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# Summit **T**IMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**Rahul hugs PM after a vitriolic attack, accuses Modi of being a "bhagidar" in graft**

**NEW DELHI, JUL 20 (PTI):** Congress president Rahul Gandhi today hugged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and later appeared to wink in some dramatic moments in the Lok Sabha, capping his blistering attack on the BJP mascot, accusing him of being a bhagidar (collaborator) in corruption and not a 'chowkidar' and saying people were victims of his 'jumbha' strikes.

Gandhi's no-holds barred attack at Modi on a range of issues including the controversial Rafale jet deal in his hour-long speech during a debate on the no-confidence motion against the government often sparked loud protests from the treasury benches, but it was his walk across the green-carpeted Well of House at the end to hug Modi that left almost everyone, not the least the prime minister, surprised.

Modi shook Gandhi's hands but ignored his **turn to pg02**

## Rare butterfly species spotted in Sikkim for first time

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 20 JUL:**

One of the members of Butterflies & Moths of Sikkim - Nature Conservation Society [BAMOS-NCS], Tenzing W Bhutia, who is also a Block Officer at Khangchendzonga National Park [KNP], has discovered a rare butterfly species named Mackinnon's Silverspot Kuekenthalia mackinnonii in the State of Sikkim and has recorded its first photograph here.

Mackinnon's Silverspot butterfly was till now known to occur in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Nepal and Central Nepal but had not been recorded from Sikkim so far.



Mr Bhutia recorded the rare species on 16 Jul in North Sikkim at an elevation of 16,000 ft. The species is named after PW Mackinnon by

Charles Lionel Augustus de Nicéville in 1891 who collected the species in Himachal Pradesh at 11,000 feet.

WH Evans [1932]

previously treated the species of the butterfly as 'rare'. The species has not been photographed in India or in Nepal in recent date. There has

been no information on the species since 1932. This record by Mr Bhutia can therefore be treated as a rediscovery of the species after more than 90 years and also a new record of the species for the State of Sikkim.

Mr Bhutia informs that the photograph recorded by him is that of a female Mackinnon's Silverspot. However, more field research is needed to look for the male of Mackinnon's Silverspot which also needs to be photographed, he adds.

He has further extended gratitude to butterfly experts, Peter Smetacek, Monsoon Jyoti Gogoi and Nawang G Bhutia, for help with its identification.



## STDC throws surprise birthday party for KMY yatri

**ARPAN PRADHAN**

**GANGTOK, 20 JUL:**

Taking the hospitality offered by the State a step further, Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation [STDC] organised a surprise birthday party for one of the oldest pilgrims of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2018, Mandayam Anandampilly Sridhar [72], at the Tourist Guest House in Rangpo, East Sikkim on 19 Jul.

Mr Sridhar who hails from Bangalore in Karnataka completed his Kailash Mansarovar Yatra successfully in its 4th batch and had reached Gangtok on 18 Jul.

The pilgrims of the 4th batch of KMY '18 were on their way back home to their respective States. On reaching Rangpo, STDC organised the surprise party under the direction of Chief Executive Officer, STDC, Suman Thapa, it is informed.

Mr Sridhar thanked STDC for showing such generosity through the surprise birthday celebration and for extending all the support throughout their pilgrimage.

Stressing on the pilgrims being their top priority, STDC CEO, Mr Thapa said that they wanted the pilgrims to

**turn to pg02**

## SFA remains firm on Referee Board suspension

**WILL BRING REFEREES FROM OUTSIDE FOR PREMIER LEAGUE AND I-DAY TOURNEY**

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 20 JUL:**

Sikkim Football Association president, Menla Ethenpa, informed today that the association will stick to its decision on the suspension of the Referee Board, reiterating that SFA was very serious on the matter and will not tolerate any indiscipline.

It may be recalled here that an emergency meeting of SFA executive committee on 30 Jun 2018 had suspended the Referee Board head-



ed by Chamchuk Lama as head of referee and Nim Diki Bhutia as secretary for a period of one year.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Ethenpa stated that **turn to pg02**

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## WhatsApp assures EC of steps to prevent its misuse ahead of polls

**NEW DELHI, JULY 20 (PTI):** WhatsApp has informed the Election Commission (EC) that it will take various steps ahead of polls to prevent the misuse of its messaging platform, and bring to India its fake news verification model which has been used in other markets.

Global executives of WhatsApp are already in India and engaging with policymakers on various issues that have been confronting the platform.

WhatsApp recently engaged with the Election Commission and political organisers in India to discuss best practices for using WhatsApp as well as how to prevent misuse ahead of the election next year, a WhatsApp spokesperson said in an email response to PTI query.

The spokesperson further said that WhatsApp was built for personal and small group conversations and it has "always taken a strong



stand against spam of any kind by banning accounts attempting to abuse our system".

A source said meanwhile that the messaging platform has told the EC that it will be watchful of spam messaging techniques ahead of the polls - both State and general elections.

The source said that officials from WhatsApp's global team are in India and will be meeting policymakers over the next few days.

WhatsApp has also told the EC that it will bring to India its fake news verification model - Verificado - that has

the quick forward button that appears next to media messages, as part of its efforts to reduce circulation of fake messages and hoaxes.

The forwarding restriction imposed for India is more stringent than globally, where it has been set at 20.

The move comes after the Facebook-owned messaging platform, which boasts of over 200 million users in India, faced government ire over failure to control false information and fake messages, that have incited mob-lynching incidents from Tripura to Karnataka.

Last evening, the government in a fresh missive to WhatsApp, warned that platforms that choose to remain mute spectators are liable to be treated 'abettor' and may face legal consequences.

Law and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had yesterday informed the Rajya Sabha that he

will hold discussion with stakeholders, including political parties, to evolve a policy to deal with the misuse of social media.

The minister had earlier told WhatsApp that the platform "cannot evade accountability and responsibility".

WhatsApp has told the Centre that fake news, misinformation and hoaxes can be checked by the government, civil society and technology companies "working together".

Rumours on WhatsApp have provoked a spate of incidents involving mob fury, including one where five men were lynched on the suspicion of being child lifters in Maharashtra's Rainpada village of Dhule district.

Also, a man was beaten to death, while three others were injured after a mob attacked them suspecting them to be child-lifters, near Bidar in Karnataka.

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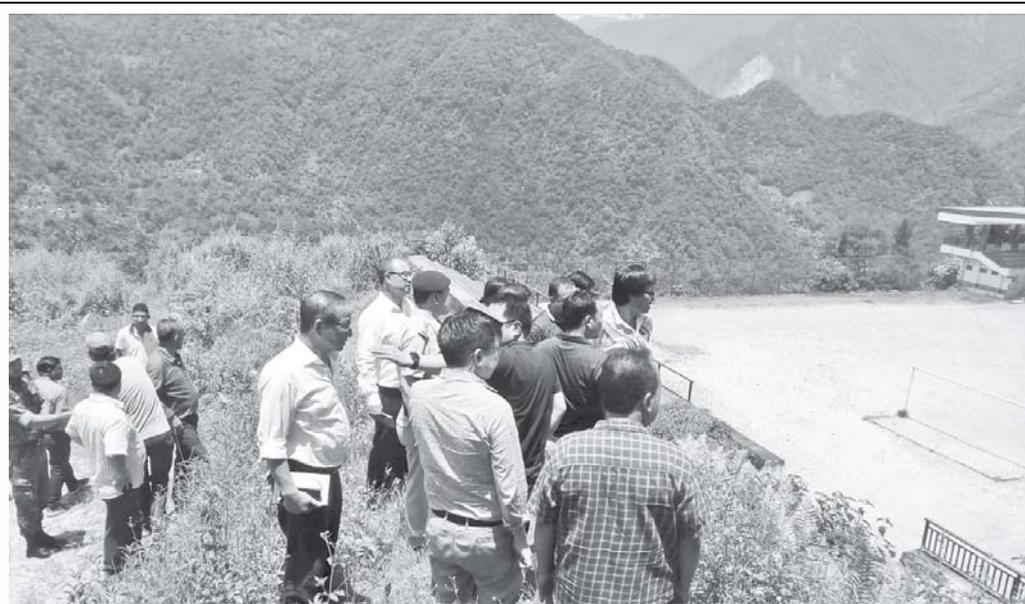
## STDC throws surprise birthday...

contd from pg01

take back with them fond memories of the State and spread the message of the State's hospitality to their respective places.

"We have been engaged in the service of the yatrins and have deputed our officers and staffs for their service through day and night. All of us are happy to help the yatrins and we do not want any one of them to face any kind of problems while they are here in Sikkim," added STDC Manager, Tejpal Pradhan.

It may be mentioned here, STDC has been tirelessly engaged in providing all kind of support to the yatrins during KMYs. Every year, at least 10 groups comprising of 50 yatrins each head for the KMY pilgrimage via Nathula. This year the yatra was flagged off on 16 Jun.



## MANGAN PUBLIC GROUND TO BE CLEARED OF DEBRIS FOR I-DAY CELEBRATION

**MANGAN, 20 JUL:** Forest Minister cum area MLA, TW Lepcha, accompanied by District Magistrate, North, Karma R Bonpo, members of North District Football Association [NDFA], and Mangan Nagar Panchayat Councilors inspected the Mangan public ground which has been damaged by a recent landslide. It is informed that the debris will be cleared out from the public ground from 21 Jul in order to organize the annual event of Independence Day Football Tournament 2018 in Mangan. [Wangchuk Bhutia]

## Ghatani inaugurates 4 CMRHM houses

**Zoom, 20 Jul (IPR):** Minister-cum-MLA of Salghari Zoom constituency, Arjun Kumar Ghatani inaugurated four houses constructed under Chief Minister's Rural Housing Mission (CMRHM) phase-1, for the year 2017-18, today. He was accompanied by the Block Development Officer Chumbung Block Administrative Centre, CL Sharma, officials from Rural Management Development Department, Zilla Panchayat, Panchayats, youths and public.

