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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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With no local case in a record 200 days, Taiwan is world's envy

TAIPEI, 30 OCT [BLOOMBERG]: France and Germany are going back into lockdown, while coronavirus cases in the U.S. surging to new highs, but at the other end of the world Taiwan has achieved a different kind of record -- more than 200 days without a locally transmitted case.

Taiwan holds the world's best virus record by far and reached the 200-day landmark on Thursday. Its last local case came on April 12; there has been no second wave. On Friday, it reached 201 days without a local case.

What did this island of 23 million people do right? It has had 553 confirmed cases, with only seven deaths. Experts say closing borders early and tightly regulating travel have gone a long way toward fighting the virus. Other factors include rigorous contact tracing, technology-enforced quarantine and widespread mask wearing. Further, Taiwan's deadly

experience with SARS has scared people into compliance.

The 200-day-local-case-free total received worldwide attention including from lawmakers. Among them was U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, who in a tweet mentioned the milestone, writing: "How'd they do it? They believe in science."

Community transmission has been eliminated there, said Peter Collignon, an infectious disease physician and professor at the Australian National University Medical School. Taiwan "probably had the best result around the world," he said, adding that "it's even more impressive" for an economy with a population about the same size as Australia's, with many people living close to one another in apartments.

In other parts of the world, the second wave is proving bigger than the first. The U.S. set a new

turn to pg 02

Mizoram refuses to withdraw forces from Assam, highway blocked for third day

GUWAHATI, 30 OCT [PTI]: A week after a supposed breakthrough, a festering Mizoram-Assam boundary row worsened today, intensifying blockades and protests along the border between the two northeastern states.

Mizoram Home Minister Lalchamlana today said there will be no withdrawal the state's forces from its border with Assam till normalcy returns. Protestors in Assam have, meanwhile, blocked National Highway 306, Mizoram's lifeline for essential commodities.

Sources in the Mizoram government have said they are in talks to work out an alternative route to bring in essentials through Manipur.

Mr Lalchamlana said his government accepted the demarcation notified in 1875 under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation of 1873 as the actual boundary of Mizoram and Assam. "It was a historical inter-state boundary decided long back and that had been accepted by the forefathers of Mizos," the Minister told reporters.

Last week, Mizoram had promised it will pull back its armed police from the border area at Lailapur in Assam, but the latter's officials say that promise is yet to be honoured.

On Thursday, the Union Home Secretary held a video conference with the chief secretaries of both states to defuse the situation, official sources said.

Amid this, over 100 protesters have refused to withdraw the Lailapur blockade, leaving more than 250 vehicles stranded on either side of the border on NH 306. Mizoram ferries food grains, transport fuel, and other goods and machines through this route that connects Vairengte in the state's Kolasib district to southern Assam.

Gyanendra Pratap Singh, Assam Additional Director General of Police for Law and Order, is camped in southern Assam since Wednesday, trying to normalise the situation.

Festering since October 9, the situation along the 164.6-km Assam-Mizoram border took an ugly turn on October 17 when some 20 shops and houses were burnt down and over 50 people injured in clashes.

In another incident, Mizoram security personnel on Tuesday stopped Assam Forest Department officials from visiting some area on the border claiming it to be their territory.

Both Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Sanyendra Kumar Garg, Joint Secretary (North East) in the Union Home Ministry, have spoken to the political leadership and other senior officials multiple times to defuse the crisis.

Sikkim loses 68th life to COVID

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 OCT:

Sikkim received news of its 68th COVID-19 related death when an 87-year-old male from Rongneck in East District passed away on 28 October at his residence. Health Department officials inform that he was also nursing cardiac complications.

In the daily health bulletin on Friday, Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam G Bhutia informed that the octo-

genarian had tested positive for COVID-19 at Central Referral Hospital, Tadong, and was admitted in the High Dependency Unit of STNM Hospital on 16 October.

He was discharged from hospital on 24 October and passed away at home on 28 October.

Health officials inform that the cremation was held today as per COVID protocols since the patient was still in quarantine and the death is being registered as a

COVID-19 fatality with co-morbidities.

Meanwhile, 20 fresh cases of novel coronavirus were detected in the last 24 hours in Sikkim taking the State's tally of confirmed COVID-19 cases to 3,913.

On the other hand, the number of discharged patients reached 3,509 with the release of 33 more patients from isolation facilities on Thursday. There are currently 254 COVID-19 patients either in hospital

or home isolation in Sikkim, of whom four are in the ICU facility of STNM Hospital.

A total of 169 samples were screened for COVID in the State on Thursday, of which 115 were tested by RT-PCR, 22 by TruNat and 32 by RAT.

14 of the cases were picked up in RT-PCR testing, while four were detected via TruNat testing and two in RAT. Out of 20 fresh cases, 19 have been reported from East District and

one from North District.

Among the 20 are three patients currently admitted in STNM hospital, one person from Tibet Road, one from Jorehang, one from Lower Samdur, one from Tumin-Namrang, one from Arithang, one from Kazi Road, one from near Ban Jhankri Falls on Ranka Road, one from the Diesel Power House area, Gangtok, one from SMIT-Majhitar, one from above CRH-Tadong and one patient admitted in

CRH, who has now been shifted to STNM hospital.

Likewise, one person from near Vajra, Gangtok, one from above the petrol pump in Sichey, one from Swastik and one from Ben were reported positive in TruNat testing.

He added that one person from Lower Singhik in Mangan, North District and one staff member of District Hospital, Singtam from Daragaon, Tadong were found positive through rapid antigen testing.

In Tibet, China preaches the material over the spiritual

YEW LUN TIAN

LHASA, 30 OCT (REUTERS): Dzekyid, a 54-year-old barley farmer, presents himself as a role model for his neighbours and for the success of China's efforts to tie economic development to social control in Tibet.

Dzekyid's well-built house in Jangdam village has a hall filled with Buddhist scriptures and Thangka paintings, and a row of prayer wheels for his religious 76-year-old father, Tenzin, to spin twice a day. As a member of China's ruling Communist Party, Dzekyid is an atheist.

"This house is possible because of good government policies. My heart is wholly with the party, not even one bit with religion," said Dzekyid, whose family was showcased to a group of reporters on a government-organised tour of Tibet, an area where access to foreign journalists is normally barred.

Government officials in both Beijing and Tibet vetted the report-



ers from media organisations who were invited to join the trip. On the closely supervised tour, there was little opportunity to interact with ordinary Tibetans without government officials in attendance.

China is pushing to transform the mindsets and values of Tibetans to bring them into the country's modern mainstream, which includes urging the region's devout Buddhists to focus less on religion and more on material prosperity.

"Tibet has some bad old habits, mainly due to the negative influence of religion that emphasises the afterlife and weakens the urge

to pursue happiness in the current life," said Che Dhala, chairman of the Tibet Autonomous Region.

On the trip to Tibet, officials showcased poverty-relief programmes that include relocation of families to better homes, schooling, vocational training, and business development efforts such as a climate-controlled mushroom farm. The efforts are part of China's push to eradicate rural poverty nationwide by the end of this year.

Officials also described efforts to "manage the minds" of Tibetans, who for centuries lived in a deeply

turn to pg 02

COVID-19 caseload in India climbs to 80,88,851

NEW DELHI, OCT 30 (PTI): India saw 48,648 new coronavirus infections being reported in a day taking the COVID-19 caseload to 80,88,851, while the active cases fell below 6,00,000, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The national recovery rate crossed 91 per cent.

The COVID-19 death toll in the country climbed to 1,21,090 with 563 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

A total of 73,73,375 people have recuperated from COVID-19 so far pushing the national recovery rate to 91.15 per cent while the case fatal-

ity rate stands at 1.50 per cent. There are 5,94,386 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country as on date which comprises 7.35 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11 and crossed 80 lakh on October 29.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 10,77,28,088 samples have been tested up to October 29 with 11,64,648 samples being tested on Thursday.

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- Narendra Modi

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Global coronavirus cases rise by single-day record of half a million

SHAINA AHLUWALIA & ANURAG MAAN

NEW DELHI, 30 OCT [REUTERS]: Global coronavirus cases rose by more than 500,000 for the first time on Wednesday, a record one-day increase as countries across the Northern Hemisphere reported daily spikes.

Global daily COVID-19 cases have risen by nearly 25% in less than two weeks as the world witnessed 400,000 daily reported cases for the first time last Friday. (Graphic: tmsnrt.rs/34JDOD7)

Most western countries and parts of Latin America have reported their highest single-day surges in the past few weeks. Many governments, with the notable exception of the United States, have started taking stronger measures to bring the spread of the virus under control.

The global coronavirus tally stands at 44.7 million cases and about 1.17 million deaths.

Europe, North America and Latin America account for over 66% of global cases and over 76% of global deaths.

Europe's new daily infections have doubled over the past two weeks as it reported more than 250,000 cases for the first time on Wednesday, according to a Reuters tally.

The region has so far reported about 9.5 million cases and about 261,000 deaths.

France reported a new record daily total of more than 50,000 infections for the first time on Sunday.

Euro-zone economic activity has slipped back into decline this month as renewed restrictions to control the coronavirus pandemic forced many businesses in the bloc's dominant service industry to limit opera-

tions, a survey showed last Friday.

The United States continues to lead the worldwide coronavirus tally with about 8.9 million infections and about 228,000 fatalities since the pandemic started.

The United States broke its daily record for new coronavirus infections on Friday as it reported 84,169 new cases due to outbreaks in virtually every part of the country shortly before its presidential election on Tuesday.

The United States is reporting about 75,000 cases a day on an average, according to a Reuters analysis and its death toll from COVID-19 could surpass 500,000 by February unless nearly all Americans wear face masks, researchers said.

Asia surpassed 10 million infections of the new coronavirus on Saturday, the second-heaviest regional toll in the world, according to a Reuters tally, as cases continue to mount in India despite a slowdown and sharp declines elsewhere.

India, the world's second most populous country as well as the second worst affected country, is reporting about 48,000 cases a day on an average with a total of about 8 million cases, according to a Reuters tally.

As Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised to provide any successful vaccine to each of India's 1.3 billion people. The country is preparing a database of all government and private health personnel to speed up vaccinations once they become available.

In the Middle East, Iran, the most affected COVID-19 infections country is reporting one death every three minutes, according to state television.

Rotary Club and SJC celebrate Shubho Bijoya



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 OCT:

Rotary International District 3240 in association with Siliguri Journalists Club celebrated Shubho Bijoya with the Members of Siliguri Journalists' Club today, a press release informs. Sweets were exchanged between the members of both the organizations.

On behalf of Siliguri Journalists' Club, Md Irfan-E-Azam (Vice President) & Sabyasachi Bhattacharya (Joint Secretary) shared the dais with Rotary District officials.

District Governor, Rtn Subhasish Chatterjee during his welcome address appreciated the work of journalists and

laid stress on working together for serving the society at large. He also shared the work done by Rotary in India.

Mr Chatterjee also shared about the two ambitious projects to be taken by Rotary in coming months including the Rotary School at Ambari and Rotary Food Bank.

On the occasion the

new executive team of Siliguri Journalists' Club was also felicitated by the Rotary District team.

The programme was attended by presidents of all six Rotary Clubs namely Siliguri, Siliguri Midtown, Siliguri Green, Siliguri Uttarayan, Siliguri Green & Siliguri Metropolitan Midtown.

