sarri exited the club for Chelsea with Italian Carlo Ancelotti making his return to Serie A for the first time in nearly a decade.

The much-travelled Italian arrives in Naples boasting three Champions League trophies from his spells with AC Milan and Real Madrid, and a Premier League title from his two-year stint at Chelsea.

Eusebio di Francesco’s Roma -- third last season -- travel to Torino with Inter Milan, who also qualified for the Champions League visiting Sassuolo on Sunday, as Bologna and SPAL, who both survived at the death last season going head to head in a bid to start the season on a positive note.

Among the newcomers, Parma return to the top flight only three years after being declared bankrupt, hosting Udinese in their first game.

Also returning to Serie A are Empoli, a team from Florence, who start at home against Cagliari, and Frosinone, from south of Rome, who travel to Atalanta on Monday.

Olympians Ross, Kocian say they are Nassar survivors

LOS ANGELES, AUG 17 (AFP): Olympic gold medal-winning gymnasts Kyla Ross and Madison Kocian said Thursday they were among the women and girls sexually abused by former USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar.

Ross, an Olympian in 2012 and Kocian, who competed at the 2016 Rio Games, spoke on “CBS This Morning” and to other US media outlets, saying that they did not join more than 150 victims who confronted Nassar at his trial in January because they had not come to terms with the abuse.

Both posted statements on their Twitter feeds saying they were proud and honored to join those who have come forward to demand change from USA Gym-



nastics and the US Olympic Committee.

“I am honored to join that invincible army,” said Ross, who won team gold at the 2012 London Games.

Ross told CBS she was long “in denial” about what she experienced.

“At 13, I thought it was a legitimate form of treatment. As years have gone

on, after hearing impact statements, you realize what a terrible event has happened,” she said.

Ross said that former Olympic team-mate Jordyn Wieber, now an assistant coach at the University of California Los Angeles where Ross and Kocian compete, had helped her “be confident in myself and realize I

was a victim.” “But we don’t want to be viewed as victims,” she said.

“This is something we have to grow through. Now we’re just trying to find our voice and help.” Now that Ross has come forward, every member of 2012’s “Fierce Five” US Olympic gymnastics team -- Ross, Wieber, Aly Raisman, Gabby Douglas

and McKayla Maroney -- has said she was abused by Nassar.

Kocian joined 2016 Olympic teammates Douglas, Raisman and Simone Biles -- all but one member of the team -- in coming forward.

USA Gymnastics, which is conducting the national championships in Boston this week, issued a statement saying it was “heartbroken and sorry that Kyla Ross, Madison Kocian or any of our athletes have been harmed by the horrific acts of Larry Nassar.”

“USA Gymnastics’ support is unwavering for Kyla, Madison and all athletes who courageously came forward to share their experiences. Their powerful voices and stories will continue to be a basis for our future decisions.



Delhi Dynamos sign striker Andrija Kaluderovic

NEW DELHI, AUG 17 (PTI): Delhi Dynamos FC today signed Serbian forward Andrija Kaluderovic for the upcoming Indian Super League season.

The striker joins the ISL side on the back of finishing as the top scorer for Wellington Phoenix in the Australian League last season.

Kaluderovic’s signing takes the Dynamos foreign quota to four players.

The 31-year old Kaluderovic has previously had stints in Serbia, China, Spain, Switzerland, Lithuania and Australia and has scored more than 100 goals in 236 club appearances.

The striker has also been capped thrice by the Serbian national team.

Head coach Josep Gombau is confident that Kaluderovic can replicate his

past form in the ISL.

“Andrija is a very intelligent player who is quick and a good finisher. I have seen him play in the Australian league and he has performed consistently well both in the league and the continental cups as well. He has a great mentality and experience which will really help the side,” Gombau said in a statement.

The forming Racing Santander forward won the Lithuanian League and Cup double in 2016 with Zalgiris, where he was also the golden boot winner.