The Minister inaugurated two houses at Dhargaon, Ward No. 4, and handed them over to the beneficiaries Pemba Rai and Navin Kr. Kami.

Thereafter, he inaugurated a newly con-



structed CMRHM house and handed it over to the beneficiary, Meena Kumari Chhetri at Rabong, Ward No. 4 under Gelling Baiguney GPU (W).

Later, the Minister also chaired a meeting at Gelling Baiguney Panchayat Bhawan and distributed allotment order of CMRHM house to nine-

teen beneficiaries from the constituency.

Mr. Ghatani, in his brief address, informed about programmes and policies envisioned by

the Chief Minister to uplift socio-economic status of the people. He clarified that the state government under the visionary leadership of Pawan Chamling, has been putting every possible effort into transforming the society for the last twenty four years.

BDO Chumbung, CL Sharma also applauded the exemplary initiatives taken up by the Chief Minister and Area MLA for accomplishment of different activities.

Afterwards, Mr. Ghatani inaugurated another CMRHM house at Upper Sigeng under Mabong Sigeng GPU (W).

Beneficiary Januka Rai expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the state government.

## SKM misguiding people on LT issue: SDF

SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 20 JUL:** Sikkim Democratic Front has warned Sikkim Krantikari Morcha against "misguiding and deceiving" the people of Sikkim with false and baseless statements regarding Assembly seat reservation for Limboo and Tamang communities. SDF has said that it is very important for SKM to properly study the Constitution of the Country.

A press release issued by SDF publicity secretary, Chudamani Mishra mentions that within few years of tribal status being accorded to LT communities, HR Pradhan filed a case in the court in 2006 and the issue became sub-judice. However, the SDF government consistently pressurized the Centre for the seat reservation, the release adds.

It may be recalled that SKM had on Thursday alleged that the government is only using HR Pradhan's court case as an excuse for delays in securing LT Assembly seat reservation.

SDF has further al-

leged that SKM is giving totally false and deceiving press statements by just reading a part of the letter related to LT seat reservation.

Defending Sikkim Limboo Tamang Apex Committee [SILTAC], whom SKM had lashed out against on Thursday, SDF has said that the organisation has done a noble job in the interest of members of LT communities of Sikkim by taking the seat reservation issue to the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.

SKM should, in fact, support the pro-people efforts of the government and SILTAC if it is working in the interest of the people of Sikkim, SDF has said.

The release further adds that SKM should understand the Seventh Schedule in the Constitution of India on subjects in the Union List, State List and Concurrent List. Both the Limboo-Tamang seat reservation issue or tribal status to 11 communities of Sikkim falls under jurisdiction of the Central government, the release further states.

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## Meeting for I-Day celebration held in Soreng

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 JUL:

First round meeting for the celebration of the 72nd Independence Day celebration in Soreng, West Sikkim was held today at the auditorium of Soreng Sub Division. The meeting was convened by Additional District Collector, Soreng, Gayas Pega, in the presence of Minister of Human Resource Development Department, RB Subba, a press release informs.

The I-Day celebration in Soreng will feature State Level Inter School Girls' Football Tournament



ment scheduled to commence from 02 Aug. For the same, the house unanimously re-constituted the State Level Inter School Girls' Football Tournament Committee for the year 2018 and nominated Minister Mr Subba as chief patron of

the tourney.

Additional District Collector, Mr Pega, further briefed the house about the formation of sub-committee for execution of work and responsibilities assigned to them last year.

All Advisors and

Chairpersons under Soreng Chakung Constituency have been nominated as patrons of State Level Inter School Girls' Football Tournament 2018.

The final meeting will be held on 27 Jul, it is informed.

## SFA remains firm on Referee Board...

contd from pg01

the matter will be placed in the upcoming annual general meeting of SFA for the final decision.

He added that since the association has taken serious note of the matter, no decision will be taken until the AGM.

He also clarified that SFA decided that all matches in the premier division Sikkim-League and Independence Day Football Tournament 2018 will be officiated by referees from outside the State.

Speaking on the issue, Mr Ethenpa mentioned that HoR, Mr Lama, and secretary, Ms Bhutia, had not placed any issue regarding shortage of referees to conduct matches or any such issues at a meeting with SFA for the second division league at Football House on 17 July.

He informed that the association has also agreed to make a payment of Rs 300 per day and Rs

100 for meals. The first match of the second division went smoothly on 26 June but no referees were present on the field to conduct the match the next day so a senior footballer of the State voluntarily officiated the match, he added.

Mr Ethenpa stated that somehow the SFA managed referees from Pakyong who conducted matches for the next two days but Ms Bhutia threatened them against conducting the matches.

He added that SFA also tried to bring referees from Siliguri to conduct further matches in the league but Siliguri referee board informed them that they too had been contacted by the suspended members to avoid sending any referees which is why they declined as well.

"On crossing all limits, SFA has finally taken the decision and informed the All India Football Federation about the matter. Although

it is more expensive for us, we have been compelled to bring referees from Kolkata to conduct the rest of the matches in the second division," he informed.

He mentioned that to totally boycott the league without any prior notice and information was "very unlawful".

"SFA also got fed up with the last minute blackmails of the referee board. If there was any problem or issue then it should have been brought to the notice of SFA," he added.

Mr Ethenpa alleged that although the referee board was constituted by SFA, the head of referee had been running it like a private enterprise.

"SFA has been trying to give exposure to referees within and outside the State. Other referees in the State can directly come to SFA to move ahead in their refereeing career," he stated.

## Rahul hugs PM after a vitriolic attack...

contd from pg01

call to stand so that he could hug the BJP leader. The Congress chief, however, embraced him as he remained seated.

Modi initially looked nonplussed and did not stand up to hug him, but recovered quickly and called Gandhi back and patted him on the back. He also appeared to say a few words, which were inaudible.

Gandhi presented it as his show of love for the BJP despite its "abuses", including calling him 'pappu', "hate" and "anger". He said he was thankful to the BJP and the RSS for teaching him the meaning of Lord Shiva and what it means to be a Hindu and a Congressman.

"This is what it means to be a Hindu", Gandhi said after returning to his seat amid applause from his party members, including his mother Sonia Gandhi and other leaders present who heartily thumped their desks.

As Gandhi took his seat, he appeared to wink. Speaker Sumitra Mahajan later disapproved of his conduct, saying it was against the parliamentary decorum. Mahajan said she was not opposed to Gandhi's hug but felt decorum must be maintained when it involved the prime minister.

Gandhi's gesture was described as "childish behaviour" by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anant Kumar while Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia rejected suggestions that it was preplanned, saying it happened at the spur of the moment.

Supporting the no-confidence motion, which was first moved by the Telugu Desam Party, he said TDP like many others was a "victim" of BJP's political weapon called 'jumla strike' (gimmickery), "a fantastic political weapon of

21st century".

Taking on the government on the alleged graft in Rafale jet deal with France, Gandhi said, "I have no hesitation in saying that... under pressure from the prime minister, Nirmala Sitharaman spoke untruth to the people. Who are being helped? Nirmala ji, PM ji, please tell the country."

He said the prime minister had promised to be a 'chowkidar' but had become a 'bhagidar'.

Gandhi's speech was marked by noisy protests from the treasury benches as he targeted Modi and projected the RSS, BJP and its top leaders as agents of "anger and hatred".

He claimed he was expressing the sentiments of a section of the ruling party also, asserting the entire opposition and "some of your people (BJP)" will join hands to defeat them in the elections.

Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah were "different types of politicians" as they cannot afford to lose power unlike the Congress which is okay to losing it and being in and out of power.

The BJP leaders have been acting "out of fear" as "other processes" will start if they lose power and this has generated anger which is "crushing" India, Gandhi said.

Gandhi said he had asked the French president about the Indian government's claim that it cannot share the price details due to a secrecy pact between India and France. The French leader told him that there was no such pact, he claimed.

"Everybody understands the relationship the prime minister has with certain people. Everybody understands the amount of money that goes into the marketing of the prime minister and everybody knows who have funded

that. One of those people was given the Rafale contract.. The gentleman benefitted to the tune of Rs 45,000 crore," he alleged.

The industrialist is under a debt of Rs 35,000 crore and has never built an aircraft, he said.

Targeting Modi, he said, "I can see him smiling. There is a touch of nervousness. He is looking away, not looking into my eyes," intensifying protests from treasury benches.

This is truth, he is not a 'chowkidar' but a 'bhagidaar' (collaborator), he said.

Ananth Kumar accused Gandhi of making "defamatory" statements in violation of parliamentary rules.

Gandhi also accused Modi of "betraying" Indian soldiers who stood up to the Chinese army in Doklam by talking to the Chinese president without any agenda.

When he accused Modi of benefitting his "friends" by not reducing the oil prices when they went down globally, protests erupted again.

Kumar said he must give evidence to back his allegations and the Speaker was forced to adjourn the House briefly with Gandhi telling treasury benches "daro mat, daro mat... Sach se daro mat (don't be afraid of truth)."

As the House resumed following a brief adjournment, Mahajan said there should be evidence if direct allegations are levelled.

Dalits, tribals, farmers, minorities, youths and women felt left out in this government, he said.

