



SummitTIMES

Court orders attachment of Mallya's properties

NEW DELHI, MAR 23 (PTI): A Delhi court has ordered attachment of liquor baron Vijay Mallya's properties in Bengaluru in a case relating to FERA violations.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Deepak Sherawat issued fresh directions after the Bengaluru Police, through Enforcement Directorate's special public prosecutor N K Matta and advocate Samvedna Verma, sought more time to execute its earlier order in this regard.

The court directed the state police to attach the properties by July 10, the next date of hearing.

The Bengaluru Police had earlier informed the court that it had identified 159 properties belonging to Mallya, but had not been able to attach any of them.

Mallya was declared a proclaimed offender by the court on January 4 last year for evading its summons in the case.

The court had on May 8 last year directed the attachment of Mallya's properties in the case through the Bengaluru Police commissioner and sought a report on it.

It had declared Mallya a proclaimed offender for evading summons in a Foreign Exchange Management Act (FERA) violation case after noting that he had failed to appear despite repeated summonses.

It had on April 12, 2017 issued an open-ended non-bailable warrant (NBW) against the liquor baron.

Unlike a non-bailable warrant, an 'open-ended NBW' does not carry a time limit for execution.



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SKM RELEASES FINAL LIST

Golay not to contest, son is Soreong-Chakung candidate

Party names Golay as Chief Ministerial candidate

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 MAR: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha released its final list of 13 candidates for the upcoming Assembly elections this evening. The party has also announced PS Tamang [Golay] as its Chief Ministerial candidate even though he is not contesting the elections. Interestingly, Mr Tamang's son, Aditya Golay will be contesting from his traditional constituency, Soreong-Chakung in West Sikkim. Meanwhile, Indra Hang Subba has been given the party ticket for the Lok Sabha elections.

The SKM president's last constituency, Upper Tadong has gone to N Bikram Gurung, even as the constituency he lost from in 2014 Namthang-Rateypani has gone to Sanjit Kharel.

The final list of 13 Assembly election candidates includes: Mohan Prasad Limboo from Yangthang, Purna Hang Limboo from Maneybung-Dentam,

Lok Nath Sharma from Gyalshing-Barnyak, Aditya Golay from Soreong-Chakung, Sunita Gajmer from Zoom-Salghari, Lobzang Bhutia from Barfung, KB Rai from Poklok-Kamrang, Tilak Basnet from Melli, LB Das from West Pendam, Damber Kumar Pradhan from Chujachen, Sonam Tshering Venchungpa from Martam-Rumtek, Anand Lama from Upper Tadong and N Bikram Gurung from Upper Burtuk.

The SKM final list details also include the announcement that Mr Tamang will be the party's Chief Ministerial candidate. It may be recalled that Mr Tamang cannot contest the 2014 elections owing to his conviction in a corruption case.

The SKM announcement states that the Constitution of India allows for a person not elected to the Legislative Assembly to be sworn in as the Chief Minister provided he contests and wins an Assembly election within six months.

The disgruntled SDF leaders who crossed over to SKM in the recent past do not find mention in the candidates list except Mr Panth.

The party has fielded only two women candidates, Sunita Gajmer and Chung Kipu Lepcha.

 LOK NATH SHARMA Gyalshing-Barnyak	 ADITYA GOLAY Soreong-Chakung	 N BIKRAM GURUNG Upper Burtuk
 ANAND LAMA Tadong	 SUNITA GAJMER Zoom-Salghari	 LOBZANG BHUTIA Barfung
 DAMBER KR. PRADHAN Chujachen	 TILAK BASNET Melli	 MOHAN PRASAD LIMBOO Yangthang
 KB RAI Poklok-Kamrang	 INDRA HANG SUBBA LOK SABHA	 PURNA HANG LIMBOO Maneybung-Dentam
 LB DAS West Pendam		 SONAM TSH. VENCHUNGPA Martam-Rumtek

No room for blackmail in SDF: Dahal on disgruntled ticket hopefuls quitting party

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 MAR: Sikkim Democratic Front party spokesperson, Bhim Dahal, today reiterated that SDF was a disciplined party governed by principles and did not prioritise personal ambitions over the greater common good. He made these comments when asked about the party's response to former Minister

TT Bhutia and chairperson Nim Tshering Lepcha quitting SDF to join SKM today. Both leaders split from the SDF when their names did not figure even in the final candidates list of the party.

