



**PERSONAL, PURE AND SYMBOLIC:  
MESSI'S PERFECT NEWELL'S  
HOMAGE TO MARADONA**  
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**BY DECLARING A CLIMATE  
EMERGENCY JACINDA ARDERN  
NEEDS TO INSPIRE HOPE, NOT FEAR**  
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**MUSIC FESTIVALS OFFER  
TO HELP BELGIUM'S  
VACCINATION CAMPAIGN**  
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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Pages 8 | ₹ 5

## 62-yr-old Covid patient passes away, Sikkim's toll reaches 110

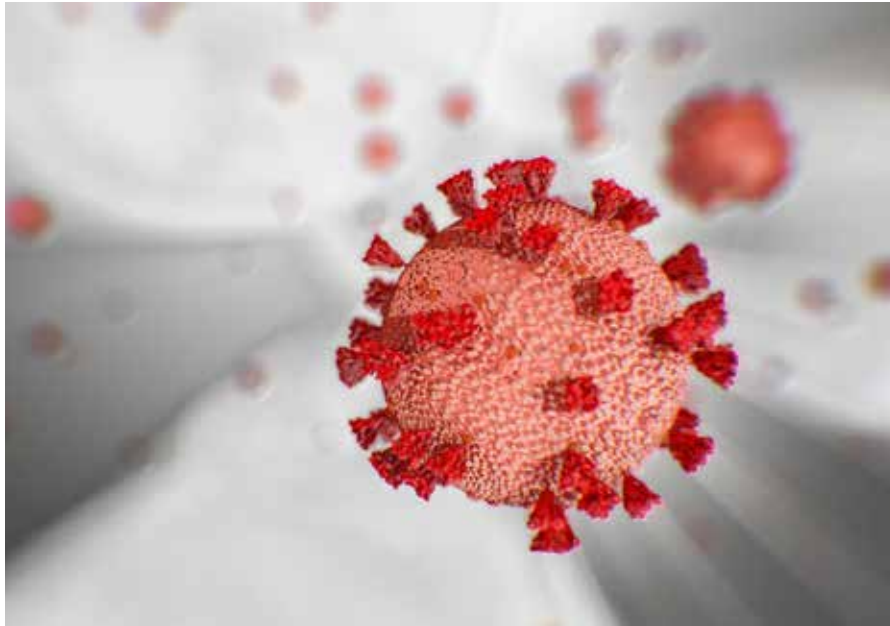
**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 01 DEC:**

COVID-19 related death toll reached 110 in Sikkim with the passing away of a 62-year-old male from IBM Rangpo on Monday. He was passed away at around 6:36 PM Monday evening after suffering a cardiac arrest while under observation at the COVID-dedicated STNM Hospital here.

In the daily health bulletin on Tuesday, Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam Gyaltzen Bhutia, informed that the patient tested positive for COVID-19 in rapid antigen testing at Central Referral Hospital on 25 November and was admitted to STNM Hospital the same day.

The patient had co-morbidities of hypertension, diabetes and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder.

In the meantime, Sikkim's tally of the confirmed cases of COVID-19 crossed the 5000-mark and now stands at 5,031 with the detection of 42



fresh cases in the last 24 hours on Tuesday.

There are now 284 active cases of COVID-19 in the State, of whom four are in the ICU facility of STNM Hospital.

On the other hand, the number of discharged COVID-19 patients in Sikkim reached 4,549 with the discharge of 14 more patients on Monday.

The 42 new cases were detected from the testing of 213 samples on Monday - while 27

people were found positive in RT-PCR screening of 155 samples, two new cases were reported in TrueNat testing of 16 samples and 13 from rapid antigen testing of 42 samples.

27 cases were reported from East District, two in West District, nine in South District and four in North District.

While providing details of the new cases reported in East District, Mr Bhutia informed that

from Forest Check-post in Chandmari, two from above helipad in Burtuk, one from Manbir Colony, one from Upper Sichey and one from Deorali Bazaar.

Seven new cases have been reported from Tadong area, which includes three persons from 6th Mile, two from 5th Mile, one from Gairi Gaon and one from Tadong Bazaar.

Similarly, five persons from Namchi, one from Kazitar and one from near Bhaichung Stadium in South District, while one person from Daramdin, one from Gangyap, one from Tikjuk and one from Soreng PHC in West District also tested positive for COVID-19.

In North District, two persons from Pentok-Mangan and one from Lingthem in Dzongu were also reported COVID-19 positive. Mr Bhutia mentioned that one person, who is from Development Area Gangtok and went for duty in North District, was found COVID-19 positive in the rapid antigen testing.

## SMIMS sets up COVID-19 testing lab

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 01 DEC:**

Sikkim finally has another lab for COVID-19 testing with the Molecular Laboratory at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences, 5th Mile, Tadong, East Sikkim, all set to be inaugurated by Governor Ganga Prasad who is also Chancellor, SMU, on 02 Dec.

The inauguration will be held through virtual mode and will also attended by Chief Minister of Sikkim, PS Tamang as the chief guest and Health Minister, Dr MK Sharma, as guest of honour.

Taking cognizance of the directions of the National Medical Commission (NMC) to all the Medical Colleges to set up Virology Laboratories, the Molecular Laboratory at SMIMS in the Department of Microbiology

was set up which meets the criteria of Biosafety level II laboratory confirming to ISO 15189:2012 standards. The Molecular laboratory has the facility for molecular diagnosis by RT-PCR open system and CBNAAT.

It has been accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for molecular testing for RNA viruses. Based on the recommendation from the mentor institute NEIGRIHMS Shillong, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) gave permission to the lab on 25 Nov to begin RTPCR testing for COVID-19. Till now, the VRD Lab at STNM Hospital was the only lab in the state that was conducting RTPCR tests for COVID-19. With SMIMS now providing testing facilities, one hopes that the number of tests will increase in the state.

## Namchi New Secondary School wins Aatma Nirbhar Namchi entrepreneurship contest



**NAMCHI, 01 DEC [IPR]:**

Under the scheme of Aatma Nirbhar India, a three-day long event, Atma Nirbhar Namchi, was held at Namchi Central Park. A daylong programme in relation with the same event was conducted in the auditorium of Namchi New Secondary School today.

The programme had DC-South, M. Bharani Kumar, as chief guest accompanied by SDM Namchi, Agawane Rohan Ramesh, MEO, Namchi Municipal Council, Lakpa Galypo Sherpa, SHO-Namchi Sameer

Pradhan, Principal of all the three participating schools and other invited guests.

At the onset of the programme, the DC South highlighted salient objectives of Aatma Nirbhar Namchi.

He expressed his gratitude towards principals of all the participating schools, the nodal teachers and students who actively participated and supported the district administration make the scheme more fruitful.

He called on the students to be more creative

in their skills and come up with innovative ideas in the field of entrepreneurship.

He stated that the scheme was to make the students realise their own potential, their creativity to be self-reliant and self-sufficient. He also assured to extend help from his side to students who are willing to set up their own businesses in the future.

SDM Namchi reflected on the idea behind the "Aatma Nirbhar Namchi" and added that the scheme was to make

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## Government never spoke of vaccinating entire country: Union Health Secy

**NEW DELHI, 01 DEC [NDTV]:** The government is not considering vaccinating the entire country as and when a vaccine for coronavirus is approved, Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan indicated today, saying it is a matter of discussion across the world whether people who once contracted coronavirus and have antibodies, are going to need it.

"The government has never spoken about vaccinating the entire country," Mr Bhushan said a day after Prime

Minister Narendra Modi visited the three key facilities that are working on a vaccine. His office said the visit was meant to help him get a "first-hand perspective of the preparations, challenges and roadmap in India's endeavour to vaccinate its citizens".

Decisions are also being made about the logistics of vaccine transportation and distribution and who receives the vaccine first is also under deliberation.

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## India's COVID-19 tally rises to 94.62 lakh; Nov saw over 30 pc decline in cases

**NEW DELHI, DEC 1 (PTI):** India's COVID-19 case-load rose to 94.62 lakh with November registering over 30 per cent decline in both new deaths and cases as compared to October, while total recoveries surged to 88,89,585, according to the Union Health Ministry's data updated on Tuesday.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 94,62,809 with 31,118 new infections, while the death toll climbed to 1,37,621 after 482 more fatalities were reported, the data updated at 8 am showed.

New infections due to COVID-19 started to decline steadily since the first week of October.

A total 12,78,727 cases were reported in November, a decrease from October's 18,71,498, accounting for about 13.51 per cent of the total instances of the viral infection reported in the country so far.

The past month also saw 15,510 lives lost due to the disease, which is just around 11.27 per cent of the total 1,37,621 deaths recorded so far.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 88,89,585, pushing the national recovery rate to 93.94 per cent. The COVID-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.45 per cent.

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## Fit India Dec flagged off with appeal to exercise for half an hour every day



**SAGAR CHHETRI  
GANGTOK, 01 DEC:**

Secretary, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Raju Basnet, today urged people to dedicate at least half an hour towards physical exercise every day to stay fit and strong and called on athletes and sportspersons to motivate their families, friends and neighbours towards this goal.

Exercise, he pointed out boosts immunity and

helps stave diseases.

The Secretary was speaking to athletes as the chief guest during the inaugural function of Fit India Campaign- December 2020 being held on the theme, 'Fitness Ka Dose, Aadha Ghanta Roj' organized by the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs here at Paljor Stadium on Tuesday.

Under this nation-wide campaign, a series of activities will

be conducted throughout the month under Fit India Movement to promote fitness across the country.

The inaugural day included activities under 'Fit India Prabhatpheri' and 'Fit India Cyclothon' here at Paljor Stadium.

The Secretary also informed that the department will soon revive tournaments and competitions in all sports disciplines and urged sportspersons to stay fit and prepare for these tournaments and competitions.

While speaking on Fit India Campaign - December 2020, Deputy Director, CL Rai, informed that under this month-long campaign, a virtual Fit India

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## Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana- Participation of Private Sector and the Way Ahead

**SUDHANSHU PANDEY**

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is the largest risk mitigation program launched by Government of India for providing a protective shield for the farmers from all natural risks in the entire cropping cycle. This scheme is the first in terms of the lowest premium payable by the farmers and the highest value of crop insured. All the general insurance companies registered by IRDAI in the country which have a reasonable rural presence have been empanelled for the implementation of the scheme. Presently all the 5 government companies and 13 private companies registered with Irda are empanelled.

Basic idea for increasing the num-

ber of companies was to leverage their cumulative network in the rural area and to take the advantage of efficiency of private sector in the scheme implementation.

The scheme is in its 5th year of its implementation and has been recently revamped to address the challenges in smooth implementation including

making it voluntary for all farmers and leveraging technology for smooth implementation.

A lot has been said about participation of Private sector companies and insurance companies reaping super normal profits from the scheme. In the first 3 years of scheme implementation

for which complete data is available, the claim ratio at the national level for all the insurance companies combined is 89%. This would mean that for every 100 rupee collected as premium by insurance companies, 89 rupees have been paid as claims by them Insurance companies generally incur a cost of 10-12% for reinsurance and adminis-

trative expenses. Thus insurance companies have barely broken even in the first 3 years in spite of a good monsoon in those years. Any catastrophic risk program should be evaluated at least over a 5-year horizon and at the national (aggregate) level. Arguing that a particular company had higher or lower loss ratio

in a particular season/year is not the right way of looking at performance of the company or of the Scheme.

The Kharif 2019 season was particularly a good season for crop however widespread unseasonal rains damaged the harvested crops leading to substantial claim payout in the states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh where claim ratios were 121% and 213% respectively.

Claims payout to the farmers requires timely sharing of CCE data with the insurance companies by States and the release of the state share of premium subsidy. And in certain instances there has been a delay in sharing of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCE) data / release of state subsidy leading to delay in release of claims to the farmers.

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### VIEWPOINT



## 67th All India Cooperative week celebrated in Namchi

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 01 DEC:**

The 67th All India Cooperative week was celebrated in the playground of Sirisey Dong Basti in Namchi, South Sikkim, today, a press release informs. The program was organized by Department of Cooperation, Namchi, with the theme of 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan,' a scheme started by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, a press release informs.

The chief guest of the program was Chairman of Farmers' Welfare Department, Phurden Lepcha, and the guest of honor was Sikkim Krantikari Morcha South Coordinator, RB Tamang (Captain Jojo). Among those gathered were officials of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department, Horticulture and Agriculture Department, SKM party workers, Dong Basti piggery farming and milk production directors, farmers and producers.

The celebration com-



mittee organized training and awareness on piggery farming in the program with the first annual general meeting of Dong Piggery Producer's Cooperative Society, alongside the fifth annual general meeting of Dong Milk Producers Cooperative Society and bonus distribution to the producers.

Manager of Namchi MPCS, NB Rai spoke on the importance of the Cooperative Movement in the state, while the IRCS of Cooperation Department of Namchi, DR Sharma addressed the gathering on the importance of Cooperative Society for Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Additional Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Service Department, Namchi, spoke on different aspects of piggery farming.

During the technical session, annual progress report, audit report and plan of milk production of Dong Basti was presented by the Milk PCS Ltd. Dong, president Dewan Rai and the auditor of Cooperation Department, Hari Bhattarai.

Sikkim Milk DGM, Nilkamal Pradhan also addressed the gathering following which bonus was distributed to dairy farmers. The event also saw the constitution of the board of directors for Dong Piggery PCS.