He also raised the alleged financial irregularities involving son of Amit Shah, whom he described as a friend of Modi, and said the prime minister did not utter a word when the turnover of Shah's son's firm rose dramatically.

**Gangtok on Saturday, 21 July**

Temp: 26°C/17°C  
Forecast: Considerable cloudiness, a couple of thundershowers; not as warm.  
Sunrise: 04:53 AM  
Sunset: 6:30 PM

**Hackers steal 1.5 mn health records**

**SINGAPORE, JUL 20 (AFP):** Hackers have stolen health records belonging to 1.5 million Singaporeans, including Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong who was specifically targeted in the "unprecedented" attack, authorities said today. In the biggest data breach in the city-state's history, a government database was broken into in a "deliberate, targeted and well-planned" strike, the health and information ministries said in a joint statement.

**SFA Premier Div Sikkim League '18 to kick off this Saturday**

**SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 20 JUL:** Sikkim Football Association Premier Division Sikkim-League 2018 will kick off on 21 Jul here at Paljor Stadium. Eight teams are in the fray for the champion's title of the premier division league of the State.

United Sikkim Football Club is the defending champion of the league while the other participating clubs are State Sports Academy, Pakyong United Football Club, Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club, Sikkim Aakraman Football Club, Boys' Club Gangtok, Unicorn Football Club and SAI Namchi.

After finishing as the top two teams in the second division league last year, Unicorn FC and SAI Namchi were then promoted to the premier division for this year.

Addressing a press



conference here today, SFA president, Menla Ethenpa, mentioned that the premier division league will be conducted from 21 Jul to 27 Aug. He also clarified that all matches in the premier division league and upcoming Independence Day Football

Tournament 2018 will be officiated by referees from outside the State. He added that top four teams in the point tally of the league as on 05 Aug will get entry in the upcoming Independence Day Football Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium.

Apart from the top four teams of the premier division, top two teams of the recently concluded second division league 2018 and two teams from outside the State will be participating in the I-Day football tournament. The champion's trophy of the

league was also unveiled by the SFA during the press conference.

The SFA has welcomed all football lovers and people of the State to witness matches in the league to support and encourage local clubs of the State.



**Art of Living conducts Yoga camp under Swami Purnachaitanya**

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 20 JUL:** Senior international teacher of Art of Living Organization, Swami Purnachaitanya, conducted yoga camp in Gangtok from 13-16 Jul. Fifty-six participants from different parts of Sikkim, New Delhi, Guwahati, Kolkata, North Bengal and Bhutan benefited from the Art of Living Yoga Level 2 programme held in the capital, a press release informs.

The programme involved deep cleansing and healing processes with training on profound meditations, pranayamas and yoga postures.

One of the participants from Bhutan, GP Sharma, shared that the Yoga Level 2 programme has made him feel light

and energized.

Another participant from Guwahati, Jayanta Bhattacharya, added that he had been undergoing a lot of stress and mental unrest before attending the event but feels extremely relaxed now.

After completion of the Yoga Level 2 programme, Swami Purnachaitanya conducted the Sahaj Samadhi or Effortless Meditation Programme at the Art of Living Centre in Tadong with 20 participants.

The release informs that Swamiji Purnachaitanya will also be conducting a special puja called Rudrabhishek to mark the auspicious Shraavan Masa at the Art of Living Centre Tadong on 21 Jul which can be attended by the general public.



**Aakraman FC ready to attack football season**

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 20 JUL:**

One of the popular clubs of the State, Sikkim Aakraman Football Club is confident about finishing the Premier Division Sikkim-League 2018 on the top. The club hopes to finish on top so that it can play in the prestigious All India Governor's Gold Cup Football Tournament 2018.

The 24-member squad of Sikkim Aakraman FC is all set for this year's football season. The club is featuring fresh and young faces this time who will be supported by experienced senior players of the State. The team will be led by experienced footballer, Ashish Chettri as the team captain. The team has a senior and experienced national footballer, Shishil Karthak as the coach and Khituk Tongden as the manager.

Sikkim Aakraman FC is playing against Unicorn Football Club in the inaugural match of the league

on Saturday.

Sikkim Aakraman FC general secretary, Karma Tshering stated that the team has prepared hard with the aim to become the champion of the premier division and play in the Governor's Gold Cup.

"We have mostly young and fresh faces this time in the team as the objective of Sikkim Aakraman FC is to promote young promising footballers of the State. We are hopeful that our young squad will definitely perform the best in the league," he said.

The club was formed in 2010 by a group of likeminded youth of the State. The club became the champion of the State second division league in 2015 and got promoted to the premier division league 2016. Sikkim Aakraman FC became the champion of the premier division in its debut appearance in 2016. The club also lifted the runners-up trophy of Independence Day football tournament at

Paljor Stadium and played upto the semi-final round of the prestigious Governor's Gold Cup the same year.

However, in the premier division last year, the club's performance was not very satisfactory as they finished the league on the 5th position.

"We are more serious this time to perform better in this football season and we will not disappoint our supporters. We have undergone rigorous training consistently for the last three months," Mr Tshering stated. He added that all teams in the premier division were good so the club is looking to give a tough fight to all opponents in the league.

He also thanked the Principal of Tashi Namgyal Academy for allowing the club to practice in the school ground. Sikkim Aakraman FC has appealed to all its supporters and football lovers to continue supporting and encouraging the club throughout this football season.

**Bed bugs infest Air India's Mumbai-bound flights from US**

**NEW DELHI, JUL 20 (PTI):** After a rodent, bedbugs allegedly infested Air India's overseas flights as passengers in business class of Mumbai-bound aircraft from the US this week complained of the crawling insects which also bit an infant.

Yesterday, sources said a baby was allegedly bitten by the bed bugs on the Newark-Mumbai flight, leaving the other passengers agitated and delaying the flight's onward journey to Delhi.

Passengers of a flight on Tuesday from the US to Mumbai also allegedly had this unpleasant experience, and one of them tweeted about his ordeal.

"...just arrived from New York on Air India 144 business class with family. All our seats infested with bed bugs. Sir, have heard of bed bugs on trains but shocked to experience on our maharaja and that too business," Pravin Tonsekar tweeted and tagged the airline and the Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu.

Eight essays put the spotlight on the journey coursing by hydel projects in Sikkim and the region, the cost exacted by this "development" and some of the stories it birthed, not all of which have been shared before.

Also finding place in this collection is the arrival of Climate Change and its impact on Sikkim and how the State could negotiate with this new disruption.

**ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM**

EDITED BY TSHERING EDEN AND PEMA WANGCHUK

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# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE VIEW

## Writers, Readers and Publishing

*Nepali literature might be in good health, but publishing could use a professional boost*

Usually around Bhanu Jayanti, tentative efforts are made to tease out an update on Nepali literature's health in these parts. The feedback has been far from encouraging for a while now. Nepali reading has apparently shrunk to newspaper reading, with literature finding ever fewer patrons. Newspapers, even journalists will admit, are not where literature finds expression; for that, the more relaxed indulgence of books, book shops and libraries is required. Newspapers can provide space to announce new arrivals and commission reviews to ponder on books, but to sustain literature, writers need readers of books not cursory skimmers of headlines.

Speak to writers and researchers and they rue the lack of professional publishers in these parts. Writers in English, and the region has had some exceptional ones in this language in the recent past, have benefited from the professional handling of the bustling Indian publishing scene. Nepali writers, unfortunately, have no such recourse available to help refine and promote their works. Writers here are increasingly being required to also become publishers, printers and retailers. In these times, when reading habits are down all over the world, such multitasking just won't cut it. At a time when writers and publishers the world over are going out of their way to woo readers and entice a wider audience, the Nepali literati in the region remains unmoved, or so it appears. The world of letters might be an exclusive club, but the work it churns out needs to be circulated more widely for creativity to be celebrated. It appears that not enough of this is happening. A book launch, for example, should mean more than just a formal release by a VIP and should excite anticipation among readers. Too many writers release their books at official functions where the protocol itself distances them from their readers. Someone should start the trend of book reading and meet-the-author sessions for Nepali publications too.

There was a time when the people of letters might have sniggered at such showbiz gimmicks and stayed away from them, but the written word, let us accept it, is in the danger of extinction and such desperate times demand urgent/grand measures. Flashy book launches and promotion drives are the order of the day in the publishing business and are no longer seen as debasing the work. These are required tools. Writers who live off their writing are constantly under pressure to put out consistently good work whereas those who write as a "hobby" can afford to be slack. Of course there are exceptions, but this is still a reasonably accurate analogy. Why hasn't the Nepali publishing industry here delivered the professionalism that the writers and readers are so desperately seeking?

In their defence, the "local" market is extremely small and the local politics too sensitive to allow the more creative writers the space for irrelevance that is so important for the more ambitious works to arrive. Advancements in desk-top publishing and affordable printing options have not helped either. Earlier, if not for anything else, then at least to handle the complicated world of typesetting and finding printers in Benaras required writers to seek out publishers. Now, anyone can 'publish' a book and while that is fine when limited to vanity publishing, it has been to Nepali literature's disadvantage that publishing has been reduced to printing. A publisher is expected to help writers refine their work, slice away the flab and help them polish their work. Take away this process, and amateurish attempts abound. That said, it cannot also be ignored that publishers here have not made an earnest stab at becoming professional either. To this day, most publishers believe that the job is over with the printing of a new title. They have to realize now that they are "publishers" and not just "printers." A publisher's work, once a piece of work has been found fit for release, begins after the printing is done. Copies of the book have to be circulated for reviews, the writer has to be promoted in the media, the markets have to be identified and consignments reached there before the publicity blitz. All this does not cost much. All it requires is a professional approach. Given the identifiable pockets in India where Nepali readers reside, the paucity of reading material [thanks largely to poor marketing], and the presence [thankfully] of some great writers still in our midst, an educated and well researched approach to publishing should save the day for Nepali literature.