Teenager's custodial death sparks stir in Bengal

SURI/KOLKATA, OCT 30 (PTI):

A 15-year-old boy has died in police custody in West Bengal's Birbhum district, triggering a mob attack on the police station on Friday and prompting the BJP to call a 12-hour bandh in Mallarpur area on Saturday.

The police claimed the teenager was found hanging in the toilet of Mallarpur police station on Thursday night, while the BJP alleged that the law enforcers had beaten him to death as his parents were saffron party supporters.

The teenager's father, however, said he is a TMC supporter and his son has died by suicide.

The police said a magisterial probe has been ordered into the incident.

The final rites of the boy were performed at Tarapith burning ghat amid tight police security after the conduct of the post-mortem examination.

The BJP and some neighbours of the boy claimed he was picked up by the police three days ago.

Superintendent of Police Shyam Singh, however, said he was apprehended on Thursday afternoon on charges of theft and was kept in a separate guarded room at Mallarpur police station.

"Around 9.25 pm on the previous day, he went



to the toilet and hanged himself," the officer said.

The state president of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, the BJP's youth wing, and Bishnupur MP Saumitra Khan, however, staged a sit-in demonstration outside the police station, demanding punishment for the officer-in-charge.

BJP workers, joined by some locals, blocked a national highway and burnt tyres to protest the "cold-blooded custodial murder".

"We have called a 12-hour bandh in Mallarpur on Saturday. If the culprits are not punished, we will go for a statewide bandh," Khan said.

Earlier in the day, irate locals attempted to storm the police station and pelted the policemen with stones when they tried to disperse them.

The boy's parents, however, said they did not want any violence as their son has "died by suicide".

"I am a TMC supporter. From whatever information I have received from various sources, we are of the view that my son, who was detained on theft charges, has hanged

himself to death. We have no complaint against the police," the teenager's father told reporters.

His statement came minutes after TMC's district chief and party strongman Anubrata Mondal alleged the BJP was "doing politics" over the incident and the parents of the boy were never associated with the saffron party.

Khan, however, said the boy's parents were "forced" by Mondal and his party men to give such a statement as an atmosphere of "fear and terror" prevails in the district.

"The BJP is hell-bent on disrupting peace in the state by instigating mob violence. It is doing cheap politics over a stray incident. The boy's family members don't have any complaint against the police," local TMC MLA Abhijit Roy said.

A senior police officer said a magisterial probe has been ordered and a medical board conducted the post-mortem examination with adherence to the guidelines laid down by the National Human Rights Commission.

Farooq Abdullah Stopped From Offering Prayers, House Blocked: Party

SRINAGAR, 30 OCT [NDTV]:

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah was stopped by the administration from offering prayers at Srinagar's Hazratbal shrine on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi, his party the National Conference claimed in a tweet.

The National Conference tweeted that it "condemns this infringement of fundamental right to pray, especially on the auspicious occasion of Milad Un Nabi Saw."

"J&K administration has blocked the residence of party president Dr Farooq Abdullah and stopped him from offering prayers at Dargah Hazratbal. JKNC condemns this infringement of fundamental right to pray, especially on the auspicious occasion of Milad Un Nabi Saw," the National Conference tweeted.

Mr Abdullah had been under arrest since the government scrapped special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution and divided the state into two Union Territories in August last year. The former chief minister was released only in March this year, days before the lockdown necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic was announced.

In Tibet, China...

religious society with a belief in reincarnation and a devotion to their spiritual leader.

The head of Caiqutang village, Dekyi Paldron, described how poor households who receive free new government housing "should not" set up a family room for worshipping Buddha, a common feature in traditional Tibetan houses, because they "shouldn't be two-faced" after benefiting from the atheist Communist Party.

"If space is taken up by the Buddha room, the boy and girl may have to squeeze into one bedroom - this is not ideal for the healthy development of either child," another official told the visiting journalists.

China seized Tibet after troops entered the region in 1950, in what Beijing calls a "peaceful liberation."

In 1959, spiritual leader the Dalai Lama fled China after a failed uprising, and the long-impooverished region has been one of the most politically sensitive and restricted parts of China.

PRAY LESS, WORK MORE

Recipients of poverty relief are told to curb their spending on religion and to instead invest in increasing their earning power and in their children.

At a vocational school in Nyingchi, a signboard stated that the school uses ideological and political education to fight against "separatism", denounce the Dalai Lama and to prevent religion from making people "passive".

"Ten years ago, villagers competed among themselves to see who donates more to temples. Now they compete to see whose son or daughter has a stable government job, or who owns a car," Karma Tenpa, deputy propaganda minister for the Tibet Autonomous Region, told Reuters.

Pictures of the Dalai Lama, once commonly displayed in Tibetans' houses, are banned, but framed posters of President Xi Jinping were visible inside all the homes the journalists were shown.

Propaganda slogans urging allegiance to China and the Communist Party are conspicuous along roadsides and billboards in Tibet.

Critics say China's efforts linking poverty eradication to an embrace of a secular life and the Communist Party infringe on human rights.

"The Chinese government's efforts to force Tibetans to change their way of life to the one the government approves is a violation of their fundamental human rights, including their freedoms of thought and religion," Maya Wang of Human Rights Watch told Reuters.

A recent Reuters report based on official documents described how growing numbers of rural Tibetans were being pushed into recently built training centres, where they are trained to be factory workers in a programme that some critics have called coercive - a characterisation China rejects.

"At first we have to go around explaining to the nomads and herders why they should go for skills training to earn higher wages. Now that they see the benefit of doing so, they come to us automatically," Lin Bei, a poverty alleviation official, told Reuters.

FAME OR SHAME

Families who practise good hygiene or have other desirable attributes receive credits for goods such as washing powder or towels, Lin said. The best are listed as "Five Star Families" on the village notice board.

Those deemed to show undesirable behaviour are named and shamed.

"If someone has been lazy, drunk alcohol, hung out at the teahouse or played games instead of taking care of his family, we will call him out at the village meeting," said Lin, who is a member of China's ethnic Han majority.

Dzekyid, who like many Tibetans uses only one name, encourages his neighbours to support the party and its programmes. His house was built with a government grant of nearly \$20,000.

"Praying to the gods and Buddha can't get me this," he told Reuters.

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With no local ...

daily record for cases Thursday, topping 86,000. Cases in Minnesota rose by the most since the pandemic began, while outbreaks in Texas are accelerating. France, which goes back into lockdown starting Friday, is aiming to limit the hit to economic activity to 15%, Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said. Germany's new curbs begin Monday.

Taiwan will likely be among the few economies to grow this year, with the government in August forecasting that the gross domestic product will expand 1.56% in 2020.

Still, Taiwan isn't out of the woods yet. The government confirmed three more imported cases Thursday, from the Philippines, U.S. and Indonesia, and in the past two weeks has recorded more than 20 imported cases. Also, others that fought the virus well initially, like Singapore and Japan, later had spikes in cases.

What those places with surging infections can take away from Taiwan's

experience is that nothing works without contact tracing people who have tested positive and then quarantining them, said Chen Chien-jen, Taiwan's former vice president and an epidemiologist, in an interview.

Also, as it's not easy to make people stay in quarantine, Taiwan has taken steps to provide meal and grocery delivery and even some friendly contact via Line Bot, a robot that texts and chats. There is also punishment -- those who break quarantine face fines of up to NT\$1million (\$35,000).

Here is how Taiwan has achieved its milestone:

Border Control

Taiwan began shutting down to non-residents shortly after the pandemic broke out in January and has kept tight control over its borders since.

"Taiwan's continual success is due to strict enforcement of border control," says Jason Wang, director of Stanford University's Center for Policy, Out-

comes and Prevention. That includes symptom-based surveillance before travelers board flights and digital fence tracking via cellular signals to ensure their compliance with a 14-day quarantine, he said.

Masks, Distribution

The decision to stockpile and have central distribution of face masks played a key role in Taiwan's success. The government early in the pandemic stockpiled all domestically produced face masks and banned export. Within four months, companies increased production from 2 million to 20 million units a day, enabling the island to ration masks to residents on a regular basis.

Contact Tracing, Quarantine

Taiwan has world-class contact tracing -- on average, linking 20 to 30 contacts to each confirmed case. In extreme situations, such as that of a worker at a Taipei City hostess club who contracted the virus, the government tracked down as many as 150 contacts. Then, all con-

Black Eagle in semis of Cricket Club Tourney



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 OCT:

The quarter-finals of Sikkim Cricket Association's first Two-Tier Club Tournament started today at Reshithang sports complex. The first quarter final match was played between Royal North Brothers and Black Eagle (SAP),

a press release informs.

Royal North Brothers won the toss and chose to bat first. In the first innings, they scored 171 runs with the loss of 8 wickets in 30.0 overs, where Karma Thinley scored 31 runs, Manoj Gurung 29 runs, Chandra Bahadur 22 runs, Rob-

in Limboo and Solu Kr Thakur scored 15 runs each, Rajiv Malay Darjee 10 runs. Palzor Tamang took 3 wickets, KN Luitel and Sunny Kumar Ram took 2 wickets each, and Sonam Bhutia took 1 wicket for the side.

In the second innings Black Eagle (SAP) chased

the target in 28.1 overs with the loss of 7 wickets. Captain Palzor Tamang scored 103 runs and was not-out, Yogesh Subba 18 runs, KN Luitel 9 runs and Sunny Kumar Ram 8 runs not-out.

Black Eagle (SAP) won the match by 3 wickets. Palzor Tamang was

announced Man of the Match for his all-round performance of 103 runs and 3 wickets. He is the first batsman to score a century in the Knock-out Round of the tournament. With this win Black Eagle (SAP) becomes the first semi-finalist of the tournament.

20 school students among 49 new COVID-19 patients in Mizoram

AIZAWL, OCT 29 [PTI]: Mizoram's COVID-19 tally rose to 2,656 on Thursday as 49 more people, including 20 school students, tested positive for the infection, a health official said.

Aizawl district reported the highest number of new cases at 43, followed by four in Lawngtlai and one each in Serchhip and Lunglei, he said.

Seven new patients, including an Army jawan, have travel history, while 42 infections were detected during contact tracing, the official said.

Thirty-six infections were detected during RT-PCR tests, 11 through rapid antigen tests and two with the help of TruNat machines, he said.

Mizoram now has 417 active coronavirus cases, while 2,238 people have recovered from the disease so far, the official said. The northeastern state reported its first coronavirus fatality on Wednesday as a 62-year-old man succumbed to the disease.

The state administration had on October 26 shut all schools that had reopened for students of classes 10 and 12 on October 16. The measure was taken after a spike in locally transmitted COVID-19 cases was witnessed.

Mizoram has so far tested 1,09,476 samples for COVID-19, including 1,665 on Wednesday, he added.

Mumbai City FC rope in Ranawade, Rohlupaia



MUMBAI, OCT 30 (PTI): Indian Super League franchise Mumbai City on Friday confirmed the signing of defender Amey Ranawade and midfielder PC Rohlupaia.

While 22-year-old Ranawade joins the Islanders on a one-year contract, 21-year-old Rohlupaia has inked a four-year deal.

Ranawade, a product of the AIFF Academy in Goa, has represented the now defunct DSK Shivajians and Mohun Bagan in the I League along with two stints at fellow ISL side FC Goa. The defender, who hails from Mumbai, is also a junior international having represented India at the U-17 and U-19 levels.

Rohlupaia played his youth football at East Bengal and through impressive performances in midfield, earned his place in the senior squad,

representing the Kolkata-based club nine times between 2018 and 2020.