### India's COVID-19...

The active COVID-19 caseload remained below five lakh for the 21th consecutive day.

There are 4,35,603 active cases in the country which comprise 4.60 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5.

It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 760 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, and surpassed 90 lakh on November 20.

According to the ICMR, 714,13, 49,298 samples have been tested so far with 9,69,332 samples being tested on Monday.

The 482 new fatalities include 108 from Delhi, 80 from Maharashtra, 748 from West Bengal, 27 each from Hary-

### Namchi New...

students learn about the value and power of team work, basic accounting, maintaining bills for expenses and daily revenue, and above all maintaining healthy competition between each other.

He encouraged students to polish their hidden talents and skills to make themselves successful.

Furthermore, NYC Muskan Rai, informed about the morning session during which VOICE, in collaboration with DC-South, SDM Namchi, MEO, NYK-Namchi, had undertaken "Clean Village, Dream Village" initiative and held a workshop on "Plastic Waste Management".

Later, Pratiksha Pradhan, Ghyamcho Bhutia and Basant Rai of Namchi Girls' Senior Secondary School, Namchi Senior Secondary School and Namchi New Secondary school respectively

### Pradhan Mantri...

There has criticism of low claim ratios and profits earned by insurance companies including private insurance companies based on incomplete data which leads to unfounded criticism of the scheme. Later when the complete data for the season was available, the claim ratio went up substantially. To address the problem of gaps in data in the public domain Agriculture Ministry has been releasing the season wise data every month to ensure that experts can do analysis of the performance of the scheme on the basis of the most recent data.

On analysing data for Public and Private Insurers for the period of three years (2016-17 to 2018-19) for which majority of the data has been received, claim ratio stands at 98.5% and 80.3% for Public and private companies respectively. For kharif 2019, as CCE data has not been received from states of Gujarat, Jharkhand and Karnataka and Rabi 2019-20 data is pending from half a dozen states, final claim ratio for all companies including private companies for 2019-20 is bound to increase significantly on receipt of pending data.

In the revamped Scheme effective from kharif 2020 provision has been

ana and Punjab, 21 each from Chhattisgarh and Kerala and 20 each from Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Total 1,37,621 deaths reported so far in the country include 47,151 from Maharashtra followed by 11,778 from Karnataka, 11,712 from Tamil Nadu, 9,174 from Delhi, 78,424 from West Bengal, 7,761 from Uttar Pradesh, 6,992 from Andhra Pradesh, 74,807 from Punjab, 3,989 from Gujarat and 3,260 from Madhya Pradesh.

The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

shared their experience.

They extended gratitude towards the South District Administration and Nehru Yuva Kendra for providing them a platform where they could explore new things and realize their talents and potential.

The programmes concluded with certificates and prize distributions.

The winner was declared based on profit earned during the three-day event. The initial amount was invested by the student themselves. The prizes were sponsored by restaurants and cafes from in and around Namchi. Namchi New Secondary School, with a profit of Rs 13,527, won the competition while Namchi Girls Senior Secondary School and Namchi Senior Secondary School stood second and third with profits of Rs 10,142 and Rs 5,772 respectively.

made to allocate work to Insurance Companies for a period of three years which will average out any volatility in terms of high/low claim ratio seasons and will act as an ideal period for the analysis of scheme in terms of claims paid by insurance companies with respect to premium collected.

The primary driver of premiums is the unavailability of historical yield data at granular level and discrepancies on account of human errors in computation /calculation and recording of yield data. Technology based yield estimation through a robust arithmetical model incorporating Satellite imagery, gridded weather data and soil moisture data can go a long way in moderating the premium rates and stabilising the scheme implementation.

Agriculture Ministry has initiated large scale prominent Government, International and private technical agencies and it is expected that a technology based protocol for yield estimation would be in place in next 1 to 2 years. That would lead to a paradigm shift in implementation of crop insurance schemes and would meet the needs of small holder farmers in the long run. (PIB)

## Lingi Payong School awards winners of virtual dance competition

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 01 DEC:**

The much awaited prize distribution cum felicitation programme of virtual solo Nepali folk dance competition 2020 was organised by School Managing Committee of Lingi Payong Senior Secondary School in the school premises on Sunday, a press release informs.

The programme was attended by Sikkim Krantikari Morcha Area In-Charge, Samdup Tsering Bhutia, as chief guest and Chairman, Land Use and Environment, Tshering Dorjee Lepcha, as the guest of honour.

The programme witnessed felicitation of the guests, sponsors, media and technical persons along with awarding the winners of each category with trophies, cash prize and framed certificates. Hema Maley, Bhumi Guragain and Rinchen Lepcha were awarded with the prizes in senior category whereas Anisha Ghimirey, Anisha Limboo and Nitisha Thapa were awarded in junior category.

Similarly, Ayushi Sunjel, Arushi Gautam and Dawchen Lepcha were awarded with the prizes in sub junior category. Consolation prize was also given to Pritika Rai, Aradhna Chhetri and Meliyana Rai who stood fourth in the



competition.

Premlata Sharma from Raley was awarded for winning Main Bhi Winner Contest by predicting the correct winners in each category. Some of the participants mesmerized the gathering with their scintillating dance performance.

The chief guest and guest of honour congratulated the SMC and school family for organising the competition and providing a platform to the students. RB Chhetri, M L Koirala and TB Chhetri also spoke on the occasion and expressed their happiness and satisfaction over the whole competition.

ML Koirala also gave away gift hampers to the first winner in each category and to Arushi Gautam (Sub Junior) for securing maximum number of social media votes during the competition.

The programme was organised under the ae-

gis of SMC, Lingi Payong SS with active leadership of GN Koirala, Rajendra Dhakal, Bhumi Gautam, NK Khatiwara along with the support from other members, teaching and non teaching staff of LPSS.

On the sidelines of the programme, Headmaster, Suraj Kumar Sharma was felicitated by the Alumni Association of the school for his contribution towards bringing in positive changes in the school and bridging the gap between school, community and alumni for school development.

Also present on the occasion were judges of the competition Meena Gautam, Kalpana Tamang, Deepak Dhakal, Principal Samdong SSS, ML Koirala, RB Chhetri, Bhim Prasad Adhikari, TB Chhetri, Rakesh Pandey, Damber Dahal, Homnath Dabari, Lalit Timisina, Rupesh Gautam as special guests.

## Fit India Movement starts at Namchi

**NAMCHI, 01 DEC (IPR):** Fit India Movement was launched at Singhithang ground in Namchi today. The event was organized by Sports and Youth Affairs Department had the presence of Deputy Director (South), Tshering Ongmu, Coaches, students and staff from the concerned department.

It may be mentioned that the Fit India Movement will be observed in all the blocks of South District.

Addressing the gathering Deputy Director, Tshering Ongmu briefed the participants regarding the Fit India Movement which is a nation-wide campaign to encourage people to remain healthy and fit by including physical activities and sports in their daily lives. She added that this year the second edition of this movement will start from today onwards and will be concluded on 31 December. Some of the activities that will be carried out under this movement are Fit India quiz, Fit India cyclothon, Fit India prabhatheri and many more. Moreover, she also highlighted that since the threat of COVID-19 is still looming large, she asked for the contestants along with other stakeholders to observe the safety protocol laid by the State Government to protect themselves from the virus.

Minister Kharel also inaugurated Adhyan Coaching Centre in Namthang for classes 9 to 12. The release mentions that special support is being provided by the Minister to the students, teachers and the coaching institute.

Minister Kharel also visited he house of Late Bal Bahadur Gurung of Purbing Dobhan Gram Panchayat Samiti who was the SKM CLC general secretary. Later, the Gladiator Fitness Gym was also inaugurated which was attended by Political Secretary to CM, Jacob Khaling as the chief guest along with Minister, Sanjit Kharel.

Mr Khaling talked about the importance of staying fit while Mr Kharel discussed the role of the state government in keeping everyone healthy.

The Minister also visited Kabrey Secondary School and inspected the school.

## Minister provides vehicles to SKM youth



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 01 DEC:**

Rateypani Namthang RMLA cum Minister, Sanjeet Kharel presented three vehicles to Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party's youth of the area today through Office Secretary, Naresh Subba, SKM Youth Convener, Birbal Dilpali and SKM CLC president, Ratna Singh Tamang. Vehicles will also be provided to Nari Shakti in the near future, a press release informs.

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ing institute.

Mr Kharel also visited he house of Late Bal Bahadur Gurung of Purbing Dobhan Gram Panchayat Samiti who was the SKM CLC general secretary. Later, the Gladiator Fitness Gym was also inaugurated which was attended by Political Secretary to CM, Jacob Khaling as the chief guest along with Minister, Sanjit Kharel.

Mr Khaling talked about the importance of staying fit while Mr Kharel discussed the role of the state government in keeping everyone healthy.

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### Government never...

Mr Bhushan, at a press meet today, clarified that the goal is to work towards a critical mass of vaccinated people that would break the chain of transmission.

The national expert group on vaccine administration headed by Dr VK Paul has given a mandate one of which mentions that it is not necessary to vaccinate those with already formed antibodies, Mr Bhushan said.

Dr Balram Bhargava, the chief of Indian Council of Medical Research, the country's nodal organisation for the battle against COVID-19, agreed. "If we are able to vaccinate critical mass of people and break the virus transmission, then we may not have to vaccinate the entire population".

"Many other nations are looking into whether they need to deliberate when one has already developed antibodies from a prior covid infection before vaccinating him. Does he have enough antibodies? There has been no final decision on this. But this is a topic of discussion among scientific community and other nations," Mr Bhushan said.

### Fit India Dec...

thematic campaign has been launched to promote the campaign on digital platforms and that fitness assessment through Fit India App will also be launched soon.

Fit India School Week and Fit India Quiz are some of the activities planned for the month.

Under the campaign, the department will also organize Fit India Prabhatheri on the theme 'Fitness Ka Dose, Aadha Ghanta Roj' and cycling events under 'Fit India Cyclothon'.

Mr Rai informed that under the campaign various activities would be conducted in all four districts and 32 BACs.

The inaugural function was also attended by Additional Director, Doma Tshering and other officials of Sports & Youth Affairs Department and coaches of different sports disciplines.

### LOST

I, Shristee Chettri, student of St. Joseph's School, Rhenock, East Sikkim, Bearing **Index No. 1185550/001** have lost my ICSE Migration Certificate of session 2018. If found kindly contact: **9365997684**.

### LOST

I, Anushika Thakuri, student of St. Joseph's School, Rhenock, East Sikkim, Bearing **Index No. 119562/007** have lost my ICSE Migration Certificate of the year 2019. If found kindly contact: **8001716995**.

### LOST

I, Yangkila Bhutia, student of St. Joseph's School, Rhenock, East Sikkim, Bearing **Index No. 119562/024** have lost my ICSE Migration Certificate **MC: 1649980** of the year 2019. If found kindly contact: **9547092369**.

### LOST

I, Tshering Zangmoo Bhutia, d/o Shri. Passang Tshering Bhutia and Smt. Phechim Bhutia, student of Government Sr. Sec. School, Ravangla, South Sikkim have lost my AISSE (Class XII) Migration Certificate bearing Roll No. 16640221.

## ~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

### LAND FOR SALE

Two plots available – 30X40 sq ft and 50X30 sq ft Junkeri Dara, Samlik Marchak

Price negotiable

Contact : 6296366498,  
9641878315, 9593262407

### LAND FOR SALE

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

### LAND FOR SALE

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

### FOR RENT

Two and half storeyed (1st to 3rd floor) complex is available for rent in the heart of Ranipool Baazar (Opposite UCO Bank). The building area is 35'x60' appx. in each floor and is fit for offices, shopping complexes, guest houses, banks etc. Contact: 8509755220, 8348007688.

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land sale at Lower Sichey, suitable for construction, good locality, near the road, Total size: 90x55ft, (30x55ft each plot ). genuine person may contact@9734122366.

### Building for sale

A two storey building constructed on plot area 50x40 ft. Situated at Upper Phong near Phong SS, South Sikkim is on sale. Cost Rs 60 Lakhs (Negotiable ). Interested may contact : 8145829309, 7864937800, 9749897695.

### MISSING



**SUNG TSHERING LEPCHA** son of **NIMA LEPCHA** age **16** height **5ft 7inc** red hair wearing black jacket grey track pant and grey slippers missing from Ravangla lal bazar near Church.

**Missing since 29th November morning 8:30am from Ravangla.**

*If seen kindly contact: 8372077482 or please infrom nearest Police Station*

**HAVE A  
STORY TO  
SHARE?**  
email us: [news@summittimes.com](mailto:news@summittimes.com)



## PIB Gangtok gets new Director

**Gangtok, 01 Dec (PIB):** A senior officer of Indian Information Service (IIS), Ajay Mhamia has taken over as the Director (Media & Communication) at PIB Gangtok today.

Prior to his posting at PIB, Gangtok, Mr Mhamia was working in the same capacity with PIB Kolkata. An IIS officer of the 1991-batch, Mr Mhamia has served the various media units of the Union Information & Broadcasting Ministry. These include Regional News Units of All India Radio Agartala and Kolkata, DAVP, PIB and Central Board of Film Certification.

## Vietnam reports 1st local infection in 89 days

**HANOI, DEC 1 (AP):** Vietnamese authorities are conducting intensive contact tracing after discovering the country's first confirmed local transmission of the coronavirus in 89 days.