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

CLAUDIO MILANO, JOSEPH M. CHEER & MARINA NOVELLI

*theconversation.com*

The summer holidays are in full swing – and protests against overtourism have begun (yet again) in a number of popular European cities. Overtourism is not a new problem.

Barcelona, in particular, is at the centre of these mounting concerns about the rapid growth of tourism in cities, especially during peak holiday periods. In fact, Destination Barcelona estimates that there were 30m overnight visitors in 2017, compared to a resident population of 1,625,137.

But across southern Europe protests and social movements are growing in number. This has led to the formation of organisations such as the Assembly of Neighbourhoods for Sustainable Tourism (ABTS) and the Network of Southern European Cities against tourism (SET). They are at the forefront of the fight against overtourism and the impact it has on local residents.

While many tourists want to "live like a local" and have an authentic and immersive experience during their visit, the residents of many tourism-dependent destinations are seeing the unique sense of place that characterised their home towns vanish beneath a wave of souvenir shops, crowds, tour buses and rowdy bars. They are also suffering as local amenities and infrastructure are put under enormous strain.

It is a truly global issue. Other destinations where overtourism has reached disruptive proportions include Palma de Mallorca, Paris, Dubrovnik, Kyoto, Berlin, Bali and Reykjavik. Recently, Thai authorities were forced to act when the number of tourists visiting Maya Bay, the beach made famous by Danny Boyle's film *The Beach*, led to shocking environmental damage.

### WHAT DOES OVERTOURISM LOOK LIKE?

We define overtourism "as the excessive growth of visitors leading to overcrowding in areas where residents suffer the consequences of temporary and seasonal tourism peaks, which have enforced permanent changes to

# Overtourism: a growing global problem



their lifestyles, access to amenities and general well-being". The claim is that overtourism is harming the landscape, damaging beaches, putting infrastructure under enormous strain, and pricing residents out of the property market. It is a hugely complex issue that is often oversimplified.

It can have an impact in multiple ways. The international cruise industry, for example, delivers thousands of passengers daily to destination ports. While comparatively little is returned to communities, cruise activity creates physical and visual pollution.

City residents also bear the cost of tourism growth. As cities transform to cater for tourists, the global travel supply chain prospers. This coincides with increasing property speculation and rising costs of living for local communities. AirBnB, for example, has been accused of reducing housing affordability and displacing residents.

Amsterdam wants to take direct action to prevent this by banning short-term rentals and directing cruise passengers away from the city centre. AirBnB is also making efforts to address the problems they are accused of creating.

Things are made worse by the fact that key destinations are mostly unprepared to deal with overtourism. According to the Italian sociologist Marco d'Eramo, in 1950 just 15 destinations were visited by 98% of international tourists, while in 2007 this had decreased to 57%. This indicates

the rapid expansion of global tourism beyond established destinations.

Overcrowding and the establishment of typical tourism-focused businesses, such as clubs, bars and souvenir shops, overwhelm local businesses – and rowdy and unmanageable tourist behaviour is common. This diminishes the unique ambience of destinations and leads to crowd and waste management pressures.

Clearly, tourism brings jobs, investment and economic benefits to destinations. But overtourism occurs when tourism expansion fails to acknowledge that there are limits. Local government and planning authorities have so far been powerless to deal with the overwhelming influence of the global tourism supply chain. This has led to widespread "tourist-phobia" – first described by Manuel Delgado more than a decade ago as a mixture of repudiation, mistrust and contempt for tourists.

**DEALING WITH OVERTOURISM** Dealing with overtourism must now be a priority. But despite the mounting howls of protest, tourism promotion endures – and unsustainable hordes of tourists continue to descend on cities, beaches and other natural wonders.

Managing the flow of tourists seems an improbable and unwelcome task. But some cities have taken drastic measures to limit the effects of overtourism, including the introduction of new or revised taxation arrangements, fines linked to new

local laws, and "demarketing", whereby destinations focus on attracting fewer, high-spending and low impact tourists, rather than large groups.

But it's a fine line to tread. If tourist arrivals to a destination decline suddenly and dramatically it would likely have considerable economic repercussions for those who rely on them.

Overtourism is a shared responsibility. City administrators and destination managers must acknowledge that there are definite limits to growth. Prioritising the welfare of local residents above the needs of the global tourism supply chain is vital. Prime consideration must be given to ensuring that the level of visitation fits within a destination's capacity.

The global tourism supply chain also bears a major responsibility. It must ensure that product development achieves a balance between the optimal tourist experience and a commensurate local benefit. Tourists must also play their part by making travel choices that are sensitive to the places they visit and those who live in and around them.

Tourism should be part of the wider destination management system, which must also consider transport and mobility, the preservation of public spaces, the local economy and housing, among other aspects of daily life. Research, planning and a close and ongoing dialogue between city administrators, the tourism industry, civil society groups and local residents are essential.

Perhaps overtourism is a symptom of the present era of unprecedented affluence and hyper mobility, a consequence of late capitalism. We need to urgently rethink the way cities are evolving to uphold the rights of their residents.

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## Football may be caught in the crossfire between Qatar and the Saudis

SIMON CHADWICK

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Most football fans will still be reflecting on France's win, Germany's failure, Messi's frustrations, Harry Kane's goals and the rest. Yet many of us who followed the off-field games just as closely will have found the World Cup a largely uneventful tournament. This was despite pre-tournament hyperbole that portrayed Russian president Vladimir Putin as the tyrannical leader of an evil empire. Once the football started, Putin largely disappeared from view and let his soft power fest roll out before the world's eyes, thereby neatly avoiding public scrutiny.

Putin faces some serious domestic issues, though it is overseas where things could seriously kick off. Under his leadership, Russia has twice used sport as a springboard for military interventions: following the Russian national team's success at the European football championships in 2008, it invaded Georgia; and following the Sochi Olympic Games in 2014, it annexed Crimea.

It is therefore not beyond the realms of possibility that we will see Russia similarly asserting itself post-World Cup. Indeed, shortly before the world got distracted by football, Russian ally Syria recognised two of Georgia's breakaway regions – Abkhazia and South Ossetia – as independent countries. This could well be a portent of things to come in the next few months.

While we wait to see if Putin will indulge in any post-tournament political machismo, world football already faces a number of increasingly pressing issues, not least what is happening in the Gulf.

### BE IN OR OUT?

Saudi Arabia is now into the second year of a bit-



ter feud with regional rival Qatar. During the World Cup, Saudi authorities complained about Qatar to FIFA, claiming that Qatar's coverage of the Saudi national team's performances was disparaging and overly politicised.

The channel involved was BeIn Sports, an offshoot of Qatar's state-funded broadcaster Al Jazeera. Though the Saudi government in Riyadh vehemently dislikes Al Jazeera, BeIn had nevertheless legally acquired the rights to broadcast the World Cup across the region, including in Saudi Arabia.

But the World Cup saw the sudden emergence of a previously unknown Saudi-based entity – Beout Q – which began broadcasting BeIn content under its own name. Saudi Arabian officials denied their involvement in the content piracy, though some were unconvinced.

With Riyadh reportedly behind a US\$25 billion proposal to develop FIFA's Club World Cup, and Qatar hosting the next World Cup (with its players using Saudi-rival Iran's Kish Island as a training camp), it seems likely that football will remain caught in the crossfire of an intensifying proxy war in the region.

Ahead of its World Cup, the government in Qa-

tar may think that it has successfully negotiated its way through endless allegations of corruption and ongoing criticism of its stance on immigrant labour rights. However, sports mega-events always shine a light on a country's deficiencies and failings pre-tournament so Qatar had better prepare itself for what is still to come.

Cynics will continue to question the country's right to host the event, not least because former FIFA head Sepp Blatter has his controversial fingerprints all over the successful bid. Meanwhile, many people, especially Europeans, are still worried about the tournament's switch from June/July to November/December, when the weather will be slightly less hot.

There will be other issues, too, as Qatar is a small country with a population of less than 3m. The influx of large numbers of fans, some of whom may be intent on getting drunk and fighting, will be challenging and a lack of hotel rooms means some may have to stay in tents and on boats.

Before we get there, however, there is also the matter of what happens in 2021. The summer before each World Cup, FIFA stages the Confederations Cup – a competition for the winners of each continent's respective championships. Following uproar about Qatar 2022 being moved to December (mid-season for many leagues across the world), it is extremely unlikely that similar, disruptive, arrangements will be made for the "Confed". Hence, another host is needed and there are rumours that China, which has huge football ambitions, is keen to step into the void and help.

*[the writer is Professor of Sports Enterprise, University of Salford]*

# Bru repatriation issue: FIR against 60 refugees



**Delhi HC sets aside penalty imposed on Kanhaiya by JNU**

**NEW DELHI, JUL 20 (PTI):** The Delhi High Court today set aside an order of Jawaharlal Nehru University's appellate authority imposing a penalty on its former students union president Kanhaiya Kumar in connection with a 2016 incident in which alleged anti-India slogans were raised at an event.

Justice Siddharth Mridul said the JNU office's order was "unsustainable on innumerable counts" after which the counsel for the varsity submitted that they are recalling the decision.

The court remanded the matter back to the appellate authority to conduct de novo proceedings in accordance with law.