"Mumbai City is a club with a model that puts its faith in young players, and I am eager to see where it can take me in my development as a football player. I've worked under coach Lobera in the past and I am ready to get started in this new challenge," Ranawade was quoted as saying in a media release.

Rohlupaia, on his part, said, "This is a massive platform for a young player like me to come in and prove my worth. The project and the vision here at Mumbai City is progressive and I am confident it will help me and that I can help the team."

Head coach Sergio Lobera described the duo as "fantastic individuals" who will bring lots of energy to the team.

Poll body cautions BJP leader over "Chunnu-Munnu" dig at Congressmen

NEW DELHI, 30 OCT [PTI]

The Election Commission today said the "chunnu-munnu" remarks made by BJP's Kailash Vijayvargiya against Congress's Digvijaya Singh and Kamal Nath were in violation of the poll code provisions and advised the senior BJP leader not to use "any such word" in his public utterances during the model code period.

The commission had issued a notice to the BJP leader on October 26 seeking his reply.

According to the notice, the statement made in Sanwer, Indore, during an election rally on October 14 against the two was found to be in violation of the provisions of

the model code.

The BJP leader had also dubbed them as "gaddar" or "traitors".

Bypolls to 28 Madhya Pradesh Assembly seats will be held on November 3 for which campaigning is on.

In his response, Kailash Vijayvargiya said the remarks quoted in the notice are in complete misunderstanding of its context.

The complaint is in an election driven narrative of the Congress party to change the course of the election, he said.

The BJP leader also said that "abiding by the directions of the Election Commission and the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct is paramount

for him as well as every party worker of the BJP, and he has highest regard of the same."

The order said the Election Commission has carefully considered the matter "and is of considered view that Kailash Vijayvargiya has violated Para (2) of Part I of the General Conduct Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates".

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The Election Commission advised Kailash Vijayvargiya that "while making public utterances he should not use any such word or statement during the period of Model Code of Conduct."

Kamal Nath no longer "star campaigner" : election body says rules violated

NEW DELHI, 30 OCT [PTI]: Kamal Nath is no longer a "star campaigner" for the Madhya Pradesh by-polls next week, the Election Commission ordered today after a series of controversial remarks by the Congress leader.

The powerful election body said the 73-year-old leader's star campaigner status was being revoked for "repeated violation of model code of conduct" and for "complete disregard" of warnings to him. Kamal Nath, being a leader of a political party, had repeatedly "breached ethical and dignified behaviour", the commission said in its order.

If the former chief minister does campaign, the cost of his travel, stay and everything else will be from the candidate's poll expenses, which are limited. A "star campaigner's" expenses go to the party account and can be unlimited.

The Congress's Madhya Pradesh unit said it would challenge the decision in court.

Kamal Nath had earlier been warned by the Election Commission after he used the word "item" for a woman BJP candidate, a former Congress leader among the



22 MLAs whose exit led to the collapse of his government in March.

Campaigning in Dabra, he had mocked BJP's Imarti Devi saying the Congress candidate was a "simple person" unlike his rival, who was an "item".

In a notice, the poll panel had warned the senior Congress leader against the use of "such words or statements" when the model code of conduct was in place.

The veteran was subsequently accused of making another provocative comment.

On October 13, Kamal Nath said at a rally that Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is a "nautanki kalakar who should act in films in Mumbai".

He had also said: "Aapke Bhagwan toh woh maaf hai jisse aapne Madhya Pradesh ki pehchaan ba-

na. Aapke bhagwan toh milawat-khor hain (Your god is mafia - an apparent attack on the chief minister)." By-elections are being held on November 3 to fill 28 vacant seats in the Madhya Pradesh assembly. Most of these fell vacant when Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia revolted earlier this year and defected to the BJP, taking along 22 MLAs.

Kamal Nath's Congress-led government fell and the BJP returned to power. The BJP needs to win at least eight of these seats to stay in power. If at all the Congress manages to win all 28, it can make a comeback attempt.

On the campaign trail, the Congress has been ranged against its own, with Kamal Nath lashing out at former party men who are now contesting as BJP candidates.




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What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

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

Symptoms of nCoV

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

Precautions to Prevent nCoV



- Wash your hands often with soap.
- Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Observe good personal hygiene.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people with possible symptoms.
- Avoid contact with animals and consumption of undercooked meats.
- Avoid travel to nCoV affected places.
- Wear a mask if you have respiratory syndrome and cover your mouth while coughing or sneezing.

Treatment

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

If you seek help, you may call :

-Toll free no. 104
District surveillance Officer
EAST : 7029372100
WEST : 9593297809
NORTH : 9641957468
SOUTH : 7407691463
New STNM
AMS : 9434711402

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

Of Misdirected Good Intentions

Drop condescending attitudes for some real engagements

Special occasions, events and schemes usually see newspaper offices inundated with a swarm of press releases, each making similar claims albeit from different locations, and all professing similar stands and ideologies, lacking nuance or any hint of uniqueness.

Some communiqués could actually qualify to called cute had the talking-down condescension not been so worryingly common in how “local people” are supposedly being engaged or being “made” aware. A majority of the press releases are about awareness programmes on a plethora of issues and missions with the “beti bachao, beti padhao” campaign being the obsession which has for the time being replaced the Swachh Bharat campaign. Some press releases are also from political groups claiming to be speaking for the “poor, gullible and innocent” Sikkimese. From NGO cells of hydel project developers claiming to have delivered exceptional services from their CSR kitty, to obviously registered-for-specific-project ‘service providers’ becoming enlightened saviours and managers, there is no dearth of agents claiming to be delivering virtuous service. Among the self-projected benefits of such sponsored projects are claims of traditional farmers being taught organic farming or a people among whom female infanticide has never been reported, being made aware about the need to “beti bachao”. Of course, there have been instances when such camps have supposedly brought about “greater conservation awareness among the local communities.” Such comments are made often and rarely contested, but in the condescension with which they are thrown about lies the reason why policy interventions which appear grand on paper, end up delivering only very shallow results. The problem, in most cases, is not with the intent because these are obviously very earnest undertakings, but in the ignorance and superficiality with which they are executed.

The problem areas are always accurately identified, but it is in claims like making local communities aware of what is good for them that the intent gets misdirected because they suggest that the environment and biodiversity are being rescued from the stakeholders. Examples of such bureaucratic arrogance abound. Look at the manner in which organic farming was promoted in Sikkim. A good idea in itself, the consultants, at their patronising best [in what we receive by way of press releases], hold up farmers adopting organic practises as “progressive farmers”, implying thereby that those who would still prefer fertilisers and pesticides are somehow “regressive”. Who introduced the water-leaching carcinogens to farming in the first place? In Sikkim’s case, organic farming was the only practice for centuries until departments infiltrated the village farms singing praises of these chemicals. They dismissed established-by-tradition and tested-by-time farming practises as old-fashioned and are now realising how short-sighted that approach was. Now that organic farming is being resuscitated, one awaits the “scheme” by which the indigenous crop strains will also be reintroduced because, at present, the department still controls what is being grown where and this it continues to manage with typical carelessness and disregard. Similarly, local communities everywhere have evolved very refined sustainable usage patterns for their ecological resources, until protection and ownership was usurped by the State. Nowhere in the world have “local communities” ravaged local environment or destabilized biodiversity; it has always been urban greed that has wiped out rural environment and lifestyle. Hence, if any genuine interventions need to be made to save the environment in Sikkim, they have to be held in Gangtok, Namchi, Jorethang, Mangan, Singtam or other similarly urbanized locations, not Kitam, Hee-Gyathang, Khaniserbong which would do well for themselves and their local ecology should the urban areas keep their hands to themselves.

It is ironic that urban consultants should return as do-gooders telling the basti-wallahs on how to mend their ways. Some realisation is however dawning that conservation is not possible without endorsement of the “local communities”, but even in such agencies as the JFMCs, the “officers” refuse to hand over any real power to the stakeholders. The attitudes that underline these interventions are flawed, not in what they seek to achieve or deliver, but because they neither trust nor recognise rural pragmatism. There are few “awareness programmes” more ironic than those on the importance of panchayati raj for Panchayat members themselves; they are already aware of it, these sessions should be for government officers who still appear confused about what “public servant” means, and how that is a rung lower than “public representative”. This piece, even though it might not appear to be so, is not about babu-bashing, but a condemnation of the education system that creates such disconnected minds and then places executive power in their hands. What is required is not “greater conservation awareness”, because that is already in place, but more awareness about global realities which are intruding into rural spaces. The forest resources are not under threat from local communities, but are imperiled by the greed manifesting in places further away. Sikkim’s medicinal herbs are not being over-harvested by local stakeholders for kitchen-cures, but, if at all, for the pharma-mafia. Stakeholders need awareness about these threats that have developed beyond their line of sight, they will devise their own checks and balances for them. Ditto for the Panchayats; tell them where they fit into the State-level scheme of things, and they will stand up to the roles. Say sorry to the farmers and tell them they can revert to organic farming and they will adapt well. Just recognise the traditional knowledge base and respect rural pragmatism and factor these into all planning and most of the glitches and superficiality that compromise development planning will be taken care of.

Sirens, Hags and Rebels: Halloween witches draw on the history of women’s power

KIM STRATTON
theconversation.com

Notwithstanding the pandemic, witches in pointy black hats appear in the windows of stores and homes across my city this Halloween. Witch costumes are popular with young girls who, in ordinary times, parade the streets collecting candy, reinscribing an ancient stereotype that has roots in misogynistic fears and fantasies about female power and its dangers.

Young women and girls don this costume because it allows them to flirt with the daring possibilities of female agency — expressed as naughtiness and defiance — that is normally off limits to them. But what are the origins and history of the witch stereotype that explain its enduring cultural appeal as a symbol of women’s dangerous power?

My book, Naming the Witch: Magic, Ideology, and Stereotype in the Ancient World, investigates the origins of magic, focusing especially on its association with women in ancient representations.

THE FIRST WITCH

Circe in Homer’s Odyssey has often been identified as the first witch. She lured men into her compound and turned them into wild pigs with a magic potion. Interestingly, the Greek text identifies her as a goddess, affirming that her powers derive from legitimate and divine sources, rather than mageia, associated with the religion of Greece’s nemesis, Persia.

Medea, another prototype for the witch in ancient literature, similarly derives her power from divine sources: she is a granddaughter of the sun and priestess of Hecate, a goddess from Caria (in modern Turkey), who is identified with magic by the fifth century BCE. Hecate presides over liminal transitions — births and deaths — and was believed to lead a horde of restless souls on moonless nights, which needed to be placated by offerings at the crossroads.

It is likely this association with the restless dead that led Hecate to be frequently petitioned on curse tablets and binding spells from ancient Greece and Rome. By the Renaissance, she had become the witch’s goddess par excellence, as reflected in Shakespeare’s Macbeth.

DEPRAVATION AND WITCHES

The image of the witch begins to take shape in earnest during the Roman period: the Roman poet Lucan’s Pharsalia, which presents an account of the civil war that ended the Roman Republic, depicts a necromantic hag to graphically signify the depths of depravity to which civil war leads. Er-

ictho prowls cemeteries and battlefields, reviving corpses to learn from them the outcome of the war. She gorges out eyeballs, gnaws on desiccated fingernails and scrapes the flesh off crucifixes.

This image of an old hag — wizened, grey-faced and mutilating the dead — provides an important template for later representations of witches.

More influential still are the Roman poet Horace’s many depictions of Canidia and her cohort of lusty hags who dig for bones in a pauper’s cemetery and kill a child to use his liver in a love potion.