State media said Tuesday that a 32-year-old man in Ho Chi Minh City tested positive for the coronavirus on Monday after visiting a flight attendant who was undergoing self-quarantine at his home following his return from Japan two weeks ago.

The flight attendant tested positive on Saturday, the Tuoi Tre newspaper said.

Health authorities ordered 137 people who had been in close contact with the man to stay in a central quarantine facility and shut down an English center where he works as a teacher, the newspaper said.

The new case ended Vietnam's streak of 89 days without any known local transmission of the virus.

Earlier, it went 99 days without local transmissions until a cluster of cases broke out at a hospital in Da Nang in central Vietnam in July.

Vietnam's borders remain closed in an attempt to keep out the virus. Only limited international flights are operating to repatriate Vietnamese nationals and transport foreign diplomats and experts.

The country has reported 1,347 coronavirus cases, including 35 deaths. Nearly half of the confirmed cases were imported, according to the Health Ministry.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region: Coronavirus quarantine restrictions will continue in the Philippine capital during the Christmas season in Asia's largest Roman Catholic nation.

President Rodrigo Duterte said in televised remarks late Monday that the general community quarantine will continue during December in Metropolitan Manila and seven other cities and provinces.

The restrictions ban large public gatherings, in-person school classes and entertainment businesses, but allow shopping malls, restaurants and essential stores, including barbershops, to operate with required safeguards.

## Chandmari United Sporting Club announces Losoong/ Namsoong Futsal Tournament

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 01 DEC:**

Chandmari United Sporting Club has announced plans to organize "Losoong/ Namsoong Futsal Tournament 2020" in the second week of December here at Fitnest Futsal Arena, Chandmari.

The tournament will be dedicated to the memory of football legend Diego Armando Maradona and late Phigu Bhutia of Chandmari to pay homage to their contributions towards the promotion and development of football and for inspiring generations towards the sport.

CUSC was formed in the year 2015 and has been organizing sporting events and social activities in the area.

Addressing a press conference here this evening, CUSC spokesperson, Tsewang Norbu Bhutia, detailed that the four-a-side futsal tournament will tentatively begin on 12 December.



He mentioned that the club decided to dedicate the tournament to Maradona and decided that the best homage would be to organize a celebration of the sport.

He added that the tournament will also celebrate the memory of late Phigu Bhutia of Chandmari, who was popularly known as Agya Phigu, who, even though he never touched a football in his life, played a substantial role in the promotion and development of football in the State and in bringing out

quality footballers in the State.

CUSC interim president, Sonam D Wangchuk added that an objective of the tournament was also to help people alleviate the mental stress they must have been during this pandemic time and also add a dash of sporting activity to the festive season.

While speaking on technical aspects, CUSC technical director, Thupden Rapgyal, informed that this was four-a-side futsal tournament to be played in open and veteran categories.

Teams in the open category will be allowed seven players, while veteran teams will have eight players along with one coach and a manager.

The tournament carries a cash prize of Rs 40,000 for the winning team and Rs 20,000 for runners-up in the open category. Entry forms are available at Fitnest Futsal Arena, Chandmari and the organizers have fixed Rs 3500 as the entry fee.

The press conference was also addressed by CUSC member, Rinzing Wangyal Chopel.

## Clean Village, Green Village program at Namchi

**BIKASH CHETTRI**  
**NAMCHI, 01 DEC:**

An environmental awareness program titled 'Clean Village, Green Village' was organized today in Namchi, South Sikkim by the Voice Team in support of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Namchi with the students of classes IX and X from three schools of Namchi. District Collector South, M. Bharani Kumar was the chief guest of the program.

The program also included the closing ceremony of the three-day Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan - Young Entrepreneurs of Namchi program.

District youth coordinator of NYK, Muskan Rai, SDM Namchi, Agawane Roshan Ramesh and DC South, Mr Kumar



addressed the gathering. Following this, certificates and prizes were distributed to the participants and winners.

Namchi New Secondary School stood first in the entrepreneurship competition followed by Namchi Girls Senior Secondary School in second place and Namchi Senior Secondary School in third place.

Namchi Rosegarden, Kava Cafe, and Crumbs & Whips had sponsored the

gift vouchers and hampers for the winners.

Mementos were presented MEO Namchi Municipal Corporation, Lakpa Gyalsmo, SHO Namchi Police Station, Sameer Pradhan, Fire Department, Power Department and the Voice Team by Nehru Yuva Kendra, Namchi.

The chief guest, DC South, Mr Kumar in his speech congratulated the participants for their confidence and creativity.

Chief coordinator of Voice Team, Sanjay Rai in his digital presentation on the achievements of the team challenged the gathered representatives, administrators and police personnel to "a ten year challenge, 2020-30" towards preserving the environment.

Our biggest achievement lies in making individuals, collectors of their own waste especially plastic and electronic waste, he said.

## Reetika Chettri is Femina Miss India Sikkim 2020

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 01 DEC:**

Reetika Chettri got past four of her competitors to enter the grand finale of the national beauty pageant Femina Miss India 2020; she represents Sikkim at the national stage. Ms Chettri is among the Top 31 finalists giving the best for the coveted title of Femina Miss India 2020 to be held at Mumbai, this coming February 2021.

Positude, the event planner for Miss Sikkim, congratulated Reetika for being so balanced and focused throughout.

"Enjoy your success. Words can't express how proud Positude is!" the Positude team said.

The event planner has further announced the dates of the much anticipated Miss Sikkim 2020 (06 Dec, 2020) and Miss & Mr Teen Sikkim 2020 (05 Dec, 2020).

Speaking about Sikkim's most exciting and glamorous beauty pageant, Positude CEO, Gyurmila Bhutia, informed that they are expecting participants from different corners of the state.



ent corners of the state.

"We want to engage and empower our local talents. Through these competitions our participants will learn different aspects of grooming opportunities," added Bhutia.

Youngsters between 13-19 years and 18-27

years can participate in Mr & Miss Sikkim Teen and Miss Sikkim pageant competitions, respectively. The venue of both auditions is Pitstop, Pani House, Tenzing & Tenzing Building Ground, Gangtok, said Bijay Subba, Proprietor, Positude.

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**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**  
**WEST DISTRICT ZILLA PANCHAYAT**  
**Zilla Panchayat Bhawan**  
**Gyalshing, West Sikkim**



No: 283/WDZP

Dated: 26/11/2020

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited from interested persons/parties for renting/leasing out the below mentioned property of West District Zilla Panchayat, Gyalshing.

| Sl. No. | Property            | Address                  | Base lease value  |
|---------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1       | Zilla Guest House   | Kyongsas, Gyalshing      | Rs. 30,000/- p.m. |
| 2       | Cafeteria at Sikkip | Legship-Jorethag Highway | Rs. 10,622/- p.m. |

The terms and condition of tender are as follows:

- The tender form may be obtained from this office on production of **Deposit Receipt of Rs. 250/- from the HDFC bank, Gyalshing deposited in the A/c No. 50100359380391** for the cost of tender from during office hours. The tender received without TDR shall not be accepted.
- The tender duly accompanied by temporary deposit of Rs. 1,000/- (Rupees One Thousand) only each refundable as security deposit from State Bank of Sikkim in favour of Accounts Officer, West District Zilla Panchayat should reach the office of the undersigned on or before **10.12.2020 from 10 AM to 12 NOON.**
- The bids shall be opened at 2 PM** the same day in the office of the undersigned in presence of the bidders. The bidders have to abide by the terms and conditions laid down in the bid form.
- The successful bidders shall deposit the full amount of one (01) year in **Advance in HDFC Bank, Gyalshing in favour of West District Zilla Panchayat, Gyalshing in A/c No. 50100359380391.**
- Interested parties can inspect the above property on or before **10.12.2020** with the permission of the undersigned during office hours.
- The tender should be accompanied by valid trade license, COI/RC documents to be eligible.
- Quotation below base lease value will not be entertained.

**Upa-Sachiva cum District Planning Officer**  
**West District Zilla Panchayat**  
**Gyalshing, West Sikkim**



What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

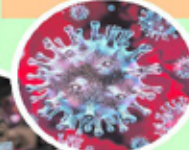
The Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) is new strain of Coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China. Notorious for mutating quickly and acquiring new qualities, it is a rising epidemic that was previously not identified in humans.

#### Symptoms of nCoV

- Fever
- Difficulty in breathing
- Dry Cough
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome
- Pneumonia - like symptoms

#### Treatment

- Treatment is symptomatic and supportive, based on the patient's clinical condition.
- No vaccinations available as of now
- Visit Doctor in case symptoms detected



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



## Self Determination

*Encourage involvement, even force-feed it to nourish democracy*

If one were to take the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny as the beginning of Indian revolt against British rule and aspiration for self determination, then it took the nation ninety years of struggle to achieve it. Compared to that, Sikkim's democratic aspirations were realised much faster. Barely three years of struggle in the final push saw it get incorporated into the Indian democratic institution. Yes, there is the whole merger/ annexation debate, but maybe more on that some other time.

As for democracy, it was perhaps in disbelief of the ease with which it came about that even though more than four decades have passed since, one still hears whispers that the democracy sown in 1975 is yet to get institutionalized or become an instinctive condition. If this is true, then either the democratic institution itself is flawed or the Sikkimese have still not realised what self-expression is all about. Forty-five years is after all a long time to get used to something. Of course, neither of these contentions is entirely true. The Sikkimese electorate did after all elect nine governments and displace three in the ballot when it got the chance and felt the need. Politics is hotly debated in the villages and concerns, whether justified or unfounded, are voiced openly, and often even belligerently. The size of the ruling and Opposition benches in their original composition after each election is also something that should excite political observers. A majority of the elections – besides the aberrations of 1989, 2004 and 2009 – have sent relatively evenly balanced Assemblies to five-year-terms in Sikkim. An absolute majority for one party has almost always been balanced by a reasonable Opposition.

How this composition changed midterm ever so often is there for all to see. If anyone has failed democracy, it has to be the leaders, one would surmise. Sikkimese democracy could have been even more vibrant had floor-crossing not started with the first democratically elected Assembly in 1979 itself. That set the trend and from then onwards, it became a routine which continues to this day. A contributing factor to this has been the involvement of the State Government in all spheres of activity – developmental, social and day-to-day. Belonging to the Opposition cut-off constituencies from the developmental loop [or at least put the fear of getting cut off]. Realignments were forced almost as soon as the election verdict was declared and was facilitated further by the general lack of ideology among the politicians. Politics in Sikkim came to mean about being in 'power'. While every politician should aspire to be in office, they should be held accountable for the means they adopt towards that end. That said, floor-crossing is not something that can be banned either, because there can be valid and important reasons prompting it. That should be the aspect that is highlighted in more detail than the established routine of superficial explanations and excuses. If this is done, it reflects a semblance of respect for the electorate because in its absence, the decision becomes a unilateral one, something which a public representative should not be imposing on the people. But then, these are days of unilateral diktats with Delhi itself setting the tone. That does not excuse it though, and democracy in Sikkim would be served well if its leaders explained themselves in proper detail more often than the appeals/ claims they make of being earnest.

It would also help India and its leaders and Sikkim and its leaders if the government started reducing its role in the public domain. The leaders are there to frame policies, not run our lives. But they do so increasingly and have now taken the involvement to new levels of control with the powers usurped in the name of COVID-19. What the State should do more consciously, especially in the wake of a change in government and unprecedented challenges, is to make decentralization more genuine. Devolution of power to the panchayats will make governance more intimate and accountable. Start from there because it is an already promised by policy commitment and then ensure that all social, community, sports, school and whatever other collective has a formal association, hold proper elections. Discourage the practice of unopposed elections because while that might work well to "keep things together" they compromise democratic expression, and that has to be an involvement which is force-fed at every level or democracy will end up malnourished.

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# By declaring a climate emergency Jacinda Ardern needs to inspire hope, not fear

DAVID HALL, RAVEN CRETNEY & SYLVIA NISSEN  
*theconversation.com*

There is no question that we must act, and act fast, on climate change. This week's climate emergency declaration by the New Zealand government acknowledges the urgency of the climate crisis and the need to collectively confront it.

But a declaration is not the same as action. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has been frank that the declaration is a symbolic gesture: "It's what we invest in and it's the laws that we pass that make the big difference."

In saying this, she echoes the sentiments of some local councils during the first wave of climate emergency declarations in mid-2019.

For all that, it is wrong to imagine a declaration will make no difference at all. Language has power. Words like "emergency" have an impact in the real world, especially when endorsed by political leaders.

Political language frames how we interact with one another and the planet, and how we imagine our collective future. In that respect, the consequences of such emergency declarations — with their attendant sense of panic and fear — remain unsettlingly vague.

### WHAT DOES 'EMERGENCY' MEAN?

On one hand, a declaration is a way for campaigners to hold the government to account. For the young people in the School Strike 4 Climate movement who made an emergency declaration a key demand, it may prove a moment of inspiration and empowerment.

If it is taken as a sign that social movements can effect political change, reset the agenda and compel governments to listen, the declaration could embolden efforts to hold the government to its word — and to implement the laws and investments that will deliver emission reductions and adaptation to climate risks.

On the other hand, the politics of emergency come with baggage, established in precedent and law, by which ordinary political processes are suspended to expand state power.