“I am excited to have joined a new league and a new team in Delhi Dynamos. The popularity of ISL is for everyone to see and a lot of foreign players are here so I am no stranger to this competition,” a delighted Andrija said.

Desperate India set for reshuffle in do-or-die Test

CHETAN NARULA

NOTTINGHAM, AUG 17 (PTI): Shaken by abject surrender in the first two Tests, a desperate India are expected to ring in a slew of changes as they aim at redemption against a rampaging England in a do-or-die third Test, starting Saturday.

For Indian team, the Trent Bridge Test will be their last chance to save the series after being outplayed in the first two Test matches -- by 31 runs Edgbaston and innings and 159 runs at the Lord’s.

Down 0-2 with only five and half days of competitive cricket in all, skipper Virat Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri will be aiming to get the team combination right having bungled at the Lord’s.

As a result, India will play their 38th combination in as many matches that skipper Kohli had led.

The most awaited change will be 20-year-old Rishabh Pant’s imminent Test debut replacing a horribly out-of-form Dinesh Karthik, who might well have played his last international game in the longest format.

With scores of 0, 20, 1 & 0 in four innings coupled with shoddy glove-work meant that Karthik was seen giving catching practice to Pant, who also spend considerable time batting at the nets.

Being hailed as Mahendra Singh Dhoni’s successor, Pant’s entry into the squad happened after three half-centuries in the



two first-class matches against England Lions.

Despite a triple hundred and a healthy first-class average of 54 plus, it will still be baptism by fire for the Roorkee-born youngster. He will be facing Messrs Jimmy Anderson, Stuart Broad, Chris Woakes and Sam Curran, ready to make life miserable for him just like they have done with his illustrious seniors.

If Pant’s Test debut has generated a lot of interest, there is a prayer on every fan’s lips that skipper Kohli gets fit enough to wield the willow.

It is the impact of the last defeat in swing-friendly conditions across just over six sessions that is still hurting the Indian camp. Throughout the week, they have been left picking up the pieces, mostly in terms of re-evaluating

fitness of their key players.

In that aspect atleast, there is some good news. Jasprit Bumrah is fit again; Ravichandran Ashwin and Hardik Pandya have recovered completely from their hand injuries suffered while batting at Lords, and skipper Kohli has more or less recovered from his back problems.

Never has an injury invoked so much interest since Sachin Ten-

dulkar’s tennis elbow. Kohli’s condition seemed to have improved a lot and as he had maintained, he will be out there at the toss alongside Joe Root.

This is where the hard part begins for India. Having admitted their mistake in picking two spinners at Lord’s, it is about time skipper Kohli and coach Shastri hit upon the optimal team combination.

Nevertheless, there are bound to be changes in the playing eleven for some vital members of the squad are now seemingly bereft of confidence.

Murali Vijay, for example, has scored only 128 runs in 10 overseas Test innings against South Africa and England. An average of 12.8 is tough to ignore, but for a batsman of his calibre, the team management could still afford another chance given that India need to win this game.

At the same time however, it brings Shikhar Dhawan back into contention. He averages 17.75 against South Africa and England in two Tests this year, and his overall average in England is 20.12 (four Tests). In these two instances, he has scored at a strike-rate of 68.93 and 57.29, respectively, which could once again go in his favour.

Thus, there is every chance that India could opt for their third different opening pairing of Dhawan and KL Rahul in as many Tests, the middle order will be untouched.

Especially with Kohli regaining fitness, Karun Nair still isn’t seen to be active during practice sessions. It was the case in Birmingham and London, as well as in Nottingham, and playing an extra specialist batsman is not in the management’s immediate plans as yet.

If it so transpires, Umesh Yadav will once again be unlucky to miss out, for the team management will be eager to get their best possible combination out on the field.

The pitch at Trent Bridge bore a different look than 2014, when these two teams met here. India scored 457 and 391/9 decl in two innings on a flat surface, as England had scored 496 whilst batting once and the match petered out to a draw.