Mr Dahal contended that SDF had given many opportunities to Mr Bhutia but he had failed to perform for the people or the party, hence the party decided to go with

a younger and more people-friendly candidate. Mr Bhutia had lost the last elections from Kabi-Lungchok to SKM's Ugen Nedup Bhutia who later joined SDF and has been given the party ticket for 2019.

Mr Dahal highlighted that Mr TT Bhutia leaving the party after being denied a party ticket proved that he was driven more by personal

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SDF launches 'Ma Pani Chamling' digital campaign

CAMPAIGN TO SEEK SUGGESTIONS FOR PARTY MANIFESTO



SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 23 MAR:

Sikkim Democratic Front launched its digital campaign 'Ma Pani Chamling' today at SDF Bhawan. As part of the campaign a dedicated website www.mapanichamling.com has been set up in order to solicit people's suggestions for shaping Sikkim's future. With this, SDF aims to directly connect with 4 lakh people so that they can share their suggestions which will be reflected in the party's election manifesto for the upcoming Assembly

and Lok Sabha elections in the State.

The campaign was jointly launched by SDF spokesperson, Bhim Dahal and Social Media Head and Lok Sabha MP, PD Rai. On the occasion, Bhim Dahal mentioned that this digital campaign has been launched to take the message of the SDF president, Pawan Chamling across the State, Country and world. The digital campaign also seeks to help Sikkim and SDF gain visibility in the digital world, he added.

The initiative hopes to further spread the po-

litical philosophy, innovative economic and developmental policies of Sikkim to the world, said Mr Dahal further adding that the campaign will go beyond electoral politics and lead young minds in the innovative world.

PD Rai explained that 'Ma Pani Chamling' means everyone is empowered in their own way and this campaign will make the achievements of the SDF government in the last 25 years available in the borderless world of internet.

In line with the party's

turn to pg02

Bhaichung to gift collector jerseys to highest donors

HSP bid to fund campaign with clean money

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 23 MAR:

Calling on all citizens of India to donate for the political campaign of Hamro Sikkim Party, the HSP working president, Bhaichung Bhutia, today announced that he would gift the jersey he wore for the United Nations Development Programme's Match Against Poverty which is autographed by international stars like Zico, Figo and others to the highest donor.

The second-highest donor will receive the jersey he wore for Team India at his farewell match played against Bayern Munich at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Delhi.

Addressing media persons here today, Mr Bhutia explained that this was a move towards bringing clean money into election campaigning in Sikkim

He said: "Hamro Sikkim is a new party formed to clean the



caste-corruption-muscle ridden politics of Sikkim. Clean money for this brand of politics must come from the common people and that is why I have decided to gift two of my favourite jerseys to people who make the highest and second highest donations to the HSP campaign. I know that there are many public-spirited sports-lovers in India and I hope they will come forward and make handsome donations to the cause of clean politics in India. I have deep emotional attachments to my jerseys

turn to pg02

SPCC releases manifesto



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 MAR:

The Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee (SPCC) released its manifesto at a press briefing held at the party head office at 6th mile, Tadong, today. The manifesto was released by the SPCC president and the Congress party's Lok Sabha candidate from Sikkim, Bharat Basnett.

Also present were

SPCC working president, Dr. Dipendra Gurung, senior vice-president, Padam Lal Gurung, general secretary, Deepak Bhandari, Mahila Congress president, Snumit Targain and chairperson of Scheduled Caste Cell, Binod Tikhatri.

The manifestos printed both in Nepali and English will be distributed by its workers carrying the message of the party.

SPCC MANIFESTO HIGHLIGHTS

- Assembly seat reservation to the Limbu and Tamang communities should be provided from within the 32 seats of the Vidhan Sabha.
- A demand to accord scheduled tribe status to the 11 left out Sikkimese communities based on the provisions of Article 371(F) subclause (f), and not based on caste, will be presented to the Central Government.
- The SPCC shall declare the tribal dominated district of North Sikkim an independent tribal district, with an aim to give priority to the development of north Sikkim and especially Dzongu area.
- The SPCC is committed to declare 26 Apr, 1975 as the cut-off year, and maintain and promote communal harmony amongst Sikkimese people.
- SPCC shall continue to fight against the Citizenship-Amendment Bill 2019.
- The relevant history of Sikkim shall be included in the education syllabus of the state's schools up to the 8th standard.