Scholars have speculated on the real identity of these women, missing the point that they are caricatures. These characters do not illuminate the secret rituals of real Roman women, but are literary tropes that function in different texts to convey ideas about legitimate authority, masculinity and social order.

Images of depraved women, cravenly committing infanticide, violating their biological role as mothers, making potions to control men and violating male prerogative in a patriarchal society indicate more about the fears ancient writers had regarding patriarchal authority and the proper governance of society.

MAGIC VERSUS RELIGION

Accusations of illicit magic appear across the spectrum of ancient writings, including early Christian texts. Charges of practising magic functioned to denounce messianic competitors such as Simon of Samaria (also known as Simon Magus) or to delegitimize prophets and priests of alternative forms of Christianity that were subsequently denounced as heresy. Accusing these leaders of wielding magic (rather than miracle) was part and parcel of an effort to delegitimize them in favour of bishops and leaders of churches that came to form the Catholic Apostolic Church.

In Jewish writings also, depictions of using magic occurred within contexts of religious competition and were often linked to charges of heresy. In many cases, men are depicted using magic, but women are universally charged. In fact, the Babylonian Talmud states that most women practise magic.

WITCH HUNTS AND SOCIAL ORDER

This history of associating magic with heresy and social disruption contributed to the witch hunts of the early modern era. Many people incorrectly assume that witch-burning was primarily a medieval phenomenon but, in fact, witch-hunting peaks in the modern era: The Reformation challenged religious authority, exploration exploded the limited view of the world previously held, and

capitalism and urbanization disrupted the social networks that protected people and gave them a sense of security.

Within this context, accusations of witchcraft offered plausible solutions to people’s problems: if a poor neighbour asked for bread, the guilt of denying her might be assuaged by accusing her of witchcraft; if science was challenging belief that God exists, torturing a woman into falsely confessing she had sex with a demon might offer tangible “proof” for the existence of supernatural beings.

Women who challenged male authority might garner an accusation of witchcraft, as could women suspected of sexual immorality. Witch-hunting functioned as a method of social control that sought to channel female behaviour into certain acceptable moulds.

TODAY’S WITCHES

While witch-burnings and the torturing of women merely for looking or acting different ended in the 18th century, the use of this stereotype to malign women, especially women in power, has not. During the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton was often either satirically depicted as a witch or was outright accused of committing acts, such as child murder, that have been associated with witches for centuries.

The shadow cast by Medea, Erictho and Canidia continues to haunt powerful women who question male authority or deviate from traditionally prescribed female roles of subservient wife and mother.

How, then, should we understand the popularity of witch costumes on Halloween? Or the increasingly wide appeal and legal recognition of Wicca as a new religious movement that appeals to both men and women?

Wiccans actively reclaim the label “witch” and construct an alternative identity for themselves through a myth of pre-Christian paganism. Witches filter ancient myths through an eco-feminist lens to formulate religious values that prioritize the Earth, elevate the female (without denigrating the male) and promote a non-hierarchical decentralized movement catering to personal needs and expressions of spirituality. This vision of witchcraft appeals to an ever-growing number of people today.

This Halloween, my three-year-old daughter and I are both dressing up as witches. In doing so, I hope to deepen her sense of opportunity and possibility in the world that lies before her.

[the writer is Associate Professor, Humanities, Carleton University]

Universities enrich communities, as well as educating students – new research

ELAINE UNTERHALTER
theconversation.com

Education helps us share knowledge, develop understanding, and supports our connection with each other. As the COVID-19 pandemic has continued, governments have been preoccupied with how to re-open schools.

However, there has been more doubt about universities. Discussions about the rise in COVID-19 infections in student populations have often raised the question as to why students are at university at all, running risks for themselves and local populations. These questions often link with views of universities as expensive, elitist – and perhaps not worth it at all.

Together with colleagues, I have conducted research commissioned by the British Council to assess the value provided by higher education. We reviewed 170 research studies published since 2010 on the contribution universities make to societies.

Our survey showed that the value of universities lies not just in the education they provided to students, but in a host of other additional areas. These include expanding the economy, supporting democracy, and advancing equality and sustainability.

THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES

We looked in particular at low and lower middle income countries, with a gross national income of below US\$4,125 (£3,178) per person. Our research sought to assess the economic, social and political benefits – or disadvantages – universities and other other forms of tertiary education brought to these societies.

The studies we reviewed explored how universities improve knowledge and skills, and how they contribute to economic development and support innovation. They investigated how universities help reduce poverty and create sustainable jobs, and whether

they support the needs and rights of groups that have suffered discrimination and exploitation.

We found a number of criticisms of the role universities play in wider society. A recurring point was that universities did not deliver well on goals for social development and inclusion.

Instead, the students enrolled are disproportionately from economic, racial or ethnic elites. Although women make up an increasing proportion of students, there are many allegations of sexual harassment and gender-based violence on campuses.



In some countries, there were complaints that universities did not communicate well with employers or community groups. In some cases, research showed that university planning was not guided by local, national or international needs. It focused on enrolling large numbers of students in poor quality learning environments. Courses were based on standardised learning aims and were out of touch with local contexts.

However, as we surveyed the evidence, the value universities bring to societies became overwhelm-

ingly clear. There is a definite link between the proportion of the population with a university or other higher education qualification and enhanced economic growth.

University education also contributes to sustainable economic development. It provides skills and work opportunities to groups that continue to experience discrimination. This includes members of indigenous minorities, those from scheduled castes in India, and women from a wide range of backgrounds.

LOCAL BENEFITS

Universities bring social and economic benefits on a more local level. In small towns, universities bring investment, jobs and trade. Graduates may help to build up local industries. University education was linked to a reduction in food poverty. It expands the range of occupations available to people in rural areas. It can assist with accessing information technology. A university education can lead to graduates demanding equality. Some studies show how young people born poor or in excluded

groups have gained skills to advocate for their rights, and have gone on to campaign for social change.

Graduates contribute to health, education and peace building. They assist civil society organisations in holding governments to account. Initiatives like internships foster better connections between government departments and civil society organisations.

The teaching and learning style associated with universities – focused on discussion, evaluation and critical thinking – also led to wider gains. It has been shown to support better teaching in schools, more understanding about epidemics like HIV, and improved knowledge about confronting corruption. Other benefits include a link between higher education and improved recovery from conflict.

Without doubt, university teaching, research or community service could be improved. But running through these studies is evidence that university education, if well delivered, can help overcome political, economic, social and cultural divisions.

As the pandemic has progressed, we have looked to universities for their expertise on vaccines, treatments and assessments of risk. But this research suggests they will have additional potential in helping societies to recover from the effects of COVID-19. They help people think about how our lives interconnect, and how our skills can be useful to each other.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 is unlikely to be the last global crisis we will confront. University education cannot prevent crises from happening. But it has a crucial role to play in responding to global challenges and helping people prepare better and support each other through periods of hardship, loss and uncertainty.

[the writer is Professor of Education and International Development, UCL]

Assam residents urged to lift blockade on interstate highway

GUWAHATI, 30 OCT [SHILLONGTIMES]: Amid tension prevailing along the Assam-Mizoram border, the Cachar district administration on Thursday held a meeting with truck drivers at Lailapur near the interstate border, urging them to resume movement of goods-laden trucks to Mizoram.

According to an official statement, Sonai circle officer, Sudip Nath, who visited Lailapur following a directive from the Cachar deputy commissioner, also interacted with residents and urged them to withdraw the blockade to facilitate movement of vehicles along the Assam-Mizoram national highway

The residents had staged the blockade on Wednesday in protest against the violence triggered by miscreants along the inter-state border area.

The truckers have been panicky and reluctant to enter Mizoram in the wake of a blast in a school located in the Khulicherra area close to the inter-state border on



Thursday night.

Residents of Lailapur have so far refused to withdraw the blockade and have reportedly made it clear that they would not do so until a permanent solution to the border problem was arrived at.

Lailapur, under Dholai Assembly constituency, has been on the boil after several shops and houses were set on fire

by miscreants earlier this month. A number of people were injured as well.

Additional DGP (law and order), Assam, GP Singh paid a visit to the inter-state border here on Wednesday reviewed the law and order situation in the wake of the blast in Bengali-medium school at Khulicherra.

Singh said the explosion was possibly the handiwork of miscreants

who were out to terrorise the local people. He instructed the Cachar superintendent to file a petition in the court under relevant sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Singh also discussed the matter with Kolasib superintendent of police, Vanlafaka Ralte and other senior police officials of the district before reaching Lailapur

from Mizoram's Vairengte area. The police officer later told the media that the constitutional boundary of Assam would be respected by one and all and that all the statutory provisions were being utilised with regular interactions held by the Centre and Assam government, which will eventually pave the way for withdrawal of forces (from Assam's territory).

Transport body seeks security for M'laya-bound cab drivers

GUWAHATI, 30 OCT [SHILLONGTIMES]: The All India Road Transport Workers Federation (AIRTWF), Assam state committee, and the Co-ordination Committee of Cab Operators staged a dharna at Koinadhora point in Khanapara here on Thursday, demanding security for Meghalaya-bound tourist taxi drivers besides free COVID-19 tests for both drivers and passengers at centres near the inter-state border.

In a statement, AIRTWF state committee general secretary, Biren Sarma, said that a memorandum was submitted to the commissioner and secretary of the Assam Transport department, expressing concern over the alleged harassment of taxi drivers/cab operators in Meghalaya on the pretext of COVID-19 tests.

"Despite a meeting here recently between senior transport officials of both Assam and Meghalaya, drivers from Assam continue to be harassed on the pretext of COVID-19 tests in Meghalaya. So, we have demanded authorities in Assam to ensure security



for our drivers for unhindered movement and to also set up centres for free COVID-19 tests along the interstate border for both drivers and passengers," Sarma claimed.

The Meghalaya Health department, for its part, has recently revised COVID-19 test protocols and accordingly eased entry and exit restrictions.

Among other demands, AIRTWF has demanded stoppage of toll tax collection till completion of the national highway construction, exemption of tax for commercial vehicles till March, relief and aid to road transport workers who suffered losses during the lockdown period and early implementa-

tion of the proposed welfare scheme for road transport workers.

The AIRTWF representative said that the joint commissioner, Transport department had, during submission of the memorandum, assured that a COVID test centre would be set up at Khanapara for the benefit of drivers and passengers from the state.

This was the second protest programme by the two organisations at the same venue within ten days.

Later, speaking to media persons, the federation and the committee representatives threatened to intensify their agitation if their demands were not addressed at the earliest.

Andaman reports 16 new COVID-19 cases, one death

PORT BLAIR, OCT 30 (PTI): Sixteen more people tested positive for COVID-19 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands taking the union territory's tally to 4,305 on Friday, an official said.

The COVID-19 death toll in the union territory rose to 59 with one more person succumbing to the infection, the official said.

Thirteen infections were detected during

contact tracing while three patients have travel history, he said.

Fifteen more people have been cured of the disease, the official said. The Union territory now has 192 active coronavirus cases, while 4,054 people have recovered from the disease, he said.

The administration has tested 86,715 samples for COVID-19 so far, the official added.

Civil Society support for timely release of NHM salaries in Nagaland

DIMAPUR, OCT 29 [NAGALANDPAGE]: The Kezekevi Thehou Ba Trust has urged Nagaland Government and Union of India to immediately release the pending salary of all the staff of National Health Mission (NHM) Nagaland and also ensure that they also receive their salaries every month without delay failing which it would be compelled to take legal recourse in the interest of justice.