Kumar had moved the high court on July 17 seeking direction to quash the office order of July 4 passed by JNU through the chief proctor. He was held guilty for doing an act in violation of discipline and conduct and the fine was imposed on him.

The Rs 10,000 fine was imposed on Kumar by the appellate authority in connection with the incident in which slogans were allegedly raised at the event relating to Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru's hanging.

On February 9, 2016, a poetry event was held at JNU in connection with the third anniversary of Guru's hanging for his role in the attack on Parliament on December 13, 2001.

A high-level panel of JNU had recommended that another student, Umar Khalid, be rusticated in connection with the incident. Besides, financial penalty was imposed on 13 other students for violation of disciplinary norms.

On July 5, the university had revealed that the appellate authority upheld the decision against Khalid and Kumar and in some cases the penalty has been reduced.

Kumar, Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya, were arrested in February 2016 on charges of sedition in connection with the controversial event and now are out on bail.

**AGARTALA, JUL 20 (PTI):** Tripura Police has registered an FIR against 60 Bru displaced people for allegedly holding refugee leaders captive on Monday and forcing them to withdraw their signature from a tripartite agreement to their repatriation to their home state Mizoram.

The FIR was registered suo-moto at Anandanagar police station in North Tripura district, Superintendent of Police Manik Das said today.

Only three out of the 60 were identified and notices were sent to them, he said.

As per the tripartite



agreement signed by the two state governments

and the Centre, as many as 32,876 people belong-

ing to the Bru community

Tripura to Mizoram before September 30.

A Sawibunga, president of the Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum (MBDPF), the apex body of the refugees lodged in six relief camps in North Tripura for over two decades, also signed the pact on behalf of the camp inmates.

As part of the July 3 agreement, the Centre offered the refugees a package of Rs 1.5 lakh for housing assistance, Rs 4 lakh for sustenance, free ration for 2 years, Rs 5,000 per month to each refugee family among other benefits.

Unhappy with the outcome of the tripartite agreement, a group of

refugees gheraoed Sawibunga and other MBDPF leaders at Naisingpara relief camp for several hours on July 16 and forced him to withdraw his signature in writing from the pact.

The Bru community people from Mamit, Kolasib and Lunglei districts of Mizoram had fled homes following an ethnic clash in 1997 and took shelter in Tripura.

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb has said there was a conspiracy to stop the Bru people from returning so that the business interests of some people are not affected.

## Eastern India's first tech-2-biz summit to be held next month

**KOLKATA, JUL 20 (PTI):** A first-ever tech-to-business (tech-2-biz) summit in eastern India will be organised here on August 10 that will aim at educating mid-sized businesses of the region, particularly small and medium enterprises with limited exposure, the organisers said.

The inaugural edition of the one-day 'Digital Success Summit' is being organized by city-based Indus Net Technologies.

"We decided to host the first Digital Success Summit in Kolkata which is the new growth capital of India as we see an exponential rise in digital adoption in the region," said Abhishek Rungta, Founder

and CEO of Indus Net Technologies.

The organisers claimed that the event will have interesting insights from over 25 speakers coming from across the country to share their first-hand experience and knowledge about their domain. All the speakers are heading companies that have a global presence, they said.

The event has already seen over 100 registrations, they said.

It will focus on digital infrastructure, "business enhancer catalyst", role and influence of digital media and advertising and how internet works and is governed in India in separate sessions, the organizers said.

## Odisha govt alerts collectors as IMD forecast heavy rainfall

**BHUBANESWAR, JUL 20 (PTI):** With the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting heavy rainfall across the state in the next two days, Odisha government today asked all the district collectors to remain alert to the possible flood situation.

"IMD sources indicate that under the influence of a low pressure area formed over the north-west Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood and associated cyclonic circulation, heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur in different districts with extremely heavy rainfall in some places during the period from July 20 to 22," the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) B P Sethi informed the district collectors through letters. A copy of such letters is made available to the media.

Keeping this situation in view, the SRC said, he had directed all the district administrations to

remain prepared to meet any flood/waterlogging situation in the district.

The SRC also directed the collectors to ensure round-the-clock functioning of the district Emergency Operation Centres (EOC) and instruct field functionaries to remain present at their respective headquarters and respond to emergency situations.

The collectors were also told to promptly respond to the state EOC in the SRC office in case of any adverse situation.

Though there is no immediate flood threat in the state, Sethi said "Keeping the Met forecast in view, the state government has taken adequate precaution to meet any eventuality."

The IMD in a special bulletin has forecast heavy rainfall in 14 districts and very heavy rainfall in two districts in Odisha from Friday in view of the low pressure formed

over the north-west Bay of Bengal intensifying further.

The rainfall which has already started in some parts of the coastal districts this morning, will increase further from Saturday and continue till Sunday, it said.

The IMD forecast heavy rain likely to lash Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Balasore, Bhadrak, Ganjam, Jajpur, Nayagarh, Gajapati, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Koraput, Kandhamal on Friday, Kandhamal, Boudh, Sonapur and Kalahandi districts on Saturday and Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj the following day.

The IMD has also issued warning for the fishermen not to venture into the sea due to inclement weather. Besides, it has also asked the fishermen, who have gone for deep sea fishing, to return to the coast by today.

## SC express concern over deaths in accidents due to potholes

**NEW DELHI, JUL 20 (PTI):** The Supreme Court today expressed concern over deaths in accident caused by potholes on roads across the country and observed that the number fatalities caused due to such accidents was more than those in terror attacks.

A bench comprising Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepka Gupta observed that a large number of people were dying in accidents caused due to potholes on roads and asked the Supreme Court

Committee on Road Safety to look into the matter.

"So many people are dying in the country due to accident caused by potholes on roads. Reports say that more people have died due to accident caused by potholes than the deaths in terrorists attacks," the bench observed.

Terming the situation as "frightening," the bench observed that the issue involves a serious question of life and death of a person.

"This is obviously a

very serious issue and persons who have lost their lives as a result of accidents caused due to potholes should be entitled to compensation," the apex court said.

The apex court asked the committee on road safety to give a report in this regard within two weeks.

The issue of potholes on roads cropped up before the bench when it was hearing a matter related to road safety across the country.

## Number of girls in IITs distressingly low, this needs to rise: President

**KHARAGPUR (WB), JULY 20 (PTI):** President Ram Nath Kovind today said girls often outscore boys in board examinations, colleges and universities, but their number is "distressingly low" in the IITs and it has to increase.

In 2017, of the 1,60,000 candidates who appeared for the IIT joint entrance examination, only 30,000 were girls. Of the 10,878 students who had been admitted to under graduate classes of the IITs in the same year, only 995 were girls, he said while delivering the 64th Convocation address of IIT Kharagpur.

"This issue continues to puzzle me... This cannot go on, we need to do something about these numbers," Kovind said.

"When one considers board exams, girls do very well. They often outscore boys. In colleges and universities I visit across country, I find girl students tend to win more medals than their male counterparts. (But in the IITs, the intake of girl students is distressingly low," he said.

Of the 11,653 students enrolled in IIT Kharagpur, only 1,925 are girls, a little over 16 per cent, the president said, adding participation of women in higher education and in science and technology in the country "has to rise to fair and acceptable level in the coming decade and this should be a national

priority, and the IIT committee must take the lead."

Without meeting this challenge and creating work opportunity for girls and young women, development of the society can never be complete, Kovind said.

"This is as much critical for social equality as it is for economic growth," he said.

West Bengal, where IIT Kharagpur is located, "historically produced illustrious women achievers who have contributed a great deal to nation building and to the society. One of them, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is with us," he said.

Kovind also talked about the initiative by IIT Kharagpur with support from Infosys Foundation to fund women researchers who wish to attend international conferences. The institute has created 113 super-numeral seats for girl students in the undergraduate programme. These are good steps taken up by the first IIT of the country but a long road lies ahead, he said.

About Bengal, which nurtured scientific research, Kovind referred to the contributions of J C Bose, S N Bose, Meghnad Saha and many others. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and West Bengal Governor K N Tripathi were the guests of honour at the convocation.

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## Sanjay Takale to make WRC-3 debut

**MUMBAI, JUL 20 (PTI):** Pune-based rally driver Sanjay Takale is all set to make his World Rally Championship-3 debut at the Neste Rally in Finland and next week.

The Latvia-based Baltic Motorsports Promotion is providing Takale a WRC-registered car, it was announced at a media conference here today.

The Baltic Motorsports has confirmed Takale as its driver for the Finland-leg of the World Rally Championship in the WRC-3 category.

Takale said he is the first Indian driver to participate in this category at the WRC.

"This rally is the mother of all rallies and one of the fastest rallies (in the circuit). There are a lot of jumps on the track, and the terrain is unique," said Takale, who is scheduled to team up with British co-driver Darren Garrod.

He will be driving a Ford Fiesta 2 in the Finland Rally, which begins on July 26 and concludes on July 29.

"I have had podium finishes in the last couple of years which has helped me qualify for the WRC-3. I think this is the most technical high speed rally in WRC and I would like to finish this rally and finish well," he added.

In the lead up to the Finland rally, Takale competed in Rally Tallinn in Estonia and Rally Latvia.

He will be joined in Rally Finland by compatriot and MRF driver Gaurav Gill, who will be competing in WRC 2 class category.

# Heat wave has Tokyo residents concerned about Olympics

**TOKYO, JUL 20 (AP):** A deadly heat wave in Japan this week has many residents in the Japanese capital questioning the wisdom of staging the Tokyo 2020 Olympics in July and August.

Rescuers in Tokyo responded to more than 3,000 emergency calls on Wednesday as the heat wave continued to grip Japan.