### AN UNSETTLING LEGACY

It's important to recognise that this notion of

emergency politics, like the idea of climate emergency declarations, was imported to Aotearoa New Zealand. It is another example of New Zealand's "fast follower" approach to climate policy.

The low-emissions transition has accelerated under Ardern, but largely by way of policy transfer from the UK and EU, not by homegrown innovation. The climate emergency concept made a parallel journey via



social movements such as Extinction Rebellion.

Yet the state's emergency footing, where ends justify extraordinary means, is inherently problematic in the context of recent colonial history. Legislation such as the Public Works Act, for example, empowered the Crown to compulsorily acquire land for infrastructure development — land often owned by Māori.

A climate emergency might only be symbolic, but its language carries this legacy of alienation and disenfranchisement. Moreover, it risks reviving those imperialist tendencies, by treating processes of consultation and consent as impediments to urgent action.

### WHERE DOES DEMOCRACY FIT?

Emergency is also risky to democracy, especially when the crisis is not temporary but long-lasting, as the climate crisis is. Although many climate campaigners prioritise justice and equity as essential to the low-emis-

# Conflict between Tigray and Eritrea – the long standing faultline in Ethiopian politics

RICHARD REID  
*theconversation.com*

The missile attack by the Tigray People's Liberation Front on Eritrea in mid-November transformed an internal Ethiopian crisis into a transnational one. In the midst of escalating internal conflict between Ethiopia's northernmost province, Tigray, and the federal government, it was a stark reminder of a historical rivalry that continues to shape and reshape Ethiopia.

The rivalry between the Tigray People's Liberation Front and the movement which has governed Eritrea in all but name for the past 30 years – the Eritrean People's Liberation Front – goes back several decades.

The histories of Eritrea and Ethiopia have long been closely intertwined. This is especially true of Tigray and central Eritrea. These territories occupy the central massif of the Horn of Africa. Tigrinya-speakers are the predominant ethnic group in both Tigray and in the adjacent Eritrean highlands.

The enmity between the Tigray People's Liberation Front and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front dates to the mid-1970s, when the Tigrayan front was founded in the midst of political turmoil in Ethiopia. The authoritarian Marxist regime – known as the Derg (Amharic for 'committee') – inflicted violence upon millions of its own citizens. It was soon confronted with a range of armed insurgencies and socio-political movements. These included Tigray and Eritrea, where the resistance was most ferocious.

The Tigrayan front was at first close to the Eritrean front, which had been founded in 1970 to fight for independence from Ethiopia. Indeed, the Eritreans helped train some of the first Tigrayan recruits in 1975-6, in their shared struggle against Ethiopian government forces for social revolution and the right to self-determination.

But in the midst of the war against the Derg regime, the relationship quickly soured over ethnic and national identity. There were also differences over the demarcation of borders, military tactics and ideology. The Tigrayan front eventu-

ally recognised the Eritreans' right to self-determination, if grudgingly, and resolved to fight for the liberation of all Ethiopian peoples from the tyranny of the Derg regime.

Each achieved seminal victories in the late 1980s. Together the Tigrayan-led Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front and the Eritrean front overthrew the Derg in May 1991. The Tigrayan-led front formed government in Addis Ababa while the Eritrean front liberated Eritrea which became an independent state.

But this was just the start of a new phase of a deep-rooted rivalry. This continued between the governments until the recent entry of prime minister Abiy Ahmed.

If there's any lesson to be learnt from years of military and political manoeuvrings, it is that conflict in Tigray is unavoidably a matter of intense interest to the Eritrean leadership. And Abiy would do well to remember that conflict between Eritrea and Tigray has long represented a destabilising fault line for Ethiopia as well as for the wider region.

### RECONCILIATION AND NEW BEGINNINGS

In the early 1990s, there was much talk of reconciliation and new beginnings between Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia and Isaias Afewerki of Eritrea. The two governments signed a range of agreements on economic cooperation, defence and citizenship. It seemed as though the enmity of the liberation war was behind them.

Meles declared as much at the 1993 Eritrean independence celebrations, at which he was a notable guest.

But deep-rooted tensions soon resurfaced. In the course of 1997, unresolved border disputes were exacerbated by Eritrea's introduction of a new currency. This had been anticipated in a 1993 economic agreement. But in the event Tigrayan traders often refused to recognise it, and it caused a collapse in commerce.

Full-scale war erupted over the contested border hamlet of Badme in May 1998. The fighting swiftly spread to other stretches of the shared, 1,000 km long frontier. Air strikes were launched on both sides.

It was quickly clear, too, that this was only superficially about borders.

It was more substantively about regional power and long standing antagonisms that ran along ethnic lines.

The Eritrean government's indignant anti-Tigray front rhetoric had its echo in the popular contempt for so-called Agame, the term Eritreans used for Tigrayan migrant labourers.

For the Tigray front, the Eritrean front was the clearest expression of perceived Eritrean arrogance.

As for Isaias himself, regarded as a crazed warlord who had led Eritrea down a path which defied economic and political logic, it was hubris personified.

Ethiopia deported tens of thousands of Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean descent.

Ethiopia's decisive final offensive in May 2000 forced the Eritrean army to fall back deep into their own territory. Although the Ethiopians were halted, and a ceasefire put in place after bitter fighting on a number of fronts, Eritrea had been devastated by the conflict.

The Algiers Agreement of December 2000 was followed by years of standoff, occasional skirmishes, and the periodic exchange of insults.

During this period Ethiopia consolidated its position as a dominant power in the region. And Meles as one of the continent's representatives on the global stage.

For its part Eritrea retreated into a militaristic, authoritarian solipsism. Its domestic policy centred on open-ended national service for the young. Its foreign policy was largely concerned with undermining the Ethiopian government across the region. This was most obvious in Somalia, where its alleged support for al-Shabaab led to the imposition of sanctions on Asmara.

The 'no war-no peace' scenario continued even after Meles's sudden death in 2012. The situation only began to shift with the resignation of Hailemariam Desalegn against a backdrop of mounting protest across Ethiopia, especially among the Oromo and the Amhara, and the rise to power of Abiy.

What followed was the effective overthrow of the Tigray People's Liberation Front which had been the dominant force in the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front

sions transition, others treat democracy as a barrier to climate action rather than a vehicle for it.

The emergency response to the Christchurch earthquakes is a case in point. Limiting civic participation in the rebuild led to public ambivalence over the results, which were too often determined by the interests of the state rather than the aspirations of local communities.

Of course, it isn't inevitable any tyrannical urges will be unleashed. Arguably, the meaning of climate emergency is still to be determined. From one angle, it is a blank page, an empty signifier, which means nothing in particular.

But the flipside is that the term has a surplus of meaning — that is, it means many things to many people. Some of these meanings are not easily dismissed, including those that conflict with justice.

### THE LONG EMERGENCY

Campaigners for a climate emergency will continue to use this language to ratchet up ambition, but they should be aware of these tensions. If a climate emergency is to be compatible with other ideals like democracy and decolonisation, then it must be fought for on those terms.

For example, the School Strike 4 Climate demands a climate emergency declaration must "uphold our democratic values and obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi".

If climate change is an emergency, it is a "long emergency". It has taken decades, even centuries, to create — and will take comparable timeframes to undo. It requires us to reimagine the structures of our societies, cities, economies and our politics.

If Aotearoa New Zealand is to shift from being a follower to a leader or pioneer in climate governance, it must involve local knowledge, especially Māori knowledge and leadership, to respond in ways that reflect our local circumstances.

If action is to be sustained over years and decades, it requires behaviour that springs from hope, not fear.

*[David Hall is Senior Researcher in Politics, Auckland University of Technology; Raven Cretney is Postdoctoral fellow, University of Waikato; Sylvia Nissen is Senior Lecturer in Environmental Policy, Lincoln University]*

coalition since 1991.

This provided Isaias with a clear incentive to respond to Abiy's overtures.

### TIGRAY'S LOSS, ERITREA'S GAIN

A peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea, was signed in July 2018 by Abiy and Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki. It formally ended their 1998-2000 war. It also sealed the marginalisation of the Tigray People's Liberation Front. Many in the Tigray People's Liberation Front were unenthusiastic about allowing Isaias in from the cold.

Since the 1998-2000 war, in large part thanks to the astute manoeuvres of the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, Eritrea had been exactly where the Tigray People's Liberation Front wanted it: an isolated pariah state with little diplomatic clout. Indeed, it is unlikely that Isaias would have been as receptive to the deal had it not involved the further sidelining of the Tigray People's Liberation Front, something which Abiy presumably understood.

Isaias had eschewed the possibility of talks with Abiy's predecessor, Hailemariam Desalegn. But Abiy was a different matter. A political reformer, and a member of the largest but long-subjugated ethnic group in Ethiopia, the Oromo, he was determined to end the Tigray People's Liberation Front's domination of Ethiopian politics.

This was effectively achieved in December 2019 when he abolished the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front and replaced it with the Prosperity Party.

The Tigray People's Liberation Front declined to join with the visible results of the current conflict.

Every effort to engage with the Tigrayan leadership – including the Tigray People's Liberation Front – in pursuit of a peaceful resolution must also mean keeping Eritrea out of the conflict.

Unless Isaias is willing to play a constructive role – he does not have a good track record anywhere in the region in this regard – he must be kept at arm's length, not least to protect the 2018 peace agreement itself.

*[the writer is Professor of African History, St Cross College, University of Oxford]*



# Fulham overcome penalty woes to inflict surprise defeat on Leicester



**LEICESTER, 01 DEC (REUTERS):** Fulham fixed their penalty jinx as Ivan Cavaleiro's spot kick eased them out of the relegation zone with a shock 2-1 win at high-flying Leicester City in the Premier League on Monday.

Scott Parker's struggling side were leading thanks to Ademola Lookman's well-taken 30th minute opener before Cavaleiro beat Kasper Schmeichel from 12 yards.

There was huge relief on the Fulham bench when Cavaleiro netted as the London side

had failed to convert their last three Premier League penalties.

Cavaleiro had missed in their last game against Everton while in the game before that Lookman inexplicably attempted a 'Panenka' penalty against West Ham United -- his embarrassing miss costing his team a point.

Leicester squandered their chance to join league leaders Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool on 21 points in a disappointing display, although an 86th-minute effort by Harvey Barnes

set up a tense finale. Fulham rode their luck in stoppage time as they held out for their second win of the season to climb to 17th place with seven points from 10 matches.

Things might have been different for Leicester had they not been denied by the woodwork twice in the space of seconds early on when Youri Tielemans's volley struck the post before Wesley Fofana thumped the rebound against the crossbar.

Fulham made the most of their luck to take the lead with a superb

counter-attacking goal.

Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa surged forward over the halfway line and slid the perfect pass through to Lookman who showed great composure to guide his shot past Schmeichel.

Lookman celebrated by going to the side of the pitch and raising a Senegal shirt of former Fulham player Papa Boupa Diop who died, aged 42, at the weekend.

Six minutes later Christian Fuchs clipped Bobby Decordova-Reid in the area and after a VAR check a penalty

was awarded. Cavaleiro strode up and planted his kick high past Schmeichel who had no doubt reminded the Fulham man of his side's recent pathetic record from the spot.

"I was very pleased and relieved for Cav (Ivan Cavaleiro) that he scored. We've missed some big penalties and it's cost us some big points but we've scrutinised everything possible and I'm pleased it worked today," Parker said.

Leicester laboured to try and open up Fulham's defence after the break but Lookman could have avoided any late nerves when he fired a great chance at Schmeichel.

When Barnes thumped home it looked as though all Fulham's hard work might be undone but they breathed a sigh of relief as Leicester's Kelechi Iheanacho slipped when in a dangerous position at the death.

"We'll go away and analyse how we could be better but we can't dwell on it for too long," Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers said. "We've shown some good moments in the first 10 games, now we'll need to dust ourselves off."

## GTA accounts should be audited: Dhankhar

**ENGLISH BAZAR (WB), DEC 1 (PTI):** The financial accounts of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) should be audited, West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Tuesday.

Speaking to the press at the railway station here while travelling to Kolkata after his tour of Darjeeling, Dhankhar

said that political freedom in the Hills is not equal for everyone.

GTA is an autonomous self-governing body that oversees the development of the Hills.

Those owing allegiance to the present regime in the state have rights to carry out political activities in the Hills, while the others do not

have such freedom, the governor alleged.

Dhankhar said there are ample opportunities in Darjeeling and at the same time there are problems galore.

The governor said that during his stay there he interacted with people from all walks of life and got to know about their problems.

## Mizoram reports one more COVID-19 death, toll rises to 6

**Aizawl, Dec 1 (PTI):** Mizoram on Tuesday reported one more COVID-19 death after a 41-year-old man succumbed to the virus, taking the toll to six, an official said.

The northeastern state reported 22 fresh cases, pushing the tally to 3,847, he said.

It now has 269 active cases, while 3,572 people have recovered from the disease.

At least 22 people including two Assam Rifles personnel have tested positive for coronavirus in Mizoram, taking the state's COVID-19 tally to 3,847, an official said on Tuesday.

Of the 22 new cases, 13 were re-

ported from Aizawl district, one from Serchhip and four cases each were reported from Champhai and Lawngtlai districts, he said.

While four patients have developed symptoms of COVID-19, the rest 18 patients were asymptomatic, he added.

According to the state health department, the state now has 343 active COVID-19, while 3,499 people have recovered from the disease.