In a Representation to Nagaland Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary & Finance Commissioner, Principal Director, Health and Family Welfare, Mission Director, NHM and Union of India, Robert Solo,

Social Activist & General Secretary, Kezekevi Thehou Ba Trust stated that one of the contributing factors for pathetic public healthcare system in Nagaland is due to non-release of salaries

of the staff under NHM on time. The Trust said the staffs of NHM play a major role in effectuating the ideals and objectives of the National Health Mission flagship programme.

It said apart from the poor health infrastructures, shortfall of staffs, consumables, drugs, equipments and others, non-payment of salary of the employees is a huge obstacle in successful implementation of the mentioned flagship programme.

The Trust pointed out that the staff engaged under NHM, Nagaland, do not receive their salaries on time besides receiving meagre salary is a great matter of concern which is affecting the lives of not only the staff but the people as well.

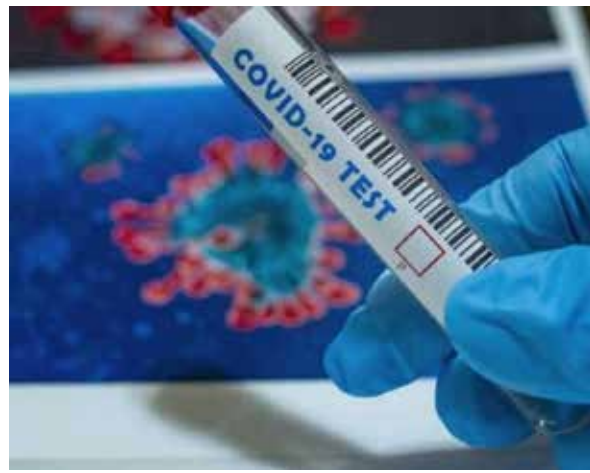
To facilitate quality healthcare service and meet the expectations required of the staff from NHM, the KTB Trust said

salaries of NHM staff must be released monthly so as to enable them, meet their basic requirements for survival only than they can provide the service they are expected to give.

It also stated that many of the staff are running in debts because of not receiving salaries on time while many are compelled to resign because of the same reason.

"It is undeniable that non-release of salaries on time is violative of Right to Livelihood and Food guaranteed by the Constitution to the staffs of NHM, Nagaland, in as much as it is violative of the people's right to Health and so effort shall be made to promote equality between the regular employees of your esteemed Department as well as the employees of the NHM, Nagaland, in terms of releasing the salaries without any discrimination," the KTB Trust said.

Arunachal Pradesh reports 88 new COVID-19 cases, 1 death



ITANAGAR, OCT 30 (PTI): The COVID-19 tally in Arunachal Pradesh rose to 14,668 on Friday as 88 more people have tested positive for the infection, a health official said.

A 56-year-old male with comorbidity died in a dedicated Covid hospital (DCH) at Pasighat in East Siang district on Thursday, pushing the COVID-19 death toll in the northeastern state to 37, the official said.

Of the 88 fresh COVID-19 cases, 79 were detected through Rapid Antigen Test (RAT), four through RT-PCR and five through TrueNat, State Surveillance Officer (SSO) Dr Lobsang Jampa said

The new cases were reported from the Capital Complex region (32), East Siang (12), West Siang (9), four each from Upper Subansiri, Papum-pare, Lohit and Lower Dibang Valley, Jampa

said. Three cases each were also reported from Tawang, Upper Siang, Tirap and Changlang, two each from Pakke Kessang and Lower Subansiri and one each from Kra Daadi, West Kameng and Longding, the SSO said.

Arunachal Pradesh now has 2,008 active coronavirus cases, while 12,623 people have been cured of the disease so far, taking the recovery rate among the COVID-19 patients in the state to 86.05 per cent.

The Capital Complex region, comprising Itanagar, Naharlagun, Nirjuli and Banderdewa areas, has the highest number of active coronavirus cases at 1,126, followed by West Siang (165) and East Siang (103), the official said.

The state has so far tested 3,14,749 samples for COVID-19, including 1,974 on Thursday, he added.

38 new cases push Mizoram's COVID-19 tally to 2,694

AIZAWL, OCT 30 (PTI): Mizoram's COVID-19 tally rose to 2,694 on Friday as 38 more people, including a three-year-old girl, tested positive for the infection, an official statement said.

Three security personnel, nine children and an elderly couple are among the new patients, the statement issued by the Information and Public Relations Department said. Aizawl district reported the highest number of new cases at 34, followed by Lunglei (two) and Kolasib and Mamit (one each), it said.

Two new patients have travel history, while 36 infections were detected during contact

tracing, the statement said.

The state now has 435 active coronavirus cases, while 2,258 people have recovered from the disease and one patient has succumbed to the infection so far, it said.

A total of 1,11,058 samples have been tested for COVID-19 so far, of which 58 outside the state, according to the Health Department.

As many as 1,819 infections were detected at Zoram Medical College (ZMC) and one at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital through RT-PCR tests, 386 at district hospitals using TrueNat machines and 488 during rapid antigen

tests, it said. Earlier, on Thursday, Mizoram's COVID-19 tally rose to 2,656 as 49 more people, including 20 school students, tested positive for the infection.

Aizawl district reported the highest number of these cases at 43.

The state administration had on October 26 shut all schools that had reopened for students of classes 10 and 12 on October 16. The measure was taken after a spike in locally transmitted COVID-19 cases was witnessed.

Mizoram has so far tested 1,09,476 samples for COVID-19, including 1,665 on Wednesday, he added.

Over 435 kg of brown sugar seized in Manipur



IMPHAL, OCT 30 (PTI): The Manipur Police has busted a drug manufacturing unit and seized over 435 kg of brown sugar from Thoubal district, a senior police officer said on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team raided a house in Moijing Awang area on Thursday and recovered 16 packets of brown sugar along with other materials used for manufacturing of the drug, Thoubal Super-

tendent of Police Sarangthem Ibomcha Singh said. "We have seized 435.94 kg of brown sugar along with 438 litres of morphinated liquid, 705 grams of lime and a bottle of ammonium chloride," the SP said.

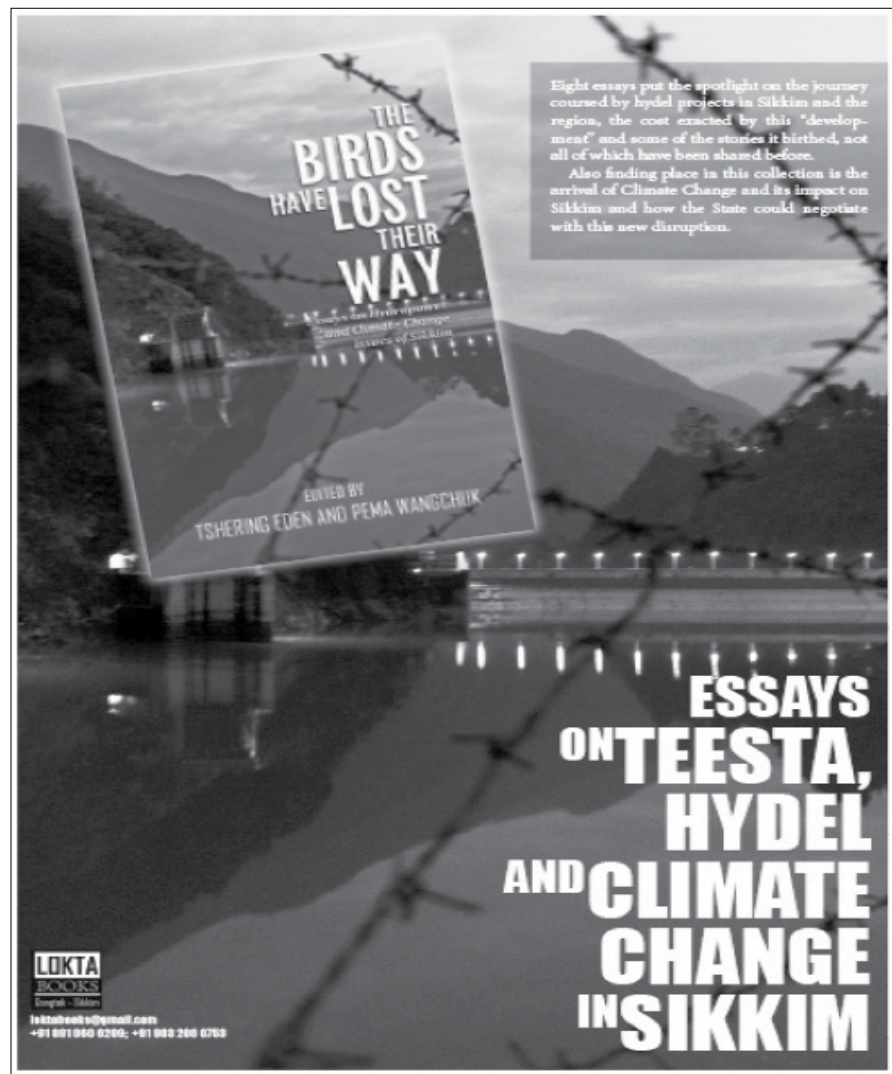
The police also recovered three LPG cylinders, a motorcycle and an auto-rickshaw during the search operation, Singh said.

The market value of the seized drug could not

be ascertained, another police officer said.

"Md. Kayamuddin, the owner of the brown sugar manufacturing unit, and his wife managed to escape from the spot during the raid. A search operation has been launched to apprehend them," he said.

The state police has intensified its crackdown on illegal activities ahead of the upcoming by-elections to three assembly seats on November 7.



Mike Tyson, Roy Jones promise a fight in "exhibition" return



LOS ANGELES, OCT 30 (AP): Mike Tyson and Roy Jones Jr got permission from California's athletic commission to return to the boxing ring next month because their fight would be strictly an exhibition of their once-unparalleled skills. These fifty-something former champions still say they're taking this showdown far more seriously than any exhibition. "Not a real fight? We got Mike Tyson versus Roy Jones," Tyson said ON Thursday in an online press conference. "I'm coming to fight, and I hope he's coming to fight, and that's all you need to know." Promoters of the pay-

per-view spectacle announced that Los Angeles' Staples Center will be the site of the 54-year-old Tyson's return to boxing on November 28 for an eight-round main event against the 51-year-old Jones. Tyson's last official bout was in June 2005, and the former undisputed heavyweight champion hasn't held a title since 1996. Jones fought steadily through his 40s, long after his super middleweight and light heavyweight title reigns had ended, with his most recent bout in February 2018. Jones also laughs at the idea that any time spent inside a boxing ring with Tyson could ever be

a mere exhibition, even though California commission officials have made it clear that Tyson and Jones shouldn't be attempting to seriously hurt each other during a fight with two-minute rounds. Officials say they plan to stop the bout if either fighter is cut or significantly injured. "Who goes in the ring with the great, legendary Mike Tyson and thinks it's an exhibition?" Jones said. "Twelve-ounce gloves? No headgear? Really? This is an exhibition? Come on, bruh. Be real." In short, Tyson and Jones said everything one might expect from two cagey veterans of the

fight game to promote real sporting interest in this endeavor, which came to life after the on-line world saw footage of Tyson looking impressive while sparring earlier this year. Jones eagerly accepted the opportunity for his highest-profile fight in a decade. Tyson and Jones believe they'll be able to put on a show worthy of their legends. They're also eager to be the latest in the growing line of athletes competing at elite levels into their 40s and beyond with improvements in sports science, nutrition and training. "When I came along, at 32 years old, you were considered an old guy," Jones said. "But we're

freaks. That's why this is such a big thing." Tyson, who is down to 215 pounds for the first time since he was a teenager, put it even more succinctly: "Time isn't anything." Tyson is even using the bout to kick off his still-nebulous venture called the Legends Only League, which aims to offer competitive outlets to athletes in many sports past what was once considered their athletic primes. Tyson said he probably won't be done competing after this showcase with Jones, either. "I'm going to go as long as the league is working," Tyson said. "I'm going to do this, and I'm going to help a lot of people, and my legend is going to be that I gave a lot more than I took." The fight's designation as an exhibition didn't stop the World Boxing Council from jumping in to offer a green championship belt to the winner, calling it the "Frontline Battle Belt." Fans won't be allowed inside Staples on Thanksgiving weekend for a show that will also feature three-time NBA slam dunk champion Nate Robinson making his professional boxing debut against YouTube star Jake Paul.