SDF candidate interacts with Singtam public

SUMMIT REPORT

SINGTAM, 23 MAR:

"Will work for the people, community and their upliftment," said SDF candidate for Singtam-Khamdong constituency, GM Gurung, at a public interaction held at Eco Paradise, Mining, today.

"I know that people of Singtam-Khamdong constituency are upset with some aspects of development works, implemen-

tation and various other issues and considering such things I would like to assure them that I shall be working on these issues and look forward to their support," he said during the interaction.

In an hour-long speech, Mr Gurung underlined his concern and support for providing opportunities to the youth and their innovative ideas.

Training for additional team of VST, SST and FST concludes

GYALSHING, 22 MAR

(IPR): The Training for additional team of Video Viewing Team (VVT), Static Surveillance Team (SST) and Flying Squad Team (FST) for the upcoming General Election was held at Conference Hall of Zilla Panchayat today. DC-cum-DEO West, Karma R Bonpo along with SP West, Tenzing L Lepcha, SDM (HQ), Tushar G Nihhare and Senior Welfare Officer, Santosh Alley were present for the Training.

The DC in his address to the present trainees instructed them to have proper co-ordination among themselves as he believes that it is the key aspect that can play a vital role for the success of upcoming Election. He, with immense importance, advised them to keep proper track of the expenditure records done by the candidates as per the expenditure guidelines of the ECI norms.

Further, while talking upon the working ethics of the VVT he asked them to have a good grasp of their assigned work structure and to record video by physically being present in the scene. He even asked Accounting Team to have exact proof of all expenditures made by the candidates as it is the vital element for the authenticity of the account of candidate as per ECI.

While informing about expenditure, he informed that there are

two types expenditure one made as per the norms and another is violation of norms for which Flying Squads are appointed for monitoring through photos and videos. Speaking to SST he asked them to take strict action towards the people carrying more than allowed cash, liquor and other such type of illicit material which violates the Model Code of Conduct.

The SP mentioned that the designated officials and the Police needs to have proper cooperation and must work hand in hand for the needed assistance in case of the violation of the Model Code of Conduct if required. He even informed that FSTs are also the 'Executive Magistrates' and they hold the responsibility of the same. Further while addressing to SST he asked them to work efficiently for a month whilst understanding their respective responsibilities and fulfilling them to make the Elections as fair as possible.

Further, SDM (HQ) briefed the trainees on the MCC and filling of report process after which the presentation on C-VIGIL app was done by the DIO (NIC), Suman Ranu to the trainees. Senior AO-cum-Dy CPAO, Shri KB Subba also trained the teams on the accounting aspects. A total of 65 trainees attended the training.

Drug bust at Sevoke bazaar, 2 from Sikkim arrested

SUMMIT REPORT

Kalimpong, 23 Mar:

Kalimpong Police raided a house at Sevoke bazaar and arrested six drug peddlers, two of whom are from Sikkim.

The team of District Enforcement branch, Kalimpong Traffic and Kalimpong PS jointly raided one house and seized about 394 strips of Spasproxynon, 17 loose tablets of Spasproxynon, 24 strips of Nitrosun 10, 47 bottles of Ownrex cough syrup, Rs 19,700 cash and 3 mobile phone.

The market value of the seized drugs is around Rs 45,000, it is learnt.

Training on Shivansh composting at Lower Thambong

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 MAR:

Mavedir, service provider agency organized a ward level training on new technology for organic composting called Shivansh Composting today at Middle Daramdin ward under Lower Thambong GPU, West Sikkim, a press release informs.

The training was chaired by Dawa Tshering Sherpa (BTM from ATMA) who highlighted the features of the Shivansh Compost.

To demonstrate the preparation of Shivansh composting, the farmers were taken to the compost site where Master Trainer, Ghanendra Sharma outlined the materials which is needed for making the compost such as dried plant biomass, rice and wheat stalk, any green plant material and fresh dung.

More than 25 farmers attended this training cum demonstration program, the release mentions

CPI(M) offers support to aspirant teachers; relay fast enters 24th day

KOLKATA, MAR 23 (PTI):

Left Front chairman Biman Bose and leaders of CPI(M)'s frontal organisations Saturday pledged support to the aspiring school teachers who are on relay hunger strike for 24 days demanding recruitment to vacant posts in state-run and state-aided institutes.

Bose, a senior CPI(M) leader, claimed that he came to the agitators at their venue here as a citizen and not as the leader of a political party and expressed solidarity with their demands. "I fully agree to their claims that despite qualifying in the School Service Commission (SSC) written test in 2016, the deserving candidates have not been called for interview and there have been irregularities in the recruitment process," he said.