The 2020 Olympics will run from July 24 to Aug. 9 when temperatures in central Tokyo can exceed 35 degrees Celsius (95 Fahrenheit).

A total of 317 people were rushed to hospitals in the capital on Wednesday. The number of emergency calls broke the previous record of 2,900 set the previous day.

Tokyo's Application File to host the 2020 Games reads: "The pleasant weather conditions at this time of year will be ideal for athletes." But anyone who has spent a summer in Tokyo knows that's not necessarily the case.



Experts have warned the risk of heat stroke in Tokyo has escalated in recent years, while noting the Olympics are expected to take place in conditions when sports activities should normally be halted.

"If this is what it's going to be like for the

Olympics, it will be dangerous," said office worker Akira Nishino as he mopped sweat from his brow near the Imperial Palace on Friday.

Nine people died and thousands were taken to hospitals across Japan on Wednesday. Temperature rose as high as 40.7C

(105F) in central Japan.

The Japan Meteorological Agency warned of extremely high temperatures and has called on people to take precautions such as drinking water and using air conditioners.

In 1964, the Olympics in Tokyo were held in Oc-

tober, mostly to avoid the scorching heat. But that was before the Olympics became big business and TV contracts determined schedules.

Organizers are doing what they can but there is only so much that can be done in an attempt to beat the heat.

During a visit to Tokyo last week, John Coates, the head of an IOC inspection team, acknowledged that heat will be a huge challenge for Tokyo organizers.

"We are mindful that we do have to prepare for extreme heat," Coates said at a news conference. "You're not the first country to host the games in extreme heat. It's a natural consequence of being in July and August." Coates said organizers should explore all options to combat the extreme heat that will likely prevail during the games.

The marathon and a number of other outside sport events will be held early in the morning to avoid scorching heat, a plan approved by the IOC on Wednesday showed.

The Japanese government and the Tokyo metropolitan government are planning to lay pavements that emit less surface heat and plant taller roadside trees but many worry it won't be

enough.

Meanwhile Coates has urged Tokyo organizers to rely more heavily on foreign expertise in staging events where Japan does not have a strong background.

Tokyo organizers have been criticized by various sports federations over issues such as competition planning, water pollution and communication channels.

Some federations have raised concerns about Japan's ability to deliver their events to an Olympic standard.

"The federations are not going to have to worry too much about karate or judo or baseball or softball -- track and field, great experience there, swimming too -- but you go to rowing, canoeing, some of those sports, and it is going to need greater reliance on the international federations, in terms of operational planning," Kyodo News agency quoted Coates as saying on Friday.

## Pinto names 25-member Indian football squad for U-20 COTIF event



**NEW DELHI, JUL 20 (PTI):** A 25-member Indian U-20 football team will leave for Valencia, Spain tomorrow to participate in the COTIF International tournament scheduled to begin on July 29.

The U-20 national team consists of boys who represented India in the FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017 and the U-19 National

Team boys.

Midfielder Harmanpreet Singh and Jashandeep Singh, who were part of the 23 short listed players from the Khelo India Project that had appeared for trials at Indian Arrows in Goa, have also been selected into the final squad as part of the reserves.

The team will be playing friend-

ly matches against local clubs on July 23 and July 25 before proceeding to the COTIF Tournament -- the Mini Mundial Sub U-20 Men's football tournament.

The India U-20 national team will be clashing swords with Argentina U-20, Venezuela U-20, Mauritania U-20 and Murcia U-20, a local side, during the tournament.



## Ramanathan enters semifinals, Paes out of Hall of Fame Open

**NEW DELHI, JUL 20 (PTI):** Ramkumar Ramanathan notched up a straight set win over Canada's Vasek Pospisil to reach his first ever ATP semi-finals but veteran Leander Paes bowed out after losing his doubles quarterfinal at the Hall of Fame Open grasscourt tournament in Newport.

The 23-year-old from Chennai took one hour and 18 minutes to get across Pospisil 7-5, 6-2 in the quarterfinals yesterday.

The 161-ranked Indian will meet American Tim Smyczek in the last four of the tournament.

Ramanathan, who had stunned world No. 8 Dominic Thiem at the Antalya Open last year, sent down five aces and converted the three break points that came his way.

Paes, who is playing his first match since creating the Davis Cup world record in February for most number of

wins in doubles, and his American partner Jamie Cerretani suffered a 3-6 6-7 (3) loss to giant-killers Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Austin Krajicek in the doubles quarterfinals.

Jeevan and Austin, who had toppled top seeds Nicholas Monroe and John-Patrick Smith in the first round, will face fourth seeds Spain's Marcelo Arevalo and Mexico's Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela in the semifinals.

In-form Divij Sharan and his partner Jackson Withrow, seeded second, defeated Australia's Matthew Ebden and Ukraine's Sergiy Stakhovsky 7-6 (4) 6-3 to set up a semifinal clash with New Zealand's Artem Sitak and Israel's Janathan Erlich.

Artem and Janathan saw off third seeds India's Purav Raja and British Ken Skupski 4-6 6-3 10-8 in a thrilling quarterfinal contest.

# World Cup fever still raging in Rohingya refugee camps

**KUTUPALONG (BANGLADESH), JUL 20 (AFP):** The World Cup may be over but passion for the game burns bright in the world's largest refugee camp, where Brazil and Argentina flags still flutter alongside the red and green of Bangladesh, which hosts nearly a million Rohingya Muslims forced out of Myanmar.

For many young refugees in Bangladesh's southeast this World Cup was their first, and the excitement of last Sunday's final shows no sign of abating any time soon.

Rohingya boys paraded a miniature replica of the World Cup through the dirt alleyways of the refugee camp, the smallest football fans staring dewy-eyed at the modest golden trophy as if it were the real thing.

"My favourite was Argentina. I won," said six-year-old Mohammad Reza, proudly sporting the blue-and-white jersey of firm local



favourite Lionel Messi. One of the youngest boys jostling for a glimpse of the miniature

cup in its small glass case was five-year-old Nurul Afsar in his Brazil top.

are mainly divided -- fiercely -- between Brazil and Argentina, mirroring a somewhat peculiar obsession among football fans across Bangladesh.

Many fans crowded around one television to watch the final, said 18-year-old Nurul Absar, pointing to a tarpaulin shack just beyond a dirt clearing where football fans had congregated for an afternoon's play.

Dozens of barefoot boys played under threatening monsoon clouds, dodging muddy potholes to shoot at a goal demarcated with twigs.

An errant strike sent a ball soaring into the huts surrounding the pitch, as a referee blew his whistle at older players contesting the main match.

Apart from the odd Spanish flag or top European club jersey, football loyalties in the remote but overcrowded Kutupalong camp

are mainly divided -- fiercely -- between Brazil and Argentina, mirroring a somewhat peculiar obsession among football fans across Bangladesh.

The South American rivalry has been traced back to broadcasts of the 1986 World Cup, when Diego Maradona's brilliance helped Argentina win the trophy -- and legions of fans in Bangladesh, where Brazilian legend Pele was already a household name.

Among the many boys of all ages giving their name as Neymar, one stood out: with his hair bleached in the superstar's signature style, Jahangir Alam bore the closest resemblance to the Brazilian striker; at least in this corner of the camp.

"I like Neymar a lot. That's why I got this hairstyle like him. I enjoyed the tournament," the 17-year-old said, juggling a football in his Brazil jersey.

# India pushing ahead with Sustainable Devolvement Goals: Akbaruddin

YOSHITA SINGH

**UNITED NATIONS, JUL 20 (PTI):** India is pushing ahead with its efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by undertaking one of the highest rates of renewable energy expansion and building 11 million homes under the world's largest affordable housing programme, India's top envoy to the UN Syed Akbaruddin has said.

Speaking at the 'High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development' here yesterday, India's Permanent Representative to the UN said India was looking forward to engaging constructively in global efforts for the achievement of the goals encapsulated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"Our rapidly transforming world is pluralist and diverse but all our people have



common aspirations for better lives," Akbaruddin said.

He said the country was "pushing ahead" on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with strong political commitment and execution by all stakeholders.

Highlighting the efforts

underway in India in pursuit of SDGs, Akbaruddin said under the Clean India Mission (Swachh Bharat), a total of 72 million household toilets had been constructed to improve hygiene and make the country open defecation free by October 2, 2019.

Through this campaign, 550 million lives will be directly impacted he said, adding that India will host Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in October this year to share and learn from global experiences on this issue.

He said India was also undertaking the transformation of its energy mix towards renewable energy, with particular emphasis on expanding the use of solar and wind power, including off-grid.

By 2022, India plans to produce 175 GW of renewable energy that will include 100 GW of solar power.

"The rate of expansion in this sector in India is highest in the world," he said.

India has also partnered with France and other countries to launch the International Solar Alliance as a tangible contribution to the ongoing collective global efforts on climate action.

More than 60 countries have already joined this Alliance, which has now been registered at the UN as a multilateral treaty.

Further, by the year 2030,

600 million Indians will be living in urban areas and this will require building of 700-900 million sqm of urban space annually.

Stressing that this new urban infrastructure will be green and resilient, Akbaruddin said India hopes to complete the building of 11 million homes by 2019 in what is the world's largest affordable housing programme.

He said with more than 110 Member States likely to complete their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) by the end of this year's forum, nations would have truly moved from the "phase of 'Precept' to the stage of 'Practice', from the era of preaching to the era of sharing, understanding and learning."

"The numerous examples of translating words into deeds in myriad ways

demonstrate both 'small is beautiful' and 'big too is bountiful'," he said.