The forecast for this third Test is of decent cloud cover throughout the first four days, and if the Indian team takes into consideration, they would surely opt for just the lone spinner.

Meanwhile, England have a big selection headache on their hands. Ben Stokes’ re-assimilation in the squad has gone off smoothly, and after spending the past week away, he went through rigorous batting and bowling sessions on Thursday.

He got a decent reception from a sizeable fan gathering ahead of the game, but how the crowd reacts to his presence in the game on Saturday could be a worry for the team management.

US newspapers hit back at Trump, defend free press

WASHINGTON, AUG 16 (PTI): In an unprecedented move, nearly 350 media outlets today launched a coordinated campaign decrying US President Donald Trump's frequent attacks on journalists and his attempt to portray some news organisations as enemies of the American people.

Trump has stepped up his attacks on the media in recent weeks and the White House last month barred a CNN reporter from covering a public event after she asked Trump an "inappropriate" question.

The Boston Globe made the call last week for a nationwide denouncement of President Trump's "dirty war" against the media, using the hashtag #EnemyOfNone. Each newspaper participating in the effort wrote its own separate editorial against the US President's anti-media comments.

Trump has frequently derided unfavourable media reports as "fake news" and attacked journalists as "enemies of the people".

The Trump Twitter Archive says he has tweeted 281 times so far using the term "fake news".

Replacing a free media



with a state-run media has always been a first order of business for any corrupt regime taking over a country, The Boston Globe said in its editorial.

"Today in the United States we have a president who has created a mantra that members of the media who do not blatantly support the policies of the current US administration are the "en-

my of the people." This is one of the many lies that have been thrown out by this president much like an old-time charlatan threw out "magic" dust or water on a hopeful crowd," the stinging editorial commented.

The Editorial Board of The New York Times noted that this year, some of the most damaging attacks came from government officials.

"Criticising the news media for underplaying or overplaying stories, for getting something wrong is entirely right. News reporters and editors are human, and make mistakes. Correcting them is core to our job.

"But insisting that truths you don't like are "fake news" is dangerous to the lifeblood of democracy. And calling journalists the "enemy of the

people" is dangerous, period," it said.

These attacks on the press are particularly threatening to journalists in nations with a less secure rule of law and to smaller publications in the United States, already buffeted by the industry's economic crisis, the influential paper noted.

The New York Post - hardly a left-leaning paper - answered the Globe's call

by saying "Who are we to disagree?" adding: "It may be frustrating to argue that just because we print inconvenient truths doesn't mean that we're fake news, but being a journalist isn't a popularity contest.

The Philadelphia Inquirer said its city was the birthplace of US democracy, writing: "If the press is not free from reprisal, punishment or suspicion for unpopular views or information, neither is the country. Neither are its people".

Opinion writers at McClatchy put out an editorial for the 30 daily newspapers it runs, including the Miami Herald, saying they hardly ever spoke with one voice but were doing so now. It said "enemies of the people" was "what Nazis called Jews. It's how Joseph Stalin's critics were marked for execution".

North Carolina newspaper The Fayetteville Observer said it hoped "all the president's supporters will recognise what he's doing manipulating reality to get what he wants .

The St Louis Post-Dispatch called journalists "the truest of patriots", while the Chicago Sun-Times said it was confident the majority

of US citizens did not share Trump's views.

"We firmly believe most Americans know that Trump is talking nonsense, whatever they might tell the pollsters," the Chicago paper's editorial said.

"We firmly believe they understand that a free society is impossible without a free press," it added.

Meanwhile, a poll released by Quinnipiac University yesterday suggested that 51 per cent of the Republican voters now believed the media to be "the enemy of the people rather than an important part of democracy" and 52 per cent of the Republican supporters polled were not concerned that Trump's criticism would lead to violence against journalists.