Davis building on star power in title bout with Santa Cruz

SAN ANTONIO, OCT 30 (AP): Gervonta Davis wants to become a pay-per-view star, much like his promoter and mentor Floyd Mayweather Jr. was in his prime. He also wants to fight in front of a lot of screaming fans, though he'll have to settle for a pandemic-limited audience of ticket holders Saturday in San Antonio for his title matchup with veteran Leo Santa Cruz. "I'm definitely excited after all of this going on to be able to fight in front of fans," said Davis, who goes by the nickname Tank. "I'm ready to put on a show." That show likely won't draw a big audience outside the Alamodome, either. The boxing pay-per-view model may not be dead, but it's not the only place fans watch the big fights anymore. That was evident this month when Teofimo Lopez won a decision over Vasiliy Lomachenko in a lightweight unification bout that drew good numbers on ESPN. Terence Crawford also returns to the ring Nov. 14 against Kell Brook in another fight that will be on the cable network at no extra cost to subscribers. But Mayweather sees a pay-per-view future for Davis, a rising star who has both charisma and power. So that means boxing fans will have to shell out 74.99 to watch the card, a tough sell anytime but even tougher now during a pandemic. "He's one of the biggest stars in the sport," Mayweather said. I've laid down the blueprint and I'm going to keep helping him grow." Davis spent 12 weeks training at Mayweather's Las Vegas gym to get ready for the fight and make sure he can get down to the contracted 130-pound weight. Davis last fought at 135 pounds in December when he dropped Yuriorkis Gamboa three times before the fight was stopped in the 12th round. The undefeated Davis is heading a pay-per-view card for the first time, and said he sees even bigger things ahead. "I definitely think it's going in that pattern, I'm on the right track for greatness," Davis said. "I've just got to continue to do what I do in the ring and put on a clinic." Davis (23-0, 22 knockouts) faces possibly his toughest challenge as a pro against Santa Cruz, who has won titles in four weight classes and currently holds a 130-pound belt. Both that title and Davis' 135-pound crown will be at stake in the scheduled 12-round fight. But Davis figures to be the bigger fighter and he has bigger power. He's also seven years younger than the 32-year-old Santa Cruz, a popular fighter who has been in some big fights of his own but is closer to the end of his career than the beginning. That means Davis is a big favorite 7-1 in Las Vegas though Santa Cruz (37-1-1, 19 knockouts) has lost only once and is known for always being competitive. "You want to be the best you've got to beat the best, Santa Cruz said. "I think Tank is the best out there in the division." Santa Cruz said the fact the fight is on pay-per-view is not only a plus but validates his 14-year pro career. "I wanted to be a pay-per-view fighter and now I'm living the dream," Santa Cruz said. The fight is the first big card to allow fans since the pandemic began, though they will be limited and divided into pods for social distancing.

Leicester make light of absentees and ease to clinical win over AEK Athens



PAUL DOYLE LONDON, 30 OCT [THEGUARDIAN]: Leicester made it two wins from two Europa League group games as first-half goals from Jamie Vardy and Hamza Choudhury proved enough to secure victory over AEK Athens. The home side threatened to ruin Leicester's trip to Greece when Muamer Tankovic cut the deficit early in the second half but Brendan Rodgers' team thwarted any comeback, setting themselves up perfectly for next week's duel with Braga, who also have maximum points in the group. Rodgers made five changes to the side that started last weekend's Premier League win over Arsenal but that did not reflect a lack of commitment to a tournament in which Leicester aim to go far. Rather, the high turnover was down partly to another couple of injuries, with Timothy Castagne and Jonny Evans suffering strains that forced them to miss this match; Rodgers suggested the Belgian is likely to be out of action for about three weeks with hamstring trouble. The demands of an exceptional season are taking a heavy toll But that did not stop them from chalking up another good result. Their slightly patched-up team looked a little dishevelled at times but they showed quality when it mattered most, unlike AEK, who were left to curse wasteful finishing. Leicester gave up a chance in the 12th minute when they were caught dozing at a quick throw-in, leaving Petros Mantalos to whack the ball just over the bar from the edge of the area. After that, Rodgers' team took over for a spell. Wesley Fofana, the most assured of the three central defenders, launched a lovely move in the 16th minute that James Maddison almost crowned with a goal, sweeping a shot from the edge of the box just inches wide. Two minutes

later the visitors took the lead thanks to another clever move, with Maddison picking the ball up in space behind the frontline and slipping a pass through to Vardy, who was taken down by the goalkeeper. Vardy thrashed the penalty into the net, his shot too powerful for Panagiotis Tsintotas to keep out. Vardy and Maddison combined niftily again in the 23rd minute to present Cengiz Under with a chance to cap his first start for Leicester with a goal. The winger, on loan from Roma, tried to send a shot between the legs of Tsintotas but the keeper blocked it. AEK, who lost their opening group game 3-0 to Braga, needed to fight back and soon they created two chances for Marko Livaja to equalise. First, Kasper Schmeichel clawed away his header from eight yards and then, after Wes Morgan unintentionally wrongfooted Christian Fuchs with a loose pass, Livaja rifled a low just wide from the edge of the box. The home team's manager made plain his judgment of those two misses by replacing Livaja at half-time. Before that, though, Leicester underlined the value of being clinical. Maddison's corner from the right ran to the far side of the box, from where Choudhury whipped a cunning low shot past the keeper at the near post. It was only Choudhury's second goal since graduating from Leicester's academy, and an ideal way to mark his first start in European competition. The complexion of the game changed just after the interval when Tankovic justified his manager's decision to send him on in place of Livaja. The Swede sprung Leicester's offside trap by making a smart run from deep to collect a chipped pass from Mantalos and ram the ball past Schmeichel from seven yards. Mantalos invited Tankovic to do something similar two minutes later but this time the forward wafted his shot over the bar.

AC Milan, Arsenal win; Tottenham loses in Europa League

PARIS, OCT 30 (AP): AC Milan cruised past Sparta Prague 3-0 for its second straight win in the Europa League, while Tottenham fell to a surprising 1-0 loss at newcomer Antwerp. Milan on Thursday easily overcame a missed penalty by Zlatan Ibrahimovic to remain unbeaten in 23 games in all competitions, dating back to least season. Tottenham saw its 10-match unbeaten run end, despite having Gareth Bale in the starting lineup for a second straight time in the competition. Fellow Premier League clubs captured their second straight win. Leicester beat AEK Athens 2-1 away while Arsenal scored three goals in a four-minute span either side of halftime in a 3-0 victory over Irish club Dundalk. A minute of silence was held ahead of the game between Nice and Hapoel Beer Sheva to honor the three victims of a knife attack in the French city earlier Thursday. The players from both teams wore black armbands during the game, which the hosts won 1-0. Benfica and Rangers earned their second straight victories while Hoffenheim and Wolfsburg cruised to big away wins. **TOTTENHAM TAMED** Antwerp took the lead in the 29th minute when Dieumerci Mbokani stole a sloppy pass from defender Ben Davis before passing to fellow forward Lior Refaelov to score the winning goal. Manager Jos Mourinho retained only two players in the starting lineup from the squad that beat Burnley 1-0 in the Premier League on Monday. However, his lineup failed to impress and Mourinho made four substitutions at halftime in an attempt to turn things around. He didn't wait much longer before replacing Bale with striker Harry Kane in the 58th, but Spurs never created serious chances to score an equaliser. Also in Group J, LASK defeated Ludogorets 4-3. **MILAN MARCHES ON** Ibrahimovic didn't score but

made his presence felt in the first 45 minutes of the game in Group H. The 39-year-old veteran crossed for Brahim D az from the right to net the opening goal with a shot between the legs of Sparta goalkeeper Milan Heca in the 24th minute. Ibrahimovic, who contracted the coronavirus last month but has scored four goals in three matches since his return, wasted a golden opportunity to add another later in the first half. After he was fouled in the area, Ibrahimovic hit the crossbar from the penalty spot in the 36th. He was replaced by Rafael Le o for the second half, and the substitute made it 2-0 from close range after he was set up by a precise cross from Diogo Dalot. Dalot added the third after a solo run in the 67th. Celtic wasted a 2-0 first half lead after a couple of goals from Mohamed Elyounouss to settle for a 2-2 draw at Lille for its first point. **QUICK GOALS BY GUNNERS** Pressing from the start, Arsenal looked frustrated as Dundalk's defense held firm. Then, it fell apart late in the first half. Eddie Nketiah netted the opening goal in the 42nd from close range following a corner after the ball hit a defender's back and dropped in front of the striker. Two minutes later, Joe Willock collected the ball after Nicolas P p 's shot was blocked by Andy Boyle to score high into the net to double the lead. Just half a minute into the second half, P p curled in a strike from the edge of the area. Norway's Molde shares the lead of Group J with Arsenal after beating Rapid Vienna 1-0 for its second win. **IMPACT OF INFECTIONS** After AZ Alkmaar overcame a slew of coronavirus cases to upset Napoli 1-0 last week, the Dutch side earned a comprehensive 4-1 victory over Rijeka in Group F on Thursday. Albert Gu mundsson scored two goals for Alkmaar.

As anger rises, thousands of Muslims protest French cartoons

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (AP): Thousands of Muslims in Pakistan poured out of prayer services to join anti-France protests on Friday, as the French president's vow to protect the right to caricature the Prophet Muhammad continues to roil the Muslim world.

An estimated 2,000 worshippers celebrating the Mawlid, the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, took to the streets in the eastern city of Lahore. Crowds led by Islamic parties chanted anti-France slogans, raised banners and clogged major roads en route to a Sufi shrine. Dozens of people furiously stomped on French flags and cried for the boycott of French products. In Multan, a city in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province, thousands burned an effigy of French President Emmanuel Macron and demanded that Pakistan sever ties with France.

More gatherings were planned for later Friday in Pakistan, including the capital, Islamabad, where police were out in force to prevent possible demonstrations outside the French Embassy. The atmosphere was tense as police positioned shipping containers to block the roads.

Other protests, largely organized by Islamists, are expected across the region, including in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

In Afghanistan, members of the Islamist party Hezb-i-Islami set the French flag ablaze. Its leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, warned Macron that if he doesn't "control the situation, we are go-

ing to a third world war and Europe will be responsible."

The protests come amid rising tensions between France and Muslim-majority nations, which flared up earlier this month when a young Muslim beheaded a French schoolteacher who had shown caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad in class.

Those images, republished by the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo to mark the opening of the trial for the deadly 2015 attack against the publication, have stirred the ire of Muslims across the world who consider depictions of the prophet blasphemous.