Mizoram has so far reported 5 COVID-19 deaths, all from Aizawl district.

The state has tested 1,50,738 samples for COVID-19 till date, including 1,677 on Monday.

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## 31 new cases push Tripura's COVID-19 tally to 32,726

**AGARTALA, DEC 1 (PTI):** Tripura's COVID-19 tally rose to 32,726 on Tuesday as 31 more people tested positive for the infection, a health official said.

Seventy-two more people have been cured of the disease, he said.

The state now has 595 active coronavirus cases, while 31,741 people have recovered from the disease, 367 people have succumbed to the infection and 23 patients have migrated to other states so far, the official said. West Tripura dis-

trict, under which Agartala falls, has reported 185 coronavirus fatalities so far, he said.

The state has so far conducted 5.28 lakh COVID-19 tests, including 2.05 lakh RT-PCR and 3.22 lakh rapid antigen tests, the official added.

## Football Delhi announces virtual talent hunt programme

**NEW DELHI, DEC 1 (PTI):** Football Delhi on Tuesday announced a virtual talent hunt programme that will allow participants in the age group Of 6 to 17 years-- both boys and girls -- to showcase their talent and win Rs 2.5 lakh cash prizes.

Students can upload videos showing their skills from the comfort of their homes on the contest portal where they will be featured and can be voted.

The contest, called Football Delhi Young Stars Hunt, is meant for any youngster residing -- or studying in any school -- in the NCR.

Amenity Odisha FC Soccer School has also offered scholarships worth Rs 28 lakh for winner candidates to help them undertake professional football training along with continuing their formal education.

"This is a fantastic opportunity. During pandemic this is a good way to unearth football talent and take the sport forward in India. Well done Football Delhi," said India football captain and Delhi player Sunil Chhetri in a release.

Coronavirus has been detrimental for sports this year but we cannot let the pandemic de-

prive our children of the opportunities that they deserve. This talent hunt would serve as a unique platform for our children," said Football Delhi president Shaji Prabhakaran.

The competition is open to all students, from age 6 to 17, that either has a domicile in Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Ghaziabad, Faridabad or study in schools in these cities. In order to participate, students can visit footballdelhitalenthunt.com.

Registration opens on December 5 and the competition will be held in two rounds.

## Jharkhand reports 167 new COVID-19 cases, one more death

**RANCHI, DEC 1 (PTI):** Jharkhand's coronavirus caseload rose to 1,09,151 as 167 more people tested positive for the infection, a health department official said on Tuesday.

One more person succumbed to the infection, pushing the COVID-19 death toll in the state to 964.

Ranchi district reported the highest number of new cases at 59,

followed by East Singhbhum (22), and West Singhbhum (17), he said.

The state now has 2,016 active coronavirus cases, while 1,06,171 people have been cured of the disease and 964 have died of the infection so far, he said.

Jharkhand has tested 30,813 samples for COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, he added.

## 6 new COVID-19 cases in Andamans; tally rises to 4,710

**PORT BLAIR, DEC 1 (PTI):** The Andaman and Nicobar Islands reported six more COVID-19 cases, pushing the coronavirus tally in the union territory to 4,710, a health department official said on Tuesday.

Of the six new cases, five were detected during contact tracing, while one has travel history, he said.

Thirteen more peo-

ple recovered from COVID-19, taking the total number of recoveries to 4,550, the official said.

The archipelago now has 99 active coronavirus cases, while 4,550 people have recovered from the disease and 61 patients have succumbed to the infection till date, he said.

The administration has so far tested 1,29,389 samples for COVID-19, the official added.

## 13 new cases push Arunachal's COVID-19 tally to 16,282

**ITANAGAR, DEC 1 (PTI):** Arunachal Pradesh's COVID-19 tally rose to 16,282 on Tuesday as 13 more people tested positive for the infection, a senior health official said.

Forty-seven more people were cured of the disease, taking the recovery rate among the coronavirus patients in the state to 94.65 per cent, he said.

The Capital Complex region reported the highest number of new cases at seven, followed by Tawang and Lepa Rada (two each) and Lower Dibang Valley and Tirap (one each), State Surveillance Officer Dr Lobsang Jampa said.

Twelve infections were detected through rapid antigen tests and

one during TrueNat tests, he said. Arunachal Pradesh now has 817 active coronavirus cases, while 15,411 people have recovered from the disease and 54 patients have succumbed to the infection to date, he said.

The state's positivity and fatality rates stand at 5.35 per cent and 0.33 per cent respectively, the official said.

The Capital Complex region, comprising Itanagar, Naharlagun, Nirjuli and Banderdewa areas, has the highest number of active cases at 586, followed by West Kameng (58), Lepa Rada (24) and Changlang (21), Jampa said.

The state has so far tested 3,59,123 samples for COVID-19, including 829 on Monday, he added.

## Odisha medical colleges to reopen from Tuesday



**BHUBANESWAR, NOV 30 (PTI):** The Odisha government has allowed re-opening of medical colleges across the state from Tuesday, even as it authorised the School & Mass Education and Higher Education departments to decide on resumption of classroom teachings.

COVID-19 safety protocols will have to be followed in the medical institutes.

"All medical colleges of the state shall reopen with effect from 1st December, 2020. Medical college authorities shall follow all the SOPs/guidelines with respect to social distancing and prevention of spread of epidemic issued by the central/state government, scrupulously," a government order said on Monday.

The government asked the School and Mass Education Department to consult all stakeholders and decide on

the date of re-opening of schools for classes from 9 to 12 in a graded manner.

Similarly, the Department of Higher Education was also authorised to take the decision about re-opening of colleges and higher education institutes in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, the order said.

It said that all academic, technical, skill development institutions - except medical colleges - will remain closed till December 31 or till such date as decided by the departments concerned.

Notwithstanding the closure of these institutes, the authorities can conduct examinations, evaluate answer papers and carry out other administrative activities, the order said adding that online distance learning shall be permitted and encouraged.

It said that all Anganwadi Centres will remain closed till December 31,

and the arrangement for supply of ration to the beneficiaries must continue.

On the opening of places of worship, the order said, "Local authorities like district magistrates, municipal commissioners may permit public worship in religious/ places of worship with appropriate restrictions, based on local assessment of the situation with regard to spread of COVID-19."

Cinema halls, swimming pools, entertainment complexes, theatre, auditorium and similar places will continue to remain closed. However, open air theatres were allowed to function subject to compliance of safety protocols such as mandatory face masks and physical distancing.

Large meetings of members of associations, clubs, institutions and other organisations should be avoided till December 31, it said.

## PLFI makes extortion call to 4 businessmen

**DHANBAD (JHARKHAND), DEC 1 (PTI):** Four businessmen of Bank More area here have received extortion calls allegedly in the name of People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI), a Naxalite outfit, police said on Tuesday.

The four businessmen received extortion demand of Rs 50 lakh each through WhatsApp message and telephone calls at around 9.30 pm on Monday.

They have lodged police complaint in this connection in Bank More police station against unidentified criminals, the police said.

Senior superintendent of police (SSP) Asim Vikram Minz told media persons that written complaints have

been lodged in Bank More police station over extortion demand allegedly in the name of PLFI.

"Police is investigating the matter. Criminals involved in the incident would be arrested soon", the SSP said.

This is for the first time that PLFI has made extortion calls to Dhanabased businessmen. All four businessmen have been asked to deposit Rs 50 lakh each in party fund.

The Federation of District Chamber of Commerce (FDCC) has requested the Senior Superintendent of Police to provide special security in Bank More area which is the business hub of the district, said Rajesh Gupta, patron of FDCC.

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# Personal, pure and symbolic: Messi's perfect Newell's homage to Maradona

SID LOWE

**BARCELONA, 01 DEC [THEGUARDIAN]:** Lionel Messi could feel the weight of Diego Maradona's No 10 on his back. It was the final moment before kick-off in the 917th game of his career, the first without Diego, and Europe's largest stadium stood virtually empty and entirely silent. At each end of the ground, maternity hospital on one side and cemetery on the other, a picture of Maradona was projected on the screens, in the directors' box a man held a framed shirt, and on the pitch Barcelona's and Osasuna's players gathered around the centre circle where a floral offering was made, four days after his death. Among them, Messi looked at his feet, knowing there was something he had to do.

So he did. Ninety minutes later and with 18 left in the match, Messi scored the goal that gave him the opportunity to make an offering of his own. Barcelona were already three up, it wasn't the afternoon's best goal, not after Antoine Griezmann's volley had almost torn the net off, and it certainly wasn't the best of the 712 – seven hundred and twelve! – Messi has in a career which is reaching a close. But for a moment it felt like it might have been the most important, most meaningful of all. For a moment, he was taken back to where it all began, the circle completed, a legacy laid before everyone.

The ball hit the net and Messi's teammates came to him: first Ousmane Dembélé, then Óscar Mingueza, then the rest. He embraced them, smiled slightly, but wanted to be alone: just him and Diego. When at last he was, there was a solemnity, a simplicity to what followed, a humility that made it more heartfelt. Standing by the north end, the cemetery end, Messi pulled down the captain's arm band and the black cloth wrapped around it. Then he took off his Barcelona shirt, untucked the shirt underneath and carefully straightened it so it could be seen: half red, half black, with Yamaha written on the front and Zanella on the back,



above a No 10.

He reached to the heavens, towards God, and raised both arms. Then he crossed himself, picked up his Barcelona shirt and headed back towards the centre circle, where Antonio Mateu Lahoz was waiting with a yellow card. "Messi Cuccitini, Lionel Andres, was booked for the following motive," the referee's official report would say, "for taking his shirt off after scoring a goal to reveal another shirt: that of Newell's Old Boys from the 93/94 season with a No 10 on the back."

Messi could have chosen anything, or nothing: a message, a photo, a Barcelona shirt, an Argentina flag. Instead he opted for something that expressed the connection, something that brings them together even more than all that – which at times, in fact, may have served to push them apart.

Messi has not won a World Cup, nor reached the status Maradona has, the iconography, the emotional power. Maradona did not win what Messi has at Barcelona, nor reach his status in Catalonia: just a Copa del Rey, a league cup and memories tinged with regret, what could have been but for a broken leg and a hepatitis which might not

have been hepatitis. There were more goals than many recall – 38 in two seasons – and moments, like the applause from Madrid fans when he walked the ball in, cutting back on the goal line and sending Juan José sliding by like a cartoon character, clang!, into the post. But it ended with a pitch battle and defeat and a sense that it could not continue.

On some level, a tribute in a Barcelona shirt, the shirt in which Messi has eclipsed Maradona, might not have felt right. Even an Argentina shirt might not, the weight of expectation implicit in it. No one expected a Newell's shirt but it worked better. For Messi, certainly, it was more personal, purer: his homage, not some cold choreography. One that takes him to his childhood and places him at Maradona's feet, looking up. In the Camp Nou dressing room for a long time, there was only one picture on Messi's locker: a painting someone had given him of his son sleeping in red and black pyjamas, dreaming, as his father had, of playing for Newell's. Maradona actually did, even if it was only seven games.

Messi wasn't born when Maradona played at Barcelona. He wasn't alive when Maradona won

the World Cup, either. But he was there the day Maradona came to play for his team. He was only six and he can't remember it but he was in the ground with his dad Jorge when Maradona made his debut for Newell's Old Boys in October 1993, scoring the winner in a friendly against Ecuadorian side Emelec. It was Maradona's only goal for Messi's club, but it was enough. A connection had formed that only deepened, for good and bad, and was expressed on Sunday.

Not just expressed; rediscovered. Little gems were dusted off and given new meaning by the homage, and as each layer was peeled back, each fact recalled, each new detail added, the parallels and points of contact were made even clearer. With that, Messi's tribute became more powerful, more perfect, the symbolism deeper. Take the shirt, for example: not just a replica from the right era, Daniel Arcucci revealed in El Gráfico, but a shirt Maradona actually wore at Newell's. Not the first – that was handed to Fidel Castro and is now in a museum in Havana – but a real one, given to him by a judge and a shirt collector named Sergio Fernández a couple of years ago. Fernández paid a fortune for

it; imagine what he would pay now for a match-worn shirt played in by both Messi and Maradona.

And if Maradona hadn't scored a goal in it, Messi now had.

Maradona's goal.

If Messi has watched Maradona's goal for Newell's many times since, you may not have seen it at all until Sunday, when suddenly it was everywhere. In it, Maradona runs across the front of the area from right to left, avoiding opponents, and then suddenly strikes the ball back in the direction he came from, cutting across it to send a superb shot, from left to right, high into the top corner. You may also have seen the goal Messi scored against Osasuna and dedicated to Diego. If you haven't, it goes like this: Messi runs across the front of the area from right to left, avoiding opponents, and then suddenly strikes the ball back in the direction he came from, cutting across it to send a superb shot, from left to right, high into the top corner.

It is exactly like the only one Maradona ever scored for his team, as if he had continued the Lord's work, as if fate decided, as if this was one last tribute to Maradona. As if Messi had planned it

that way, like he refused to score unless it was the perfect replica – and the absurd thing is that's almost believable. He could actually do that. What is unthinkable is the possibility that he hadn't scored, the tribute unshared. This after all is the man who already replicated the goal against England, and even the hand of God. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, no one paid greater homage to Maradona than Messi. On Sunday and every day.