Among all voters, 65 per cent believe the news media to be an important part of democracy, the poll suggests.

An Ipsos poll, also this month, gave similar figures. In addition it found that 23 per cent of Republicans, and about one in eight Americans overall, believed Trump should close down mainstream news outlets like CNN, The Washington Post and The New York Times.

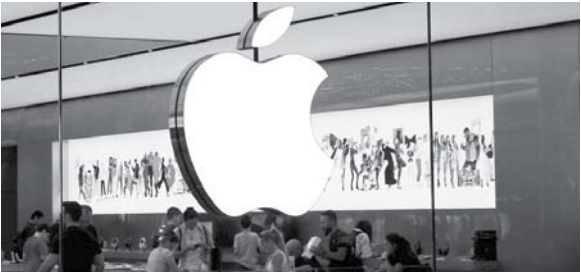
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'Hacky hack hack': Australia teen breaches Apple's secure network

SYDNEY, AUG 17 (AFP): A schoolboy who "dreamed" of working for Apple hacked the firm's computer systems, Australian media has reported, although the tech giant said today no customer data was compromised.

The Children's Court of Victoria was told the teenager broke into Apple's mainframe -- a large, powerful data processing system -- from his home in the suburbs of Melbourne and downloaded 90GB of secure files, The Age reported late yesterday.

The boy, then aged 16, accessed the system multiple times over a year as he was a fan of Apple and



had "dreamed of" working for the US firm, the newspaper said, citing his lawyer.

Apple said in a statement today that its teams "discovered the unauthorised access, contained it,

and reported the incident to law enforcement".

The firm, which earlier this month became the first private-sector company to surpass USD 1 trillion in market value, said it wanted "to assure our customers that at no point during this incident was their personal data compromised".

An international investigation was launched after the discovery involving the FBI and the Australian Federal Police, The Age reported.

The federal police said it could not comment on the case as it is still before the court.

The Age said police raided the boy's home last year and found hacking files and instructions saved in a folder called "hacky hack hack".

"Two Apple laptops were seized and the serial numbers matched the serial numbers of the devices which accessed the internal systems," a prosecutor was reported as saying.

A mobile phone and hard drive were also seized whose IP address matched those detected in the breaches, he added.

The teen has pleaded guilty and the case is due to return to court for his sentencing next month.

Honduran families traumatised by US-imposed separations

LA LIBERTAD, AUG 17 (AFP): Since being returned to his parents in Honduras, 16-month-old Johan has suffered from stomach problems and sleepwalking.

They say the symptoms come from the trauma of being separated as a result of the US government's "zero tolerance" policy against migrant families who illegally cross the country's southern border.

Rolando Bueso, 37, and Johan, then aged 10 months, were intercepted by US Border Patrol officers on March 17 after crossing from Mexico into Texas with the help of a people-smuggler, who was paid USD 6,000. They were soon split up and sent to detention centres in different states, with the infant becoming just one of 2,000 Central American and Mexican children that US authorities forcibly removed from their parents between April 19 and May 31 this year.

Bueso ended up being deported back to Honduras on April 5 -- but his son remained in US custody until he was finally returned to his family on a flight that landed on July 20. His parents discovered that Johan, who had grown his first teeth, taken his first steps and spoken his first word -- "agua" (water) -- while away, had been badly affected by his months of detention.

"Everything we give him to eat he has problems with. And he gets up and sleepwalks at night," said his mother Adalicia, 21, who is eight months pregnant with another child.

She added bitterly that US authorities had sent him back without all his papers, which included his birth certificate and vaccination record.



She was speaking in their modest home in La Libertad, a village north of the capital Tegucigalpa. Johan had been flown back to the northern city of San Pedro Sula, the main arrival point for deportees from the US.

According to the Honduran government, most Honduran children taken away from their parents inside the US have still not been returned.