He said that strengthening global partnerships were key to accelerating global progress on the implementation of SDGs, noting that India was stepping up its efforts towards South-South cooperation.

Last year, India established the India-UN Development Partnership Fund under which USD 150 million has been committed for the next decade.

India is also partnering the UN Office for South South Cooperation in administering this Fund, with implementation by UN agencies.

Akbaruddin informed the forum that more than 20 projects are in various stages of implementation of this "start up" venture.

## China on "wrong side" of religious freedom: Pompeo

**WASHINGTON, JUL 20 (PTI):** China is on the "wrong side" on the issue of religious freedom, a fundamental human right, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said stressing that America was opposed to "religious intolerance" in any country whether it is an ally or not.

At the State Department's three-day conference next week on religious freedom, the US will be making the case that religious freedom benefits countries economically and diplomatically, Pompeo said.

The summit will bring together government officials, representatives of international organisations, religious leaders, rights advocates and members of the civil society from around the world. Pompeo said that the Trump administration is considering taking multiple actions against Myanmar on the Rohingya refugee crisis.

"The State Department has made it clear that with respect to this issue (religious freedom), we think they (China) are on the wrong side of religious freedom, that they are a country of concern connected to that," Pompeo told VOA news.

He said the US believes that "religious intolerance is unacceptable" and aims to promote religious freedom in every country, whether or not it is an ally.

He was responding to a question on repression against the Uighur Muslims and Tibetan Buddhists in China.

"We understand that religious freedom is at risk in many places in the world, and yet the US has complex, broad relationships with many countries, including China, across economic and military and political sets of issues," he said.

"The Trump administration has been incredibly strong in promoting religious freedom. It is the case that there are many countries, indeed countries that we often work alongside, who are allies in other places, who are allies to them that religious tolerance and freedom is good for them," Pompeo told EWTN Television network.



A Pakistani peace activist campaigning for better Indo-Pak ties has returned home, seven months after he mysteriously went missing, according to a media report today. Raza Mahmood Khan, a convener of Aghaz-i-Dosti -- a friendship initiative between Indian and Pakistani youths -- was allegedly picked up on December 2, 2017 from his Model Colony residence in Lahore by some men in plain clothes. The police are, however, tight lipped about where the 40-year-old social activist was found, the Dawn News reported. Following Khan's 'enforced disappearance', human rights activists, friends and family had been agitating for his release, condemning attempts to silence and harass those speaking up for peace and human rights, the report said. Quoting Mohammad Imran, Superintendent of Police, Investigation Model Town, the report said the Punjab police had recovered Khan 10 days ago and he is in good health.

## Indian detainees in US not handcuffed, says volunteer

**WASHINGTON, JUL 20 (PTI):** The over 50 Indian nationals detained in a prison in the US State of Oregon after illegally entering the country are not being handcuffed, a legal advocacy group volunteer said today.

Media reports had claimed that the Indian immigrants, seeking asylum in the US fearing religious and political persecution back home, were being treated like criminals in a federal prison in Oregon where they have been detained for the past several weeks now.

"It was not my statement that immigrants detained at (a federal prison in) Sheridan (Oregon) have been kept in handcuffs and chains since their arrival or that they are in handcuffs and chains 24/7 now. My statement has been misconstrued by the media," Navneet Kaur, a community college professor, said in a statement.

Kaur who has been volunteering with the Portland-based Innovation Law Lab in providing legal aid to more than 50 Indian prisoners in Sheridan jail said her account is based on her visit to the prison and meetings with these detainees.

Her main role is to provide translation to the detainees, a majority of whom are from Punjab and speak only Punjabi.

"On July 14, 2018, during the 105th year celebration held in commemoration of the Gadar Party in Astoria, Oregon, I spoke against the grave violations of human rights experienced by immigrants detained by ICE



in America. My statement was based on the accounts I have heard during my visits to the federal detention center in Sheridan, Oregon.

"I gave a few examples of such violations including not giving them access to legal representation, keeping them in prison cells 22 hours a day, keeping them handcuffed and chained for a 24-hour period upon the arrival," Kaur said.

It is her understanding that "conditions" at the federal detention center in Sheridan have improved since the immigrants' initial arrival in late May 2018, she said.

"This was only made possible by coming together of all faith communities and efforts made by Innovation Law Lab attorneys and Public Defenders office," she said.

Nonetheless, the practice of detaining immigrants is inhumane. Though the men may not be in physical handcuffs and chains now, they are still confined to a prison," Kaur said.

In a separate statement,

APANO's South Asian Sheridan Support Committee alleged that over 100 migrants are being detained in this prison as a direct result of the Trump administration's unjust, no exceptions immigration policy.

"Imagine crossing the globe and presenting yourself at the US/Mexico border seeking asylum. And then ending up incarcerated in a federal jail in Sheridan, Oregon. No one speaks your language. You can't wear a turban, an article of clothing central to your religious practice," the non-profit organisation said in a statement.

"For more than 50 men from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, China and other countries, this is their reality. Fleeing political unrest and gang violence in their home countries, they came to the US seeking safety and protection. And they ended up in a medium security prison," AAPNO and the South Asian Sheridan Support Committee said.

According to AAPNO all of these men have been offered

legal support by lawyers at the Innovation Law Lab and will begin the first step of their asylum hearing, known as the 'fear assessment', this week.

"The bad news is all 121 men currently have deportation orders because of the Trump administration's violent commitment to detain and deport, these detainees will likely be held at Sheridan even after they pass their fear assessment," it said.

Meanwhile, an official from the Indian Consulate in San Francisco visited the Sheridan prison to have a first-hand assessment of the condition of Indians detained in the prison.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials in an email to North American Punjabi Association has said that it is processing all detainees in accordance with US immigration law.

"ICE has met with all detainees to advise them of their rights to speak with their consular representatives. Detainees have access to legal representation," Melissa Nitsch, Community Relations Officer told NAPA.

"Any asylum claims are forwarded promptly to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) asylum office in San Francisco. Interviews are underway by USCIS, and determinations of credible fear are at the discretion of USCIS (not ICE)," Nitsch said.

The Indian Embassy here did not respond to questions on how many Indian detainees opted for consular access.

## Trump invites Putin to US for talks amidst backlash over first summit in Helsinki



**WASHINGTON, JUL 20 (PTI):** President Donald Trump has invited his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to the US for talks later this year, the White House has announced, days after he faced a bipartisan backlash for his comments after his first summit with the Russian leader in Helsinki.

President Trump came under widespread criticism on Monday for not backing the American intelligence community's assessment that Russia had interfered in the 2016 presidential election won by him.

President Trump has invited President Putin to visit the US in the autumn, his press secretary Sarah Sanders said as she tweeted that discussions for the visit were already under way.

"In Helsinki, President of the United States agreed to ongoing working level dialogue between the two security council staffs. President

Trump asked (National Security Adviser) John Bolton to invite President Putin to Washington in the fall and those discussions are already underway," Sanders said in a tweet yesterday.

The tweet came hours after Trump tweeted that he was "looking forward" to meeting again with Putin to "start implementing" some issues they discussed during their summit earlier this week.

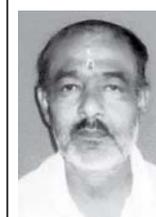
The announcement seems to come as a surprise to US Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats, who was told about it during a live interview at the Aspen Security Forum in the state of Colorado. He laughed and said: "That's going to be special."

Coats also told the conference that he did not know what was discussed during the Trump-Putin meeting in Helsinki, at which only their interpreters were also present.

### CHANGE NAME

I, Jiwan Limboo, S/o Ganga Ram Limboo, R/o Daramdin, West Sikkim solemnly declare that previously my name has been recorded as "Jiwan Subba". I have changed my name to **Jiwan Limboo** for all purpose and further records vide affidavit dated 14th August 2012 before the SDM Soreng, West Sikkim.

### Anthyesthi Kriya



The Anthyesthi Kriya of **Mahesh Sharma** who left for heavenly abode falls on **26th July 2018**.

All friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayer for the departed soul at our residence at

**Lower Boomtara, Namchi, South Sikkim**. We also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during the time of our bereavement.

**Family Members: Mrs Kavita Sharma (Wife), Mr. Nimesh Sharma (Son), Ms. Jharna Sharma (Daughter), Mr. Madhav Koirala (Son-in-Law), Mr. Prabhakar Sharma, Mr. Mohan Sharma, Mr. Govind Sharma (Brothers). Cont: 9679900194, 8900402612, 9434357351**



**RED HOT!** Jamie Chung, 35, put her fabulous fashion sense on show at The Pop Shop By Vita Coco, sizzling in a hot red suit that put her cleavage on show.

## STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS ANIMATED TV SERIES RESURRECTED BY DISNEY FOR ONE FINAL SEASON!



It's a surprise to be sure, but a welcome one. Disney has resurrected Star Wars: The Clone Wars for one final season.

Fans rejoiced on Thursday when the studio announced it was bringing back the popular animated series, having cancelled it following its \$4-billion acquisition of Lucasfilm back in 2012.

The news was revealed at the Clone Wars anniversary panel at Comic-Con in San Diego. The final season will debut on Disney's own streaming service, which is set to be unveiled next year.

"I honestly didn't think we would ever have the opportunity to return to The Clone Wars," the show's supervising direc-

tor Dave Filoni said. "Thanks to the relentless fan support and the team behind Disney's direct-to-consumer streaming service, we will now get to tell more of those stories."

"We feel a tremendous responsibility to make something that lives up to the legacy that George Lucas created with the original series, and I think our team, many of whom worked on the show from the beginning, has risen to the challenge."