There is just one flaw: the image has been flipped to make them look more alike. Maradona's is actually the other way around, with the other foot, heading in the other direction. But it doesn't matter: it remains a mirror image if not a carbon copy and even being a bit like Diego, a deity, is an impossibility. Or so everyone thought until Messi, at which point it became the expectation with which he had to live. If Maradona was omnipresent for most Argentinians, imagine for Messi in whose image he sometimes seemed to be made, in whose shadow he exists, an impossible task that he somehow, sometimes, made possible. It is quickly forgotten now, but there were many New Maradonas before Messi and none got close. Here at least, Messi exceeded him.

After the game, Messi posted the picture of himself with arms raised alongside Maradona in the same shirt and the same pose. Yet there is a photo, unplanned, that captures it better, better than words: one that is destined to become perhaps the iconic image to honour the greatest icon of all. It is a portrait of a reincarnation, a legacy passed on, a promise made. Messi dresses like Maradona, gestures like Maradona but as he pulls his Barcelona shirt on again cameras catch the moment from the back, like a superhero getting changed only this time they're both superheroes. In the picture, the two 10s are laid over each other, perfectly aligned as one, Messi's Barcelona shirt slowly coming down over Maradona's Newell's shirt until it is covered again, unseen but always there.

## Does Maradona's greatness really have to stand in opposition to something else?

JONATHAN LIEW

LONDON, 01 DEC

[THEGUARDIAN]:

It's a tribute, but there's more to it than that. It's a shirt, but there's more to it than that, too. For a fleeting moment, as Lionel Messi stands at the Camp Nou in 2020 wearing the No 10 jersey that Diego Maradona wore for Newell's Old Boys in 1993, past and present are aligned. Messi isn't just paying homage to Maradona; in that moment he is Maradona, two as one. Then, as if re-entering the earthly plane, he slips his Barcelona jersey back on and dutifully collects his yellow card.

So yes, here we are: another paean to Maradona, this time – usefully! – from someone who never actually saw him play. I have a few vague, pointless memories of the 1994 World Cup, a tournament at which I later learned Maradona was not – pharmaceutically speaking – at his purest vintage. But this isn't a personal history, or any sort of history, or really very much about Maradona at all. It's about football now; about magic and where you find it; about joy, and how you pass it on.

I'm writing this on a Monday morning. The death of one of the

world's greatest footballers was announced on Wednesday evening. And yet already his name has disappeared from most of this country's leading sports pages, save for some icky-clicky stories about his personal doctor. Day five of the sun going out of the sky, and already newsrooms have decided this is no longer relevant.

You, find me a criminal angle. Police suspect foul play in sun disappearance. You, write me a culture war take. Did woke leftists cancel the sun? I mean, can we at least dwell on this a little? Do we ever actually mourn any more? Or do we merely consume, excrete, move on?

Perhaps the most peculiar and dissonant strain of Maradona tribute has been the sort that sees in his passing the disappearance of something larger and more important, that masks in an affection for the past a distaste for the present. We hear that today's game is too sterile, too corporate, too technocratic, too ubiquitous. We hear that Maradona represented an era of the game that is now gone for ever: an era of boggy pitches, thrilling

lawlessness and unimaginable freedom. We are informed, with appropriate tutting, that both Maradona's goals against England in 1986 would have been ruled out by VAR.

Let me tell you how all this sounds to a younger ear. We will never see another Diego Maradona! (This also applies, by the way, to everyone who has ever died.) The greatest! You can't possibly imagine the joy and the romance! Football will never be this good again! Lol, sorry you missed the best bit! Perhaps this is simply what the Maradona generation had to put up with from the Pelé generation, and no doubt what future generations will have to put up with from ours ("The thing about Messi, you see, was that he was incomparable, in ways you'll never grasp"). But it strikes me as a curious framing. Does Maradona's greatness really have to stand in opposition to something else?

Meanwhile, going for ever is just what eras do; indeed the very point of eras in the first place. The ball is different. The boots are different. The pitches are different, the tactics are different, the picture is different.

And yet it seems to me that to home in on the difference has always been a weirdly literal way of interpreting football, a sport that has never been defined by a single time, a single geography, a single aesthetic, but by plurality and flux.

"You can't possibly compare players across different eras", you often hear people saying: the 24-carat hallmark of someone taking themselves far too seriously. As it happens, you can't strictly compare players across different leagues, climates or bodies either. It doesn't matter. Nobody's asking you for a scientific standard of proof here. This isn't the Lancet. Now play the game, you intellectual coward.

Maradona, for his part, never seemed to succumb to any of this. The game was ugly then and is ugly now, and yet he never loved it any less, never stopped adoring football and adoring footballers. And on some level perhaps this was because Maradona recognised that football could never simply be some nostalgic museum piece, to preserve behind glass, to sanctify and weep over. It lives. It breathes. And when one part of

it dies, the light simply passes to another.

Because when you strip away the artifice and projection, the game is the same. The ball is the same. The boots are the same. The pitches and the tactics and the meaning are the same. Most important, the joy is the same. It spreads and multiplies and diffuses. Perhaps this is why I found Messi's tribute on Sunday so strangely moving. It was an acknowledgement of a lineage, an inheritance, the debt we all owe the previous generation for the game they bequeathed.

From Maradona to Messi to the next guy (and there will be a next guy). Maradona dies, but Maradona lives. And not just in grainy video footage or selective memory, but in the joy he gave, the joy he passed on. Maradona lives in the dribbling of Messi and the vision of De Bruyne and the skills of Neymar and the guile of Sancho and the movement of Miedema and the speed of Mbappé and the cunning of Ronaldo. It's there in the park and the playground and the street and the imagination. It's all there. But you have to want to see it.

## Football needs to catch up and get its house in order over concussion

SEAN INGLE

LONDON, 01 DEC [THEGUARDIAN]:

For too long football has played tiki-taka with the issue of concussion, rather than tackling it head on. It has been passed around from committee to committee, governing body to governing body, without the authorities facing up to its pernicious threat. Perhaps the recent deaths of Jack Charlton and Nobby Stiles will sharpen the focus.

What happened at the Emirates on Sunday certainly should. It was jolting enough to witness Wolves' Raúl Jiménez receiving oxygen and leaving on a stretcher with a fractured skull following a clash of heads with David Luiz. It was almost as worrying when the Arsenal man got up and carried on for another 40 minutes, despite blood oozing through his head bandages.

True, David Luiz passed all the required medical assessments. And the Premier League emphasises that doctors have a long list of clues they use to detect concussion, ranging from a "dazed, blank or vacant look" on a player's face to asking questions such as: "What team did you play last week?" Gone are the days when a dose of smelling salts was applied to the nostrils before the player was shunted back into action.

Even so, was it an unnecessary risk? Scientists have long since established that concussion symptoms do not always show up immediately after a head impact and that playing on can damage recovery. One study in the journal Pediatrics followed 69 high-school athletes who sustained head injuries in American football, ice hockey, soccer and volleyball and found that those who stayed on the field took twice as long to recover

(44 days compared with 22 days).

There also remains a wearing sense that football is lagging behind both rugby codes as well cricket, the NFL and horse racing when it comes to head impacts. As Alan Shearer put it on Match of the Day 2: "We are talking about life and death."

He added: "Football needs to get real, it needs to wake up, it needs to get serious. Not next year, next month, now. It is not acceptable, it has been going too far too long."

In rugby union, it used to be regarded as a badge of honour to battle on, no matter how groggy the brain or bloodied the shirt. Attitudes have changed. Incidents such as Wales's George North appearing to be concussed twice in a Six Nations match focused minds – as did the year-on-year rise in the reported incidents of concussion in the Premiership from 2009-10 onwards.

Nowadays if there is any suspicion of a concussion then a player is removed from the pitch for a head injury assessment, which takes 10 minutes. If a player fails any of the cognitive tests, which are measured against a pre-season baseline, they are removed from play. The rules have also been changed in an attempt to make the game safer, particularly when it comes to tackling.

Rugby remains dangerous. Last year, a study in the British Journal of Sports Medicine found that on average, a professional rugby union player is more likely than not to sustain a concussion after 25 matches. But at least there is a sense of the authorities recognising the seriousness of the problem and trying to do something about it. Cricket's attitude to concussion also changed in 2014 after the Australia batsman Phil Hughes died after being struck on the back of the head.



## Olympic rings back in Tokyo Bay; a sign of hope in pandemic

**TOKYO (AP):** The five Olympic rings are back in Tokyo Bay.

They were removed for maintenance four months ago shortly after the Tokyo Olympics were postponed until next year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The rings arrived on Tuesday after a short cruise from nearby Yokohama and are positioned on a barge in the shadow on Tokyo's Rainbow Bridge.

The rings — painted blue, black, red, green, and yellow — are gigantic. They stand about 15 meters tall and 33 meters in length — about 50 feet tall and 100 feet in length.

The rings will be lighted at night and herald the coming of the Tokyo Olympics, which are to open on July 23, 2021, followed by the Paralympics on Aug. 24.

The rings made their first appearance early in 2020, just a few months before the Olympics were postponed late in March.

The reappearance of the rings is the latest sign that organizers and the International Olympic Committee are increasingly confident that 15,400 Olympic and Paralympic athletes can safely enter Japan during the pandemic.

These Olympics are sure to be like no other.

They will hinge partly on the availability of vaccines and rapid testing for COVID-19, and on athletes and other participants following strict rules that could involve quarantines, a limited number of fans in venues, and athletes leaving Japan shortly after they finish their competitions.

Organizers have been vague about exactly how the Olympics will be held. Plans are in flux with dozens of COVID-19 countermeasures being floated involving athletes, fans, and tens of thousands of officials, judges, VIPs, and media and broadcasters.

Protocols should become clearer early in 2021 when decisions must be made about permitting fans from abroad, which will affect revenue from ticket sales.

The meter continues to run on billions in costs, with Japanese taxpayers picking up most of the bills. Reports in Japan this week say the cost of the postponement is about \$3 billion.

# As the virus resurges, mental health woes batter France

**ROUEN, FRANCE (AP):** The panicked 22-year-old is led to Consultation Room No. 2, with its easy-mop floor and honeycombed meshing over the window. Behind her, the psychiatric emergency ward's heavy double doors — openable only with a staff member's key — thud shut.

With anxious taps of her white sneakers, she confides to an on-duty psychiatrist how the solitude of the coronavirus lockdown and the angst of not finding work in the pandemic-battered job market are contributing to her maelstrom of anxieties. She is unnerved that she is starting to obsess about knives, fearful that her mental health might be collapsing.

"The lockdown — let's not pretend otherwise — worries me," the young woman explains through her surgical mask, as the psychiatrist, Irene Facello, listens intently.

"I want to be reassured," the woman says, "that I'm not going mad."

Forcing millions of people to once again stay home — cutting them off from families and friends, shuttering businesses they invested in, university classes that fed their minds and nightspots where they socialized — has, for now, begun to turn back the renewed coronavirus surge in France that pushed it in November past the bleak milestone of 52,000 dead.

But the costs to mental health have been consid-

erable. With numbers now falling for French COVID-19 patients in intensive care, psychiatrists are facing a follow-up wave of psychological distress. Health authorities' surveying points to a surge of depression most acute among people without work, those in financial hardship and young adults.

The Rouvray Hospital Center in the Normandy town of Rouen is among places where psychiatrists are finding themselves on the front line of the pandemic's mental-health fallout. They are fearful that a growing crisis of depression, anxiety and worse may be on the horizon as more livelihoods, futures and hopes are lost to the pandemic. Associated Press journalists spent 10 hours in the sprawling 535-bed facility, the day after French President Emmanuel Macron laid out a blueprint stretching into mid-January for the gradual lifting of lockdown restrictions.

At the psychiatric emergency unit, as Facello sends the 22-year-old home with a prescription for anti-anxiety drugs and an appointment to see her again in two weeks, the double doors swing open once more.

It is another young woman, aged 25, a linguistics student. She is steered to Consultation Room No. 1, where she sits silently in the gloom as night falls.

On the ward's whiteboard, which lists patients' names

and details, an abbreviated initial diagnosis handwritten on a slip of paper uses acronyms to spell out how closely she may have brushed with the irreparable. For the past week, it says, she'd suffered "IDS" — suicidal ideas — and imagined "IMV," or voluntarily ingesting medicines.

The ward's chief psychiatrist, Sandrine Elias, gently teases out of the student how the lockdown has left her completely alone, with classes suspended.

It isn't the sole cause of her malaise. Elias learns that the young woman had a difficult adolescence, with suicide attempts. Isolation during the epidemic has only amplified the student's distress. In a quiet voice, she tells Elias that it "confronts us with ourselves."

"I'm a stay-at-home type of person, but this absolute constraint is a real weight," she says.

Elias promptly decides to hospitalize her. Supervised rest and medication, Elias determines, can help her through.

"You need a framework, to be taken into care. All alone, in your studio apartment, it's not possible," the psychiatrist says. "It's very good that you came here."

Not all of those seeking help have previous psychiatric histories. Mental health professionals say lockdowns and curfews have also destabilized people who, in less challenging times, might have

surmounted difficulties by talking them through with family and friends rather than ending up in psychiatric treatment wards.

"Being alone between four walls is terrible," Elias says. "The halting of life like this, it reverberates on people. It is not good."

Nathan, a 22-year-old student, came through the emergency ward two days earlier. The log book shows he was admitted at 5:20 p.m. and was moved that evening to a longer-stay unit.