The foreign ministry said only 146 children had been reunited with their families as of August 10, and 313 were still being held by US authorities. So far this year, again up to August 10, Honduras has accepted 17,573 Hondurans deported from the United States and 27,334 from Mexico.

Johan "might be traumatised for life," Bueso said, watching over his son who was playing with a black and white cat. He said the experience had convinced him to give up on trying to illegally enter the United States. The Americans, he said, "are too rough."

He and his son were caught on his fourth attempt to reach what Central Americans call "the American dream": a land where work is relatively well paid and easy to come by and violent gangs don't rule the neighbourhoods. Each time, Bueso was deported.

Honduran officials admit that many of their citizens risk the voyage into the US with young kids because they believe it enhances

their chances of being legally allowed to stay.

Bueso's two brothers, who live in the US state of Maryland, had shown that it was possible to make it.

But Trump, with his embrace of policies designed to make the US look as inhospitable as possible to migrants and his ambition to build a wall along the border with Mexico, is changing some calculations.

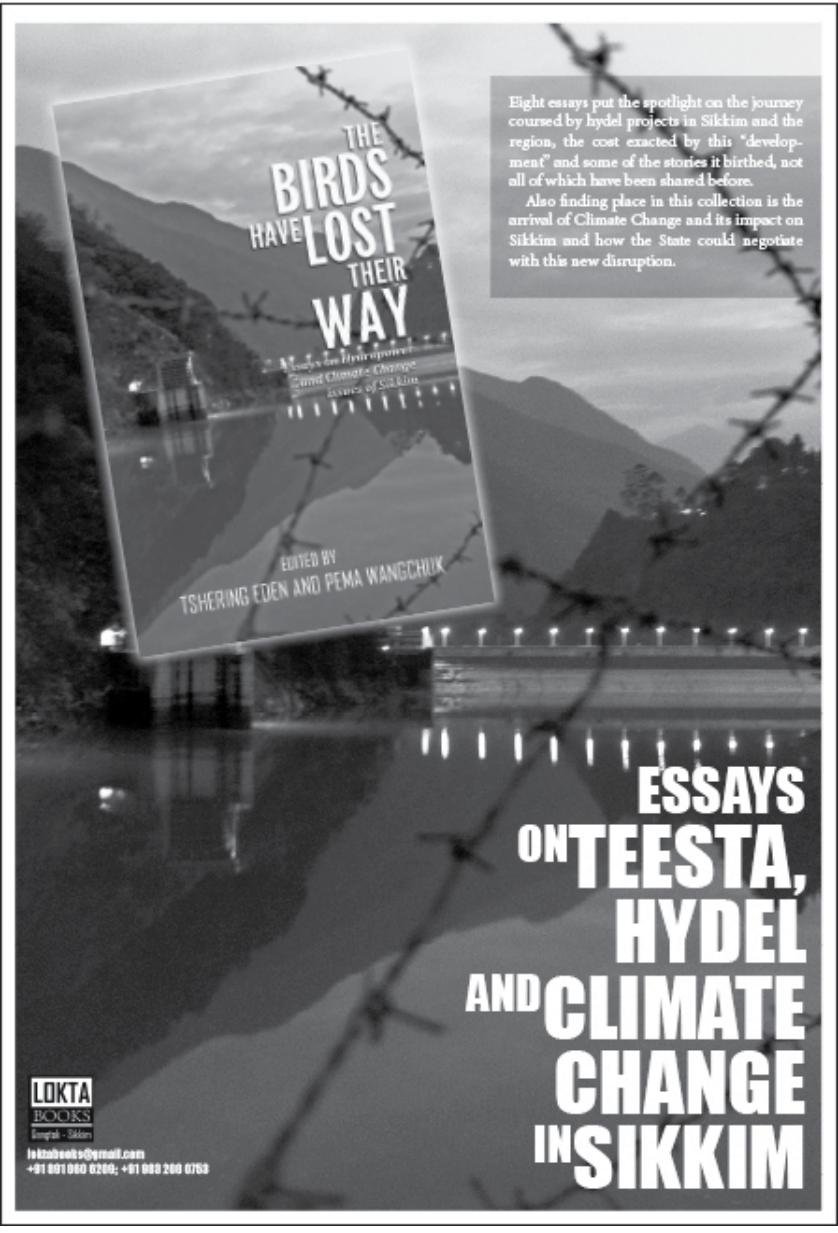
In Bueso's case, it was a harsh readjustment. As an assistant on a bus servicing the La Libertad-San Pedro Sula route he can hope to earn USD 8 on a good day.