The series, introduced in 2008, is set between the prequel films of Episode II: Attack Of The Clones and Episode III: Revenge Of The Sith.

It follows Obi Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker as the Jedi lead the Repub-

lic forces and its clone army against the Separatists and their legions of droids.

The multi Emmy-winning show ran for six seasons, but fans were gutted when several storylines were left untied by the sudden cancellation.

On Thursday, a new trailer for the upcoming finale was unveiled — with the hash-tagline #CloneWarsSaved — showing Anakin being contacted by his former Padawan Ahsoka Tano.

The fan favorite female Jedi abandoned the Jedi order and her master after being framed for murder; the final 12 episode season is expected to explain the character's absence from Revenge Of The Sith.

## Ram Gopal Varma disappointed with Sanju, promises to make 'real' biopic on Sanjay Dutt

Rajkumar Hirani's Sanju on the controversial life of Sanjay Dutt came and conquered, and there are no two ways about it. With over 500 crore (and counting) at the global box office, the film that stars Ranbir Kapoor in the lead role has broken records, opening gates for big moolah for the entire cast and crew.

Apart from the big bucks, the biopic also raked in raving reviews for performances, especially by Ranbir and Vicky Kaushal who plays his best friend, Kamli. Yes, there were a few scathing ones that branded the movie as a PR stunt but nothing takes away from the fact that audiences loved to see the other side of the story.

However, not everyone was left impressed. Case in point, Ram Gopal Varma is rather disappointed with the way Sanjay Dutt's story was portrayed on screen. In fact, he is even determined to redo it all over again.

According to Mumbai Mirror, the Satya



director is planning another Sanjay Dutt biopic, and the tentative title is Sanju: The Real Story. Reportedly, Varma's movie will focus only on Dutt's arrest in connection with the 1993 blasts and for possessing

an AK-56 rifle, something that many would admit, was not explored in Hirani's project properly.

According to a source, while RGV took a liking for the emotional roller-coaster it was, he felt the film didn't delve into details that it should have.

"That Dutt was doing drugs, was traumatised by his mother's battle with cancer (she died just three days before the release of his first film Rocky), had multiple flings, many of them one-night stands, is all well documented," the source was quoted saying. He has, in fact, started his research on the film, and has been meeting Dutt's associates, and cops involved in his arrest and investigation. Well, only time will tell how this one will dish out.

## Actress Lydia Hearst defends husband Chris Hardwick at Comic-con over sexual assault claims

Lydia Hearst has defended her husband, "Talking Dead" host Chris Hardwick against allegations from his ex-girlfriend, actress Chloe Dykstra, that he sexually and emotionally abused her during their relationship that ended in 2014. "I've known him to be nothing less than absolutely loving, compassionate, supportive, not just to myself, but to everyone he knows and works with," Hearst told Variety.com.

"He's a genuinely good man with a good heart," she



added. Hardwick's shows are only on hiatus and AMC is conducting an investigation into the matter and she and Hardwick are both "extremely optimistic about" the result, she said. "I think fans can expect to see him back on the air soon and maybe hopefully back at Comic-Con next year," Hearst said.

The allegations stem from an essay Dykstra wrote for Medium in which she detailed a controlling relationship with restrictions on when she could go out and who she could befriend. After the breakup, she said Hardwick and an unidentified female colleague worked to get her blacklisted throughout the entertainment industry. Although she never directly named Hardwick, Dykstra described the boyfriend in details that made it clear whom she was referring to.

## Titans dark first trailer sees Robin and his DC teenmates get violent...

DC has unveiled the first look at its new superhero series, Titans.

The very dark trailer — in both tone and visibility — introduces team leader Robin, played by Pirates Of The Caribbean star Brenton Thwaites.

His opening line in the edgy clip makes it very clear the show is not destined for the cartoon Network, like its hilarious predecessor. After nailing the superhero landing, the hero spooks a group of thugs gathered in a shadowy alleyway.

"Where's Batman?" one of them nervously calls.

"F\*\*k Batman," the Teen Wonder replies before violently and bloodily dispatching the lot.

Stabbing one, stepping on another's neck and breaking it, Robin shows how far removed he is from his gun-disliking mentor by picking up a pistol and riddling his foes with bullets, before dropping his F-bomb introduction from a blood-spattered mouth.

The trailer also introduces Raven, daughter of a demon, played by 14-year-old Home And Away star Teagan Croft, who in this iteration is an angst-ridden teen.

After tracking down Dick Grayson from the circus, where his family were killed in a trapeze act gone wrong, she begs the now-police detective for help.

"There is something evil inside of me," she tells him.

"You're scared, I get it," he replies. "But you can control it."

The other members of the team are briefly seen in action, though not heard.

Starfire, an orange-skinned Tamaranian alien who can fly and shoot green starbolts in the comic — played by 24-



Legacy's Anna Diop — has been reduced to generating regular old fire with her hands.

Beast Boy meanwhile — a green-skinned teen who can morph into any creature at will, played by Big Hero 6's Ryan Potter — channels Lou Ferrigno's Incredible Hulk in his tinge, but doesn't show off any changeling skills.

Partners Dove (Minka Kelly) and Hawk (The Hunger Games' Alan Ritchson) are also briefly seen violently tearing up adversaries, which is out of character for the normally pacifist former.

Regular member Cyborg meanwhile looks unlikely to show up in the series,

having been promoted to the Justice League.

"My mom says there's no such things as monsters," Raven declares as the trailer closes.

"I used to think that; I was wrong," Robin replies.

Initial reaction to the trailer was wary, with many fans wondering why DC was so intent on the dark and brooding tone with so much of its properties, while others claimed it looked fan-made. The series will be the first of a batch that will launch on DC's forthcoming streaming service, DC Universe.

THE DAY AHEAD

**ARIES:** Today, Aries, matters surrounding business and finances need immediate attention, and this could prove a bit disheartening. Do you have a lot of unfinished tasks that have piled up? Gear up and get to them. They aren't going away, and you'll feel better about everything when they're out of the way. You might find that clearing up these old matters allows new opportunities to flow your way.

**TAURUS:** New opportunities to advance your professional standing may arise, Taurus. The aspects bode well for business and money. Promising new projects may present themselves. Your tendency to serve and nurture others should strengthen your work relationships, so morale on the job takes a tangible upswing at this time. Warmth and affection for friends, children, romantic partners, and even casual acquaintances should increase and enhance relationships.

**GEMINI:** Restlessness may plague you throughout the day, Gemini, because you could be brimming over with physical energy but have no outlet for it. You might have to stay in and wait for something important, which could prove frustrating. Put on an exercise video and do aerobics while you wait. This isn't a good day to start new projects. Limit your social interactions to exercising with others at the gym.

**CANCER:** Though current business and money matters could well encounter obstacles, at this time you may find yourself reaping the rewards of past efforts. Your naturally persevering nature practically assures more success in the future. Cancer, even though you might be blocked now. New insights as to how to continue to progress could come your way today. It might be a good idea to write them down so you'll be assured of having them at your fingertips later.

**LEO:** Today your powers of persuasion are at an all-time high. This is a good day to ask for a raise or promote a new project. Your drive to gain recognition for your accomplishments may necessitate seeking the public eye, so if publicity is what you need, this is the day to go for it. Your observational skills are acute, as is your insight into others' feelings. This is definitely a good day to seek advancement.

**VIRGO:** This day bodes well for accomplishments in business and finance. Long-term investments of either time or funds may finally pay off. New opportunities could come your way. This is a better time to complete old projects than start new ones. Virgo, but if you must, new projects started now should be successful. Celebrate by treating yourself to new clothes. Wear them for a longtime friend or lover this evening.

**LIBRA:** Your insight, creativity, and inventiveness are in full swing. Libra, and new ideas come thick and fast. However, you might find yourself too caught up in boring, mundane tasks to do very much about it. Yet physical energy is plentiful, so you have it in you to take care of chores and then have time to do what you enjoy. You'll produce results if you remember to pace yourself. Work too hard and you'll be too tired!

**SCORPIO:** As a natural healer, you might find yourself experiencing a rush of transformative energy today, which you should put into practice. This is a great time to go for a massage or study natural healing modalities such as herbs or aromatherapy. Combine them with your innate healing abilities, Scorpio, and you might be happy with the results. Your mind is especially receptive right now. You'll retain more of what you learn than you usually would.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Be prepared to work diligently toward making your dreams a reality today, Sagittarius. Success is definitely on the way, though it may not be approaching quite as quickly as you might like. A lot of significant letters and phone calls could come your way, keeping you busy. Don't allow yourself to get too frazzled, though. Take time periodically throughout the day to sit quietly and recoup your energy.

**CAPRICORN:** You could find it harder than usual to wake up this morning, Capricorn, as your energy may be flagging. Personal or professional pressures might stir feelings of futility, but don't fall into this trap. In spite of your momentary lethargy, everything on the horizon looks far better than it seems — primarily because of your own hard work. Retire early tonight and tomorrow you'll feel more energetic.

**AQUARIUS:** Today it might suddenly hit you that you have a lot of unfinished tasks that need to be completed, and this might lead to a case of the blues. Take heart! The process appears more overwhelming than it is, Aquarius. A little planning and focused discipline should enable you to get through everything without stressing yourself out too much. In the evening, reward yourself with a meal out or a movie.

**PISCES:** Business and financial matters look promising today, Pisces, but you could find yourself torn between the need to attend to these matters and the desire to relax at home. If you have to make a choice, it might be best to choose the former, because today's aspects promise opportunities that might not come around again for a while. The evening should be your own. Plan an intimate dinner with a lover. You'll like the results!