There, in Room 14, he told psychiatrist Olivier Guillin that he'd sought emergency help "because I felt that my morale was declining very rapidly, that I was at the point of tipping over, with suicidal thoughts."

Similar thoughts had first laid him low in the summer, after France's initial lockdown from March to May. They struck again when the country was confined for a second time from Oct. 30. His university shuttered. His political science classes went virtual. Rather than be alone in his student flat, he moved back with his parents in Rouen, severed from his support network and ruminating on his uncertain future.

"The first lockdown didn't really have much of an effect on me," he tells Guillin, but the second one "really sank me."

"Being confined again, having to always stay in a limited perimeter, not being able

to see my friends as often as usual, it disordered me," he says.

The security of hospitalization and medication have quickly started to stabilize him. Resting on his bedside table was a Rubik's Cube that he'd solved.

Guillin, who heads several units at the hospital and has 200 medical staff working under him, says they are seeing a sharp increase in young adults seeking help with anxieties, depression, addictions and other difficulties. He's bracing for more.

"We'll very likely see the crest of the wave in the months to come," he says.

The pandemic has also had other mental health repercussions that are less evident but no less devastating.

Guillin still rues the death of a patient who killed herself during the first lockdown, 48 hours after what turned out to be their final appointment. She wore a mask to that meeting, to protect against the virus. It interfered with his reading of the depth of her distress, he says.

"She was a very expressive lady and there, with the mask, I incorrectly evaluated things," he says. "Retrospectively, I tell myself that perhaps, without the mask, I would have been more alert and done more."

Patients have also been hurt by the diversion of resources from mental health to battling COVID-19.

The electroconvulsive therapy that had been help-

ing Laura, a student, emerge from her severe depression was thrown into disarray when anesthesiologists — who are needed to put her to sleep while electrical currents passed through her brain — were requisitioned to care for virus patients.

"My morale went downhill shortly after that, and the suicidal ideas came back," she tells Guillin.

Laura says for her, the therapy is "as urgent as COVID-19." She says prioritizing virus patients "is a bit stupid and mean." Now, instead of being released from the hospital by mid-November as she'd hoped, Laura has had to stay.

In the emergency ward, for the third time in two hours, another young woman comes in through the double doors, dressed in black, looking hollow. With Room 1 already occupied by the 25-year-old, the 18-year-old high school student is shown into Room 2. After her initial interview by a nurse and a caregiver, she curls up on her chair.

The nurse, Sebastien Lormelet, and the caregiver, Anita Delarue, exchange notes in the staff room where the teenager's name and admission time, 5:02 p.m., are written in black marker on the whiteboard.

"The lockdown has a lot to do with it, because she says that the first one was hard. With the second one, now, if she could slip away, she would," Delarue says. "She wouldn't withstand a third one."

## Dutch climate activists take Shell to court over emissions

**THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS (AP):** A group of environmental organizations backed by thousands of Dutch citizens is launching a civil case Tuesday against the energy giant Shell, asking a court to order the multinational to commit to reining in its carbon emissions by 45% by the year 2030.

The legal battle led by Milieudefensie, the Dutch arm of Friends of the Earth, is the latest in a string of cases around the world in which activists are using the courts as a venue to fight for action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from governments and companies.

A victory for climate activists in a Dutch courtroom could spur even more legal challenges.

"Everybody needs to pitch in if we are to tackle the climate crisis, especially big polluters like Shell. But Shell and its shareholders are not taking their responsibility, that's why we are taking legal action," said Nils Mollema of Action-Aid Netherlands, another group involved in the case.

Ahead of the opening of hearings at The Hague District Court, Shell said that it agrees with Friends of the Earth that action is needed to



cut emissions and has already invested billions of dollars in low-carbon technologies from wind power to electric vehicle charging. But it said the company cannot do it alone.

"What will accelerate the energy transition is effective policy, investment in technology and changing customer behavior. None of which will be achieved with this court action," Shell said in a statement to The Associated Press. The company said it has set "an ambition to be a net zero emissions energy business by 2050, or sooner."

Under the 2015 Paris climate change agreement, the European Union's greenhouse gas emissions target is a reduction by at least 40% by 2030 compared to

1990 levels. The Shell case, which has more than 17,000 claimants, follows in the footsteps of a groundbreaking 2015 court ruling — later upheld by an appeals court — that ordered the Dutch government to cut the country's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 25% by 2020 from benchmark 1990 levels.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte responded by saying: "I can guarantee we will do everything we can to achieve the goal." But it remains to be seen if the target will be met by year's end.

The Urgenda and Shell cases are similar because they are based in part on a duty of care enshrined in Dutch law.

Not all climate cases are successful. Last month, German judges

threw out a lawsuit by three farming families who had taken Chancellor Angela Merkel's government to court and argued that it wasn't doing enough to tackle climate change.

Roda Verheyen, a German lawyer who brought that case but is not involved in the Dutch case, said the outcome of the civil case against Shell could have repercussions for businesses around the world as it poses questions about how businesses balance their bottom line with their duty of care responsibilities.

"The Shell case taken by Milieudefensie and others is the first to actually do this in court," she said. "So whatever comes out will be very interesting. I think you could say globally."

## Iran's parliament advances bill to stop nuclear inspections

**TEHRAN, IRAN (AP):** Iran's parliament Tuesday advanced a bill that would end U.N. inspections of its nuclear facilities and require the government to boost its uranium enrichment if European signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal do not provide relief from oil and banking sanctions. The vote to debate the bill, which would need to pass through several other stages before becoming law, was a show of defiance after the killing of a prominent Iranian nuclear scientist last month.

The official IRNA news agency said 251 lawmakers in the 290-seat chamber voted in favor, after which many began chanting "Death to America!" and "Death to Israel!"

The bill would give European countries three months to ease sanctions on Iran's key oil and gas sector, and to restore its

access to the international banking system. The U.S. imposed crippling sanctions on Iran after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the nuclear agreement, triggering a series of escalations between the two sides.

The bill would have authorities resume enriching uranium to 20%, which is below the threshold needed for nuclear weapons but higher than that required for civilian applications. It would also commission new centrifuges at nuclear facilities at Natanz and the underground Fordo site.

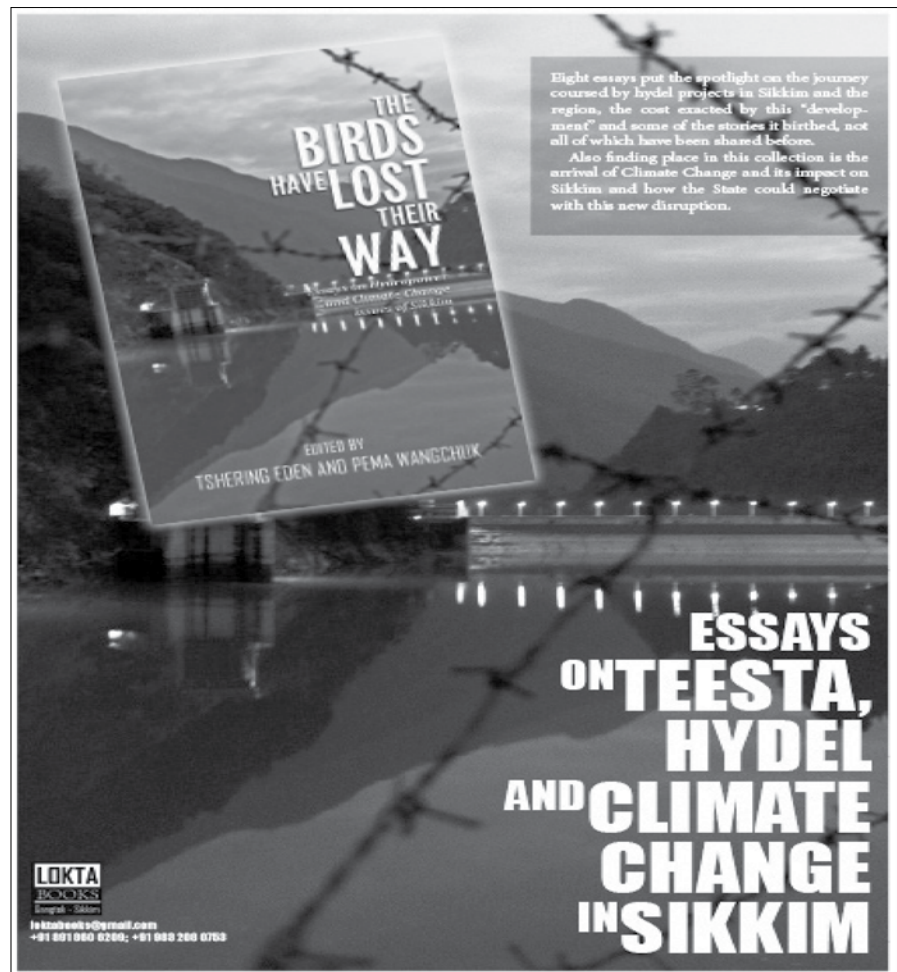
The bill would require another parliamentary vote to pass, as well as approval by the Guardian Council, a constitutional watchdog.

The bill was first tabled in parliament in August but gained new momentum after the killing of Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh,

who headed a program that Israel and the West have alleged was a military operation looking at the feasibility of building a nuclear weapon. The International Atomic Energy Agency says that "structured program" ended in 2003. U.S. intelligence agencies concurred with that assessment in a 2007 report.

Israel insists Iran still maintains the ambition of developing nuclear weapons, pointing to Tehran's ballistic missile program and research into other technologies. Iran long has maintained that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes.

Iran has blamed Fakhri-zadeh's killing on Israel, which has long waged a covert war against Tehran and its proxies in the region. Israeli officials have declined to comment on the killing, and no one has claimed responsibility.



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## Non-essential shops reopen in Belgium as virus numbers drop

**BRUSSELS (AP):** Non-essential shops in Belgium were reopening Tuesday in the wake of encouraging figures about declining daily coronavirus infection rates and hospital admissions.

The government is fearful, however, that the change might lead to massive gatherings in the nation's most popular shopping centers and streets. Over the weekend, pre-Christmas light festivals already led to crowded scenes in

several cities, prompting warnings from virologists about the dangers of reopening too soon.

Belgium, host to the headquarters of the 27-nation European Union, has been one of the hardest-hit countries in Europe during the pandemic. Belgium has reported more than 16,500 deaths linked to the virus during two surges in the spring and the fall.

Experts say wearing masks and practicing social distancing will be

essential in containing the spreading of the virus when shopping returns to a sense of normalcy. Despite the intense infections and deaths the country has seen, people still gather in large numbers and many do not wear masks.

Under the new rules, shopping has to be done alone or with a minor or a dependant person. Time in a shop is limited to half an hour. Restaurants and bars remain closed.



## Gugu Mbatha-Raw to reunite with Apple for thriller 'Surface'

**LOS ANGELES, DEC 1 (PTI):** Actor Gugu Mbatha-Raw has landed a lead role in "Surface", a psychological thriller series set up at Apple TV Plus.

The show, which hails from "High Fidelity" co-creator and executive producer Veronica West, will be the actor's second project with the streamer after "The Morning Show".

According to Deadline, "Surface" is produced by Reese Witherspoon's Hello Sunshine and Apple Studios.

The streamer didn't disclose any other details or logline for the project.

West, known for her work on "Brothers & Sisters" and "State of Affairs", has created and penned the eight-part series.

She is also attached to executive produce "Surface" alongside Witherspoon and Lauren Neustadter of Hello Sunshine.

This is the latest Apple show to be backed by Hello Sunshine, which also produces Witherspoon-starrer "The Morning Show", "Truth Be Told" and the upcoming country music talent competition "My Kind of Country".

Production on "Surface" is expected to begin next year.

## Hiroyuki Sanada joins Brad Pitt in 'Bullet Train'

**LOS ANGELES, DEC 1 (PTI):** Veteran actor Hiroyuki Sanada has boarded the star-studded cast of the action-thriller "Bullet Train", led by Oscar winner Brad Pitt.

Sanada has previously starred in the HBO series "Westworld", Marvel Studios' tentpole "Avengers: Endgame" and "The Twilight Samurai", Japan's foreign language entry to 2004 Oscars.

According to Deadline, the movie will also feature actors Zazie Beetz, Joey King, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Brian Tyree Henry, Andrew Koji, and Masi Oka.