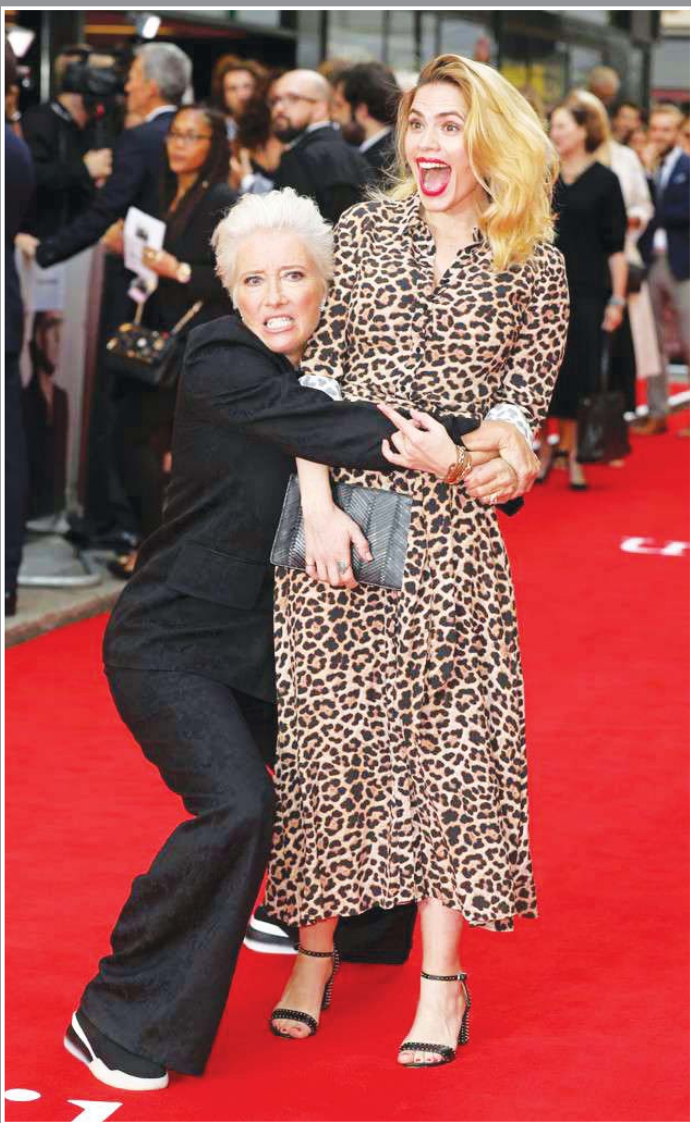
In the US, as a labourer, he could expect to make USD 10 per hour. The small, concrete-block and tin-roofed home he and his wife live in is owned by one of his brothers who lives in the US, Adrian, who also supplied the USD 6,000 to pay the smuggler.

Bueso said he won't try again to reach the US, "but no matter how many walls they put up there are always people who are going to try because they are looking to survive".

Bueso acknowledged that La Libertad was a relatively peaceful village that didn't suffer from the corrosive gang violence or drug trafficking that blighted so much of Honduras. But he pointed out that the country's economic situation was dire -- something he blamed on government corruption.

More than a million Hondurans live in the United States. Most of them lack documents to legally stay, yet they represent a pillar holding up Honduras' economy. Each year USD 4 billion in remittances are sent to Honduras, accounting for 20 per cent of gross domestic product.