A series of attacks that French authorities have attributed to Muslim extremism ensued. On Thursday, a knife-wielding Tunisian man carrying a copy of the Quran killed three people at a church in the Mediterranean city of Nice. That same day, a Saudi man stabbed and lightly wounded a security guard at the French consulate in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, prompting France to urge its citizens there to be on "high alert."

Over the past week, protests and calls to boycott French products have spread rapidly from Bangladesh to Pakistan to Kuwait. Social media has been pulsing with anti-France hashtags. Muslim leaders, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in particular, have loudly criticized France for what they see as the government's provocative and anti-Muslim stance.

Pompeo wraps up anti-China tour of Asia in Vietnam

Hanoi, Oct 30 (AP): US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is wrapping up an anti-China tour of Asia in Vietnam as the fierce American presidential election race enters its final stretch.

With just four days left in the campaign in which China has been a central theme, Pompeo was visiting Hanoi on Friday ostensibly to celebrate 25 years of U.S.-Vietnam relations. But as he has at his previous stops in India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Indonesia, Pompeo is expected to highlight the Trump administration's antipathy toward China, its handling of the coronavirus pandemic, its human rights record and aggressiveness towards its smaller neighbours.

Those issues, particularly the Chinese origin of the virus, have been highlighted by President Donald Trump as he seeks to beat back a stiff reelection challenge from former Vice President Joe Biden in the Nov. 3 polls. Trump has sought to paint Biden as weak on China and beholden to it, repeatedly raising questions about alleged connections between Biden's son, Hunter, and Chinese businesses.

Vietnam was a late addition to Pompeo's itinerary and has numerous concerns about Chinese policies in the region. Those range from Beijing's territorial and maritime claims in the South China Sea to its development ac-

tivities along the Mekong River, which runs through much of mainland Southeast Asia and is a regional lifeline.

In a statement released ahead of Pompeo's arrival in Vietnam, the State Department attacked China for reneging on cooperation pledges with other Mekong countries and for aggressively pursuing suspect claims in the South China Sea.

China's malign and destabilizing actions in the Mekong region, including manipulation of Mekong river water flows, negatively affect millions of people who depend on the river for their livelihoods," it said.

The United States stands with our Indo-Pacific allies and partners in protecting their sovereign rights to offshore resources in the South China Sea, consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, it said. It noted that earlier this year, Pompeo had rejected outright nearly all of Beijing's maritime claims in the South China Sea.

The United States rejects (China's) maritime claims to the waters surrounding Vanguard Bank off Vietnam's coast," the statement said, "We will oppose any efforts aimed at undermining the rules-based maritime order in the South China Sea or elsewhere.

New Zealand votes to legalize euthanasia but not marijuana

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND (AP): New Zealanders voted to legalize euthanasia in a binding referendum, but preliminary results released Friday showed they likely would not legalize recreational marijuana use. With about 83% of votes counted, New Zealanders emphatically endorsed the euthanasia measure with 65% voting in favor and 34% voting against.

The "No" vote on marijuana was much closer, with 53% voting against legalizing the drug for recreational use and 46% voting in favor. That left open a slight chance the measure could still pass once all special votes were counted next week, although it would require a huge swing.

The two referendums represented significant potential changes to New Zealand's social fabric, although the campaigns for each ended up getting overshadowed somewhat by the coronavirus pandemic and a parallel political race, in which Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and her liberal Labour Party won a second term in a landslide.

In past elections, special votes — which include those cast by overseas voters — have tended to track more liberal than general votes, giving proponents of mari-



juana legalization some hope the measure could still pass. Proponents of legalizing the drug were frustrated that Ardern wouldn't reveal how she intended to vote ahead the Oct. 17 ballot. Many believed an endorsement by Ardern could have boosted support for the measure, but she said she wanted to leave the decision to New Zealanders. Ardern said Friday after the results were released that she had voted in favor of both referendums.

Conservative lawmaker Nick Smith, from the opposition National Party,

welcomed the preliminary marijuana result.

"This is a victory for common sense. Research shows cannabis causes mental health problems, reduced motivation and educational achievement, and increased road and workplace deaths," he said. "New Zealanders have rightly concluded that legalizing recreational cannabis would normalize it, make it more available, increase its use and cause more harm." But liberal lawmaker Chlöe Swarbrick, from the Green Party, said they had long as-

sumed the vote would be close and they needed to wait until the special votes were counted.

"We have said from the outset that this would always come down to voter turnout. We've had record numbers of special votes, so I remain optimistic," she said. "New Zealand has had a really mature and ever-evolving conversation about drug laws in this country and we've come really far in the last three years."

Proponents had argued the measure would reduce profits for gangs and improve social and legal out-

comes for indigenous Maori.

The euthanasia measure, which would also allow assisted suicide and takes effect in November 2021, would apply to adults who have terminal illnesses, are likely to die within six months, and are enduring "unbearable" suffering. Other countries that allow some form of euthanasia include The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada, Belgium and Colombia. "It is a victory for all New Zealand as we become a more compassionate and humane society," said lawmaker David Seymour, of

the libertarian ACT Party. "Thousands of New Zealanders who might have suffered excruciating deaths will have choice, dignity, control, and autonomy over their own bodies, protected by the rule of law."

But Dr. John Kleinsman, an ethicist for the New Zealand Catholic Bishops, said the vote put vulnerable people on a dangerous path. He said the mere option of euthanasia would be a burden and pressure for many ailing people and their families, as well as for healthcare and religious workers.

New arrest after France church attack, security tightened

NICE, FRANCE (AP): The investigation into a gruesome attack by a Tunisian man who killed three people in a French church had a second suspect in custody Friday, as France heightened its security alert amid religious and geopolitical tensions around cartoons mocking the Muslim prophet.

Muslims held more anti-France protests across the Mideast and beyond on Friday, while mourners placed flowers, messages and candles at the entrance to the Notre Dame Basilica in the French Riviera city of Nice, where Thursday's knife attack took place.

The attacker, Ibrahim Issaoui, was seriously wounded by police and hospitalized in life-threatening condition, authorities said. Anti-terrorism prosecutors in France and Tunisia are investigating. The new suspect is a 47-year-old man believed to have been in contact with the attacker the night before the attack, according to a judicial official. The official was not authorized to be publicly named.

The victims included 55-year-old Vincent Loques, a father of two who was the church's sacristan, in charge of its holy objects, according to local broadcaster France-Bleu. Another was a 44-year-old mother of three from Brazil named Simone who had studied cooking in Nice and helped poor communities, France-Bleu reported. In an interview broadcast Friday with Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya TV, the attacker's mother said she was shocked by the events.

From the Tunisian province of Sfax, the mother, her eyes wet with tears, said she was surprised to hear her son was in France when he called upon his arrival and had no idea what he was planning. "You don't know the French language, you don't know anyone there, you're going to live alone there, why, why did you go there?" she said she told him over the phone at the time.

His brother told Al-Arabiya that Issaoui had informed the family he would sleep in front of the church, and sent them a photograph showing him at the cathedral where the attack took place. "He didn't tell me anything," he said. A neighbor said he knew the assailant when he was a mechanic and held various other odd jobs, and had shown no signs of radicalization. France's anti-terrorism prosecutor said the suspect

is a Tunisian born in 1999 who reached the Italian island of Lampedusa, a key landing point for migrants crossing in boats from North Africa, on Sept. 20 and traveled to Bari, a port city in southern Italy, on Oct. 9. It is not clear when he arrived in Nice.

Tunisians fleeing a virus-battered economy make up the largest contingent of migrants landing in Italy this year. Italian media reported that from Lampedusa, where Issaoui was one of 1,300 arriving migrants on Sept. 20, he was placed with 800 others on a virus quarantine boat in Puglia.

After the two-week quarantine, he received a notice that he was being expelled from Italy for illegal entry and was given seven days to leave the country, according to Milan daily Corriere della Sera. Italy's interior minister confirmed Friday that the suspect was ordered to leave Italy on Oct. 9. Minister Luciana Lamorgese did not give further details on what, if any action, was taken to ensure the man complied with the order, but she said he was not flagged by either Tunisian authorities nor by intelligence agencies.

Lamorgese called Thursday's attack in France "an attack on Europe. Let's not forget that Lampedusa, Italy is the gateway to Europe."

The attack was the third in less than two months that French authorities have attributed to Muslim extremists, including the beheading of a teacher who had shown caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad in class after the images were re-published by satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo.

The images deeply offended many Muslim s, and protesters burned on French flags, stomped on portraits of President Emmanuel Macron or called for boycotts of French products at demonstrations Friday in Pakistan, India and Afghanistan. Other protests, largely organized by Islamists, are expected across the region, including in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

Macron said he would immediately increase the number of soldiers deployed to protect French schools and religious sites from around 3,000 to 7,000. Schools remain open during a nationwide lockdown that started Friday to stem the spread of the virus, but religious services are canceled.

Malaysian PM's key ally demands early polls in new snag

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 30 (AP): The key ally in Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's coalition has called for general elections to be held to establish a stable government once the coronavirus pandemic subsides, in a new snag to his fragile hold on power.

Muhyiddin, who took office in March, has only a two-seat majority in Parliament and is being challenged by opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, who recently alleged he has majority support of lawmakers to form a new government.

The United Malays National Organisation, the biggest party in Muhyiddin's unelected government, reiterated support for his administration amid a spike in coronavirus cases but demanded polls to be held

once the crisis abates.

UMNO decided that a general election should be held to get a fresh mandate from the people to establish a stable government once the COVID-19 pandemic is brought under control with a minimum number of cases," it said in a statement hours after a Thursday night meeting of its highest decision-making body.

UMNO's support may help Muhyiddin pass a key challenge next month to have the 2021 budget approved in parliament, but its open call for early election could mean that his leadership may be shortlived. Polls are not due until 2023.

UMNO, which had ruled Malaysia since independence from Britain in 1957 but was ousted in 2018 elections, has

been unhappy at being sidelined in the government amid rivalry with Muhyiddin's own Malay party. Some UMNO lawmakers were reportedly among those who support Anwar's bid to topple the government.

Muhyiddin took power in March after withdrawing his party from Anwar's governing alliance that won 2018 polls.

He tied up with the corruption-tainted UMNO and other opposition parties to form a Malay-centric government but his administration has been fraught with infighting.

Malaysia's king on Sunday rejected Muhyiddin's proposal for a coronavirus emergency that would have suspended Parliament and given the premier uncontested powers.

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WILD ONE! The Selling Sunset star, Christine Quinn turns heads while wearing PrettyLittleThing's leopard print face mask bodycon dress in LA.

Jeff Bridges Shares an Inspiring Update On His "Mortality" Amid Cancer Battle

"This cancer is making me appreciate my mortality, appreciate impermanence," Jeff Bridges wrote on his website. Read the latest on the Dude's fight against lymphoma below.

Jeff Bridges is going to keep on keeping on.