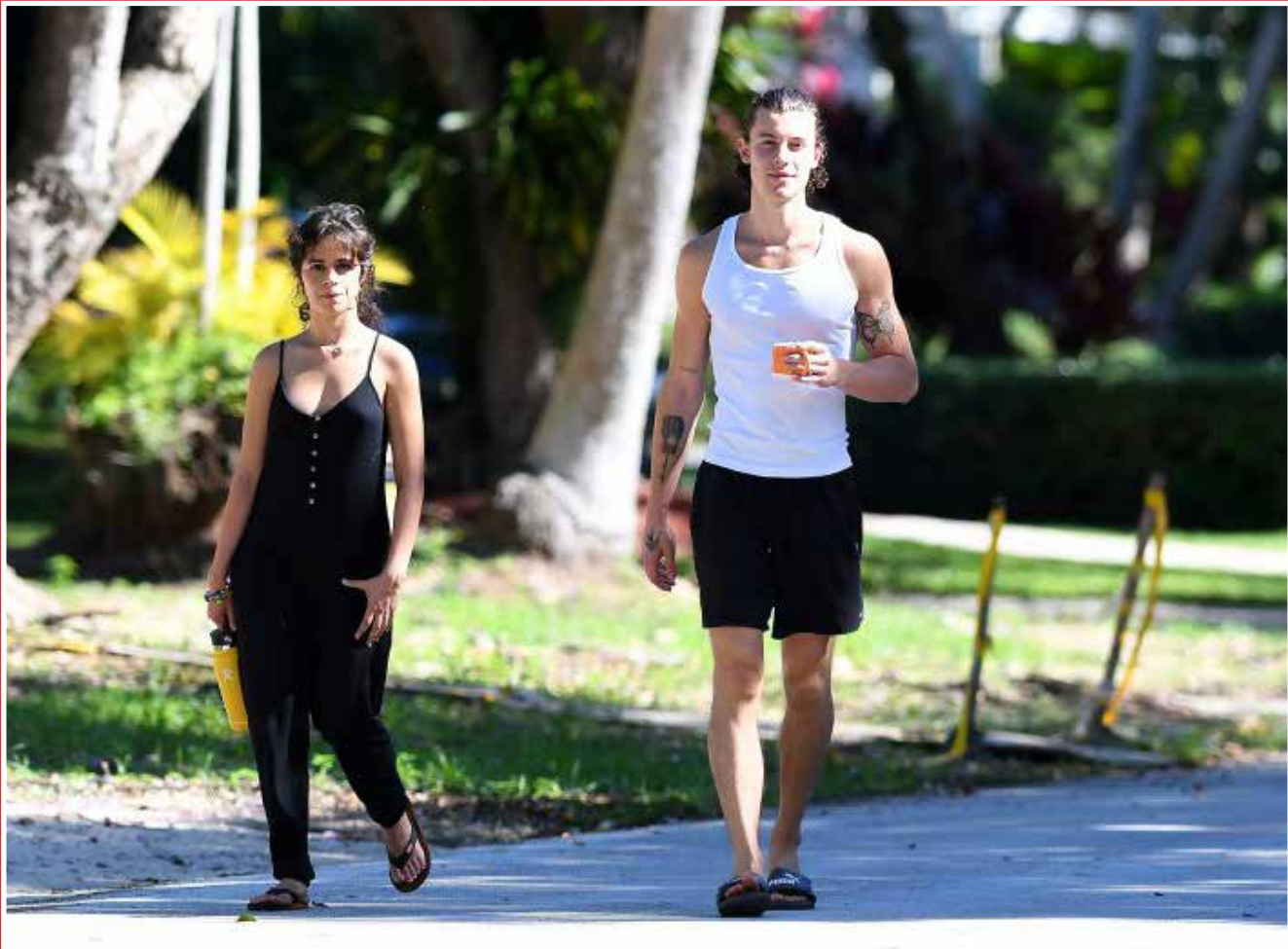
The Sony Pictures film, based on Isaka Kotar's Japanese novel "Maria Beetle", will be directed by David Leitch.

Plot details are vague, and it is unknown who Sanada will be playing. Zak Olkewicz has penned the script.

Leitch and Kelly McCormick are attached to produce the film through 87North, along with Antoine Fuqua.

Sanada recently starred in Zack Snyder's "Army of the Dead" for Netflix and just wrapped shooting fantasy action film "Mortal Kombat".

He will next appear in Andrew Levitas' "Minamata", alongside Johnny Depp.



**MORNING STROLL!** Couple Camila Cabello and Shawn Mendes took a morning walk in Miami.

## Music festivals offer to help Belgium's vaccination campaign

**BRUSSELS (AP):** With nothing on their agendas for months to come, music festival organizers in Belgium want to use their know-how to help the country's coronavirus vaccination campaign.

The Belgian government has set a goal of vaccinating about 70% of the country's population, about 8 million people, when approved COVID-19 vaccination shots become available.

As the vaccines are expected to arrive in multi-dose vials for shots to be administered all on the same day, Belgium health authorities are planning to vaccinate people in groups as much as possible. The task will pose many logistical challenges, including the creation of vaccination centers that festival organizers say they can help set up.

Enjoying a strong reputation in the music world, Belgian festival experts have proven experience in both building huge pop-up structures and in crowd management.

With the music industry hit hard by the pandemic's economic, several festivals in the French-speaking region of Wallonia and the Brussels area have created a federation to better defend their

interests. They have a large network of technicians who are currently unemployed and are ready to help out.

"Our sector has been at a standstill

16,500 deaths linked to the virus.

Last week, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said COVID-19 vaccinations could start in



for many months, and our many staff are eager to bring their creativity and dedication to the fight against coronavirus," said federation president Damien Dufrasne.

One of the hardest-hit countries in Europe, Belgium has reported some 577,000 confirmed cases and more than

the European Union's 27 nations before the end of December. The commission, the EU's executive arm, has agreements with six potential vaccine suppliers and is working on a seventh contract. The deals allow it to purchase over 1.2 billion doses, more than double the population of the EU.

## Rita Ora says sorry for lockdown-breaching birthday party

**LONDON (AP):** British singer Rita Ora apologized Monday for breaking lockdown rules by holding a birthday party, saying it was "a serious and inexcusable error of judgment."

The Sun newspaper ran photos of Ora and others, including models Cara and Poppy Delevingne, arriving at Casa Cruz restaurant in London's Notting

Hill area on Saturday. Under lockdown rules that end Wednesday, all pubs and restaurants in England must close except for takeout and delivery, and people are barred from meeting indoors with members of other households.

Ora said on Instagram that she had held "a small gathering with some friends to celebrate my 30th birthday."

"It was a spur of the moment decision made with the misguided view that we were coming out of lockdown and this would be OK," she wrote.

Ora, whose hits include "Anywhere" and "I Will Never Let You Down," said she now realized "how irresponsible these actions were and I take full responsibility."

## Peter Dinklage to star in 'Toxic Avenger' reboot

**LOS ANGELES, DEC 1 (PTI):** "Game of Thrones" alum Peter Dinklage has found his next project in Legendary's new "Toxic Avenger" film.

The reboot will be a modern-day take on Troma Entertainment's 1984 low-budget action comedy hit, "The Toxic Avenger", reported Deadline.

Macon Blair, who is on board to helm the project, is best known for his directorial debut "I Don't Feel at Home in This World Anymore", a Netflix film.

"Toxic Avenger" will cover environmental themes and subvert the superhero genre in the vein of Deadpool.

When a struggling everyman is pushed into a vat of toxic waste, he is transformed into a mutant freak who must go from shunned outcast to underdog hero as

he races to save his son, his friends and his community from the forces of corruption and greed, reads the plot line.

Lloyd Kaufman and Michael Herz from Troma will serve as producers.

The long and successful run of "The Toxic Avenger" spawned sequels "The Toxic Avenger Part II", "The Toxic Avenger Part III: The Last Temptation of Toxie", and "Citizen Toxie: The Toxic Avenger IV".

The intellectual property (IP) also became a stage musical production, a children's cartoon TV series and a Marvel comic.

Dinklage was last seen in the thriller "I Care a Lot", which premiered at this year's Toronto Film Festival with Netflix landing distribution rights.

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## Bad Bunny is Spotify's most-streamed artist of 2020

**NEW YORK (AP):** The year's most played artist on Spotify? Globally speaking: Bad Bunny. The Puerto Rican superstar is the music platform's most-streamed artist of the year with 8.3 billion streams globally. The Latin Grammy winner and hitmaker, who released a new album last week, leads a top five list that also includes Drake, J Balvin, Juice WRLD and The Weeknd.

With more than 3.3 billion streams, Bad Bunny's sophomore solo album "YHLQMDLG" tops Spotify's list of most-streamed albums globally. The Weeknd's "After Hours," Post Malone's "Hollywood's Bleeding," Harry Styles' "Fine Line" and Dua Lipa's "Future Nostalgia" were among the top five.

The Weeknd's album is

the only one in the top five to earn no Grammy nominations. The album's single, "Blinking Lights," is Spotify's most-streamed song of the year with 1.6 million streams globally.

"Dance Monkey" by Australian singer Tones and I is the second most-streamed song of the year, while Roddy Ricch's "The Box," SAINt JHN's "Roses - Imanbek Remix" and Lipa's "Don't Start Now" came in third, fourth and fifth, respectively.

In the U.S., late rapper Juice WRLD was the most-streamed artist on Spotify. His album "Legends Never Die" was the platform's most-streamed album in the U.S., while Ricch's "The Box" was the country's most-streamed song.

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Aries:

The world may be opening up slowly, but that doesn't mean you have to put yourself under pressure to get back in the race. Be easy on yourself, Aries. Slow down, breathe, and integrate the changes. We're still recovering from the energy of the eclipse (the fourth one this year!). The only question you want to ask yourself today: "How can I care for myself better?"

Tip: Slow down and breathe. Give yourself the time to integrate these changes.

Taurus:

The trouble is, we're always trying to emulate things that have worked for others. What we don't realise is that our journey is different from others', and so are our life lessons. What has worked for them may not necessarily work for us, and vice-versa. So today, despite the fear and trepidation, challenge yourself to dance your own dance. Challenge yourself to be authentic to your own message. Trust that the quality of your work will transform when you stay committed to the truth.

Tip: Dance your own dance, baby!

Gemini:

We're all in some or the other crisis, Gemini. The full moon may have passed us by, but the energy of the eclipse continues to have an impact on our lives. At any point of time, you have two options: to hold onto that victim narrative or look beyond yourself. The question you want to ask yourself today is, "How can I be of service?" Remember, offering financial or material support is only one way of serving the collective. Holding space for others in this time of turmoil, lending a listening ear and being generous with your praise are some of the ways in which you can bring a smile to somebody else's face.

Tip: Embrace the spirit of service.

Cancer:

Once again, the cards are pointing towards your need to do it all and have everything under control. But, do you realise how detrimental that mentality is to your overall well being? Today, the cards are urging you to be gentle with yourself, to embrace the spirit of play and adventure, to have a little fun without thinking about your never-ending to-do list. Given that we're all recovering from the tumultuous eclipse energy, it's best to keep your phone on DND and give your mind some rest.

Tip: Take it easy.

Leo:

The trouble is, we tend to get fixated on how things should be, leaving very little room for the Universe to intervene and make magic on our behalf. What if you loosened the grip just a little? What if you welcomed this detour as a divine intervention? Oh, the things faith can transform in your life, Leo! Remember, the more connected you are to yourself, the better you will be able to understand the signs and symbols being revealed to you. It will all make sense to you soon enough—we promise!

Tip: Trust the divine detours.

Virgo:

Big manifestation energy surrounds you, Virgo, and it's making you look at your world in a brand new light. You have so, so much to be grateful for. Joy, abundance, prosperity, and the support of a tribe that loves you wildly, are some of the things you're giving thanks for today. What's more, something you've been hoping and praying for is about to take tangible form, reaffirming your faith in yourself as the co-creator of your reality.

Tip: Big manifestation energy surrounds you!

Libra:

The cards are pointing towards your lofty ambitions, Libra, as a reminder that bringing them to life is a part of your sacred mission. But, the ideation phase is over. So is the planning process. It's time to put the given plan into action. Word for the wise: move beyond those feelings of self-doubt as you reaffirm the belief, 'I am capable of moving mountains'. PS: The mysterious forces are guiding you at every step along the way.

Tip: It's time to put your plan into action.

Scorpio:

The cards are pointing towards your inner genius. The one who is connected with the higher dimensions and possesses the ability to bring brilliant ideas to life. Pay attention to the revelations you will have over the next few days. Spirit is bringing your attention to your sacred mission. Repeating the question "How can I be of service?" will help bring forth the right guidance from your superconsciousness.

Tip: Tap into your inner genius.

Sagittarius:

Once again, the cards are pointing towards your fear related to money, and reminding you that there is more than enough to go around. A change in your outlook will bring about a change in your outer reality. So affirm the good stuff, Sagittarius. Give thanks for what you have and what is yet to come. Many, many miracles are on their way to you, if only you're willing to hold space for them.

Tip: Rethink your beliefs about money.

Capricorn:

Capricorn, you've been playing within the tried-and-tested field for a while now and it has been working well. But, could your comfort zone be stagnating your growth in some way? Today, the cards are urging you to acknowledge the old ways as you strive for the new. Attempting to do the same things differently will lead to many revelations, especially on the work front. Those around you may or may not be on board with 'Mission Creative Expansion', and that's okay. Most geniuses are never reality celebrated in their time, anyway!

Tip: Find ways to do the same things differently.

Aquarius:

Oprah Winfrey, an Aquarius herself, once said, "The future of life as we know it is being determined by everything we're doing—and not doing. Now." What are these words of wisdom awakening within you? How are you being called to reclaim your power as a co-creator? The energy of the full moon in Gemini is synonymous with choices. It all comes down to which route you will take. PS: We have a feeling you're going to challenge yourself to outdo your past self.

Tip: Make a choice.

Pisces:

Lennon's lyrics 'You may say that I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one' accurately describes your state of mind, Pisces. You're floating in that in-between space, which lies at the junction of dream and reality. A space where new ideas begin to take form, helping you make sense of where you need to go from here. So, be open to the messages coming through from Spirit, no matter how bizarre they may seem. Co-creating a new world for yourself is going to be big on your agenda, magical one.

Tip: Dream a little dream.