RED CARPET ATTACK! Co-stars, Emma Thompson & Hayley Atwell, goof around at the premiere of their new film *The Children Act* in London, England

Travis Scott helps pay for fan's mother's funeral

LOS ANGELES, AUG 17 (PTI): Rapper Travis Scott has donated USD 800 to one of his fans to help cover the cost of his mother's funeral.

Peter Valdriz reached out to Scott earlier this week when the rapper was offering to give away USD 100,000 to a select group of fans.

Valdriz tweeted that he would use the money to help pay for the service.

In response, Scott sent USD 800 via Cash App with the message, 'For not much but hope can help. Your mom looking down on you (sic).'



Valdriz posted a screenshot of the transaction on Twitter.

According to TMZ, Valdriz's mother died last week after a battle with a brain virus. He received the money on what would have been his mom's 52nd birthday.

"Knowing that someone is out there trying to help us during this difficult time means the world to us," Valdriz told TMZ. "I personally want to thank Travis Scott for really making a tough day for my family into a day we can cherish.

MUMBAI, AUG 17 (PTI): Actor Priyanka Chopra's boyfriend Nick Jonas and his parents -- Denise Miller-Jonas and Paul Kevin Jonas -- are in the city amid reports the couple will throw a bash to celebrate their engagement with family and close friends. Clad in black pants and a full-sleeve T-shirt, the 25-year-old American singer and his parents were received by Priyanka, 36, at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport here.

Nick's brother Kevin, Joe and Frankie Jonas have also arrived in the city.

The couple will reportedly be throwing a party for their friends and family at Priyanka's residence in suburban Juhu to celebrate their July engagement.

At the airport, Jonas senior was holding a Tiffany & Co bag, the famous jewellery brand from whose London store the American singer



bought the engagement ring.

Priyanka, who is currently in Mumbai to shoot for Shonali Bose's film "The Sky is Pink", was spotted wearing the ring at designer Manish Malhotra's party recently.

Nick had met Priyanka's family in June and even spent

quality time with her family in Goa. The couple had also posed for the shutterbugs during the engagement party of Mukesh Ambani's son Akash.

But it is for the first time that parents from both the sides are meeting.

Nick Jonas, parents in Mumbai to meet Priyanka Chopra's family

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Nick has already introduced the actor to his family members when she attended the wedding of his cousin in the US.

The duo sparked dating speculations early in June when they were photographed enjoying multiple dates over Memorial Day weekend.

They first came together when they posed for photos on the red carpet together in Ralph Lauren designs at the 2017 Met Gala.

Priyanka has not commented on her relationship, saying her personal life is not for "public consumption".

The first clue about their rumoured engagement came after filmmaker Ali Abbas Zafar tweeted about Priyanka's exit from Salman Khan starer film "Bharat". He had said that the actor opted out from the film in the 'Nick of the time', a reference that everybody knows about by now.

Scarlett Johansson is the highest paid actress with USD 40.5 million: Forbes



LOS ANGELES, AUG 17 (PTI): Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson has become the best-paid actress in the world, according to Forbes magazine.

Johansson, 33, made USD 40.5 million in pre-tax earnings from June 1, 2017, to June 1, 2018, quadrupling her income from the previous year.

She played Black Widow in this year's hit Marvel movie "Avengers: Infinity War" and will return to the role in the 2019 installment from Walt Disney Co's Marvel Studios.

Johansson beat out Angelina Jolie, who ranked second with USD 28 million thanks mainly to her upfront pay for "Maleficent 2".

Jennifer Aniston came in third with USD 19.5 million, making the bulk of her profits from Emirates airlines, Smartwater, and Aveno promotions, Forbes reports.

Jennifer Lawrence, 28, was fourth on the list with continued earnings from her role in the "X-Men" series and an endorsement contract with

fashion brand Christian Dior. Her USD 18 million income was USD 6 million less than the prior year.