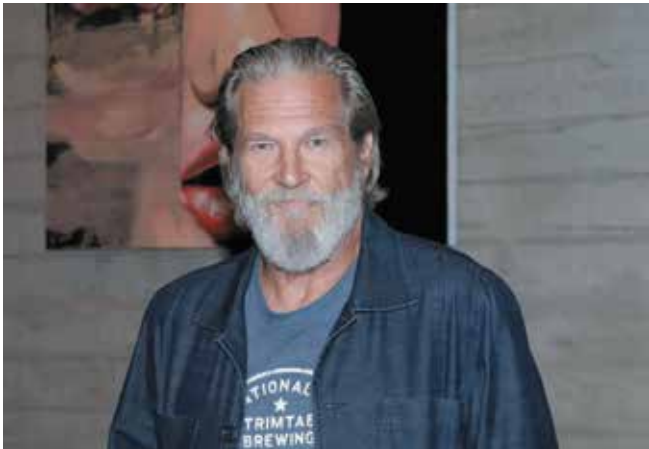
Ten days after the Hollywood legend first shared news of his lymphoma diagnosis, he posted a heartwarming health update to his website on Thursday, Oct. 29.

Accompanied by a photo of Bridges proudly posing in a hospital gown and some hand-drawn doodles, The Big Lebowski star wrote, "This cancer thing is bringing on feelings of precociousness & gratitude & good old fashion love & lots of it, big time. I'm feeling so much of it comin' my way, & man I appreciate it."

Bridges continued, "It's contagious, all this love, like some kind of positive virus. I want to acknowledge & thank you guys for reaching out during this time. It feels good, getting all the well wishes & love!"

"This cancer is making me appreciate my mortality, appreciate impermanence," the 70-year-old added. "I'm realizing if I have s-t to share, now's the time."

Bridges then shared links to causes he'd like to "shine a light on," including climate change. The actor concluded, "I'm lookin' to be in a partnership with you guys in creating



a beautiful life & world for all of us."

Hollywood has rallied around Bridges since he first announced he was being treated for cancer.

He shared on social media at the time, "As the Dude would say.. New S**T has come to light. I have been diagnosed with Lymphoma. Although it is a serious disease, I feel fortunate that I have a great team of doctors and the prognosis is good. I'm starting treatment and will keep you posted on my recovery."

Paris Jackson mines her heartache for solo debut album

NEW YORK (AP): It started in her bedroom with just a guitar, but Paris Jackson has turned coping with the heartache after a recent breakup into her debut solo album.

Jackson, 22, has been a devoted music fan all her life and dabbled in making her own, but has been hesitant to call herself a singer-songwriter until now.

"It's one of the greatest feelings I've ever experienced," Jackson told the Associated Press in an exclusive interview this week.

She describes her ethereal acoustic sound as alternative folk — a far cry from the genre of her father, Michael Jackson. Being the daughter of the King of Pop adds an extra layer of scrutiny to the vulnerability required to put personal songs out into the world.

"I'm excited, I'm nervous, but I feel confident that the people that are supposed to hear this record are going to hear it. It's going to reach them. And with regards to critics and stuff, I don't really think they're going to know how to critique it," Jackson says.

Earlier this year, Jackson was one half of acoustic duo "The Soundflow-ers" with boyfriend Gabriel Glenn, until the two split. She describes nursing a broken heart as a literal "aching in your chest," but Jackson turned her pain into art. "You were my all/And now I fall to the ground," she sings on her new single "Let Down," which drops Friday.

The time in her bedroom resulted in 11 songs on the concept album, "Wilt-ed," released by Republic Records, and out on Nov. 13. All the stages of grief are represented in her lyrics: anger, denial, bargaining and acceptance, but the last song, the upbeat "Another Spring," reveals a stronger woman who lets her "wounds shine through."

Jackson cites many musical influences — including singer-songwriters Damien Rice, Ray LaMontagne and Conor Oberst. Her eyes light up when she talks about being a "massive fan" of

the indie rock band Manchester Orchestra. When she heard that guitarist-singer-songwriter Andy Hull from the band would produce her first record, she was elated. She flew to Atlanta to work with

timonials, and said music was a way to channel her pain. There's an upcoming music video to go with the new single "Let Down," a nod to the younger Jackson's love of horror and gore. In it, the



him and says the band was supportive of her sound.

"Everyone was just so welcoming and so kind and they held this project to be, like, very sacred. They understood my emotional connection to it and understood that this is my baby. They didn't want to do anything that wasn't authentic to who I am and they just took it to the next level," Jackson says.

Michael Jackson famously attempted to shield his three young children from the spotlight. After Jackson's death in 2009 of an overdose of the anesthetic propofol, Paris and her two brothers — who go by Prince, 23, and Bigi, 18 — went to live with their grandmother, Katherine Jackson. Paris moved out at 18 and has been modeling and acting, but always played music.

In June, she and Glenn had a docu-series on Facebook Watch called "Un-filtered," which provided a glimpse into her private life and the duo's small acoustic tour. Jackson revealed self-harm and suicide attempts in her tes-

character she plays has her heart literally ripped out of her chest by her lover. One of the recurring scenes is set in dark woods, reminiscent of elements in her father's famous "Thriller" video. When asked what he might think of her music, Jackson demurs. "I don't know. I'm not him, so I can't speak for him. But I hope he would be happy, and I think he would be stoked because I'm happy," she said.

The pandemic has sidelined most musical acts and Jackson says she misses hearing her favorite bands live and aspires to play a few shows soon, if anti-COVID-19 measures allow. She said she hopes the music will help people feel "a little less lonely."

"I found so much healing through creating this. And there are moments where I'll listen back to certain songs and I'm like, 'Wow I was so naïve.' But for the most part, it's just like so much gratitude and joy that I get from listening to these songs and just seeing the development and the evolution," she said.

Eric Church, Miranda Lambert, Maren Morris to play CMAs

NASHVILLE, TENN. (AP): Eric Church, Miranda Lambert, Maren Morris, Luke Combs and more are set to take the stage at the CMA Awards in November.

The country music awards show promised that the genre's biggest stars will be together in one room again for the first time since the COVID-19 outbreak started. The show will air on ABC on Nov. 11 from the Music City Center.

"Although the show will feel a bit more intimate this year, we look forward to hosting our nominated artists and their guests as we celebrate the best of country music in a fully safe and physically distant environment," said Country Music Association CEO Sarah Trahern in a statement.

Lambert, the leading nominee with seven nods



including entertainer of the year, will perform "Settling Down" from her album of the year nominated record "Wildcard." Fellow entertainer of the year nominee, Combs will perform "Cold As You," and Morris will sing her hit nominated song "The Bones."

Co-hosts Reba McEntire and Darius Rucker will perform a tribute collaboration together, while Rucker will also perform his new single "Beers & Sunshine" with Lady A.

Gabby Barrett will be joined by pop singer Charlie Puth for a duet on her nomi-

nated song "I Hope." Thomas Rhett will perform "Be a Light," with McEntire, Hillary Scott of Lady A and Christian artist Chris Tomlin.

Other performers announced are Ashley McBryde, Rascal Flatts and Florida Georgia Line.

ARIES:

The truth is, you already know what needs to be done here. You're letting the opinions of others (and your own fears) mess with you majorly, Aries. The cards are urging you to tune out the noises, and tune in to your higher self. In moments of silence, you will be granted the gift of clear vision. Remember, adopting 'focus' as your power word will prove to be a gamechanger. Some of you may be confronting your fears regarding your finances as well. Show up for your commitments in a consistent manner as you surrender your worries to the Universe. Everything will be taken care of.

Tip: Tune into your higher self.

TAURUS:

What if you're the only person standing in the way of your success? A major case of imposter syndrome is indicated, Taurus, and working through your self-worth issues is the only way out. Remember, you chose this mission for a reason. You already possess the skills required to slay your demons. Today, no matter how daunting it feels, take the first step. Do something that scares the living daylight out of you and trust that the results will be magnificent.

Tip: You were born to do this!

GEMINI:

It's time for some truth tea, Gemini. You've been playing the blame game for a while now, and no, it isn't helping you solve your problems. The cards are reminding you of the power of free will. No matter how toxic your circumstances might seem on the outside, you have the power to create a shift. Word for the wise: reclaim the reins you had relinquished.

Tip: Create a shift.

CANCER:

The trouble is, you're trying to fit in when you were born to stand out. It's time to re-examine your relationship with yourself. Cancer. What are the ways in which you are holding yourself back from shining your light on the world? The time to shed that cloak of invisibility has come. Growth and expansion are also going to be major themes for you in the coming month. Remember, there is little that can come in your way when you believe in your own power and potential.

Tip: Shed that cloak of invisibility, wild one!

LEO:

Nothing will go back to being the same. Such is the cycle of life. Understand and embrace the change, Leo. Becoming one with the flow is the only way to triumph over your circumstances. Re-examining your relationship with work and money will also be a big theme for you today. Sometimes, we hold onto certain opportunities because we do not believe we're capable of manifesting better. Could you be undermining your own potential here? Set some time aside for self-reflection and trust that you will find the answers.

Tip: Embrace the change.

VIRGO:

Things on the work and money front are looking up for you, Virgo. You're attracting all the right people and opportunities into your world. It's amazing how much we can shift simply by raising our own vibrations! Some of you may be thinking about investing in a business of your own. You've got your plan of action down pat. So what are you waiting for?

Tip: Things are looking up on the work and money front.

LIBRA:

An essential part of the growth and evolution process is acknowledging that you are not the same person you used to be.

Given that you have transformed, how will your beliefs remain unchanged? Shedding old skin is a big mood in the Libra HQ—a cathartic process that promises to take you one step closer to your true self. Word for the wise: let what must fall away, fall away, so you can be liberated from old cycles.

Tip: It's time to shed old skin.

SCORPIO:

Blessings are not a trust fund, Scorpio. There is no cap on the miracles the Universe manifests on our behalf, and there are no limitations on how we can tap into this energy and what we can create. So, breathe and open yourself to what's coming through. Your receptivity will make space for beauty and grace. Remember, gratitude is a powerful practice—one that gives the good stuff in our life the power to increase manifold.

Tip: You are deserving of the miracles you have attracted into your life.

SAGITTARIUS:

Ready for a cup of truth tea, Sagittarius? The most powerful love spell you will ever perform is the one that invokes your love for yourself. This is a time of immense transformation in your Universe. You no longer feel the need to apologise for who you are or fit yourself into boxes that were never meant to be yours. You're realising that letting go of the need for external validation is the secret to finding a sense of wholeness within. Trust that this shift in your vibration will make you a magnet for harmonious relationships.

Tip: It's time to find a sense of wholeness within.

CAPRICORN:

It's true that certain things in our life are predetermined. Who can negate the role of destiny, right? But, is everything scripted to the tee, or do we have space to negotiate and

rewrite certain chapters of our manuscript? Don't underestimate your own power, Capricorn. More importantly, don't underestimate the power of the hard work you're putting in. As Victor E Frankl's words once said, "Between stimulus and response, there is a space. And in that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and freedom." PS: We have a feeling you are going to make yours a bestseller!

Tip: Make the most of the given opening. Hustle hard.

AQUARIUS:

If you've been approaching the world outside-in instead of the other way around, expect a shift in the energy. A shift in the way you approach your own body and being. The waning moon brings with itself the lesson that self-care is anything but selfish. It is by coming into a space of wholeness that we're able to fulfill our scared purpose and hold space for others. So, address the guilt that's been weighing you down. Learn to prioritise yourself. PS: This is the perfect time to channel your inner green witch and create lotions and potions that make you feel good about yourself.

Tip: Address the guilt around self-care.

PISCES:

This, right here, is your big moment, Pisces! A testimony to your co-creating abilities. Let the story of your own life inspire you to keep moving forward despite the challenges. Remind yourself that you are your only competition. Things on the financial front are about to take a turn for the better too (eventually, if not immediately). For now, focus on being consistent in your efforts and trust that you will always be taken care of.

Tip: In the end, everything works out just fine!