Reese Witherspoon, 42, is at number five with USD 16.5 million.

The rest of the top 10 were Mila Kunis, Cate Blanchett, Melissa McCarthy and Gal Gadot.

The combined earnings of the top 10 women this year is USD 186 million.

Last year's highest-paid actress, Emma Stone, was not part of the top 10.

ARIES: If there is something you need to fight for, this is the time to do it, Aries. For a while now you've been doing research on the best way to proceed. The time has come to take action. You have an extra boost of vitality, and your warrior instinct is strong. You feel like a volcano ready to expel boiling hot lava. Trust and follow your instincts.

TAURUS: You may not feel in the mood to fight today, Taurus. If someone challenges you, talk your way out of it. You will probably be able to win any battle with your words. Try sensitive reasoning instead of open combat. Listen carefully to the concerns of the opposing side and make your move accordingly. This isn't a contest. It's a conversation among friends.

GEMINI: Take pride in your nur-

turing instincts, Gemini. Rescue an injured bird or join a conservation group. Do something to help save the whales. Take a more active role in the preservation of the planet. Become a concerned citizen who regularly speaks out for what you believe in. Don't let other people's political agendas get in the way of your true purpose.

CANCER: Something or someone may urge you to make a major move, Cancer. Be sure you make it in the right direction. Remember that strength lies in numbers. To conquer, people must unite. Factions of people continuing to fight among themselves only aggravate the problem. The key is to accept one another's differences and work together on the larger issues that affect us all.

LEO: Your ego is strong today, Leo, and you have a strong will. This is a good time to put your plan for world domination into effect. Be sure you channel your powerful emotions into positive outlets. Create rather than destroy. Energy that isn't used in a positive way will end up manifesting as accidents or hostility toward people who don't deserve it.

VIRGO: Focus more of your power on your home and family life, Virgo. Take care of domestic issues and stick to household chores and duties. The more you do to your home, the more others will be inspired to pitch in and help. You may find it difficult to connect with certain people, so it might be best to give yourself some time alone.

LIBRA: Don't be surprised if

emotions flare up between you and someone close on a professional or social level, Libra. The issue may be difficult to resolve now. People feel rather sensitive. If they hear something they don't like, especially an opinion that may seem too critical, they're likely to shut down. You might want to consider saving anything of a sensitive nature for tomorrow.

SCORPIO: People may be coming on strong, but you will be right there to meet them with an equally powerful rebuttal, Scorpio. The problem is, the person who confronts you is talking about apples and you're talking about oranges. Get off your soapbox for a minute and listen to the real issue. Don't get caught in misunderstandings or things could backfire later.

SAGITTARIUS: If something doesn't make sense to you, Sagittarius, question it. Be strong and confident. Don't let others take advantage of your sensitive and nurturing personality. Your general tendency is to give more than you receive, but this may leave you feeling depleted. Put an end to this cycle. Be conscious of how you distribute your energy. Do something for yourself.

CAPRICORN: Try to control your aggression, Capricorn. People are likely to be a bit more sensitive than usual. You can use your powerful nature in positive ways by turning your energy inward and conquering the demons within. It may feel like others are trying to put a monkey wrench in your gears, so be careful. **AQUARIUS:** It's time to be more

aggressive regarding your needs, Aquarius. Think of your heart as a powerful muscle that needs a tough workout. You'll want to surround yourself with positive people who believe in you and support your efforts. Pump yourself up with vitality and self-confidence. Make time for exercise and meditation. Bring more balance and harmony to your life.

PISCES: You're in the hot seat today, Pisces. Other people might put you on the spot for no apparent reason. This uncomfortable feeling could lead to tension if you overreact. Be careful that you have all the facts on the issue before you react. The whole situation may be a big misunderstanding. Maintain a level head tempered with kindness and respect.