The SFI and DYFI, student and youth wings of the CPI(M) respectively, also took out a rally in the city in support of the SSC candidates.

SFI general secretary Srijon Bhattacharya said, "It is a matter of regret that the chief minister did not visit the agitating candidates in the past 24 days."

DD Bhutia extends full support to Barfung SDF candidate

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 23 MAR:

Senior SDF leader and Power Minister, DD Bhutia, today said that he is not contesting the Assembly election this time because he wants a young leader for his constituency. Mr Bhutia was elected from Barfung constituency in 2014 and was serving as Power and Labour Minister. He is also a member of the SDF Parliamentary Committee.

SDF's Tashi Thendup Bhutia is contesting from Barfung in the upcoming election.

"The Chief Minister, also the party president, had personally approved my candidature once again to represent Barfung constituency in the Assembly election. However, I had expressed my inability to represent my party from my constituency due to my age and health reasons. Further,



I had also expressed desire to see a young leader in this general election," said Mr Bhutia while speaking to media this morning at Gangtok.

He extended his full support and best wishes to the SDF candidate from Barfung constituency.

"I would also like to express my best wishes to all the contesting candidates of the SDF party. I once again repose my

faith and gratitude to my party president, Pawan Chamling. I shall sincerely work in strengthening the party and ensure landslide victory in general election 2019," he said.

He also thanked the people of Barfung constituency for continuously reposing their faith in him and electing him as their representative to the State Assembly.

The Institution of Engineers (India) Sikkim centre observes World Water Day

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 MAR:

The Institution of Engineers (India) Sikkim state centre (IEI-SSC) observed World Water Day-2019 at College of Agricultural Engineering and Post-Harvest Technology (CAEPHT) Ranipool on 22 March, 2019, a press release informs.

The World Water Day is observed every year as per the resolution of United Nations General Assembly passed in December 1992. The theme of world water day for year 2019 is "Leaving no one behind".

Secretary, Food Security and Agricultural Development Department (FSADD), Government of Sikkim, Khorlo Bhutia, was present as the chief guest.

The programme was also attended by Director FSADD, Sherap Bhutia, Additional Director, Jagadish Pradhan, Prad-



han Mantri Krishi Sichai Yojana (PMKSY), Superintending Engineer (PMKSY), Passang Tamang, National Hydrology Project (NHP), Saroj Adhikary, Water Resource Development department (WRDD), Sikkim and faculty members of CAEPHT, Ranipool.

Honorary Secretary of the state centre, Dr. NS Chauhan welcomed the participants to the program. Professor, BC Kusre, IDE, CAEPHT spoke about the theme of World Water Day 2019. He emphasized about why and how to observe the world water day.

In his address, Er Saroj Adhikari explained

the efforts made by the state under for management and development of water resources in Sikkim. Prof. PP Dabral, Dean and chairperson of the function talked about water resources management, various aspects of management, and its significance with food production and security. He also stressed on improving efficiency of water use to meet future challenges.

The program ended with a vote of thanks by Professor, Dr. SN Yadav, CAEPHT and member executive committee, and Head, FMPE, and member, executive committee of IEI-SSC.

FAQ

EVM with VVPAT Unit

Q12. Is it possible to vote more than once by pressing the button again and again?

Ans. No. As soon as a particular button on the Balloting Unit is pressed the vote is recorded for that particular candidate and the machine gets locked. Even if one presses that button further or any other button, no further vote will be recorded. This way the EVMs ensure the principle of "one man, one vote". The next vote is enabled only when the Presiding Officer/Polling Officer in-charge of the Control Unit releases the Ballot by pressing the Ballot Button. This is a distinct advantage over the ballot paper system.

Q13. How can a voter be sure that the EVM is working and his vote has been recorded?

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No room for...

ambition than party principles or ideology.

Responding to queries on Arithang councilor Ashish Rai, overlooked for the Arithang ticket, and now expected to contest as an independent candidate, Mr Dahal said that the party has no information regarding the matter.

He added that that SDF party president and parliamentary committee had made their choice and that party workers and leaders were expected to respect their decision.

On the same, he said that Lok Sabha MP PD Rai was the most successful, hardworking, punctual and highly qualified who had also been very vocal in the Parliament. "PD Rai has been a very successful MP. Even more than me and we are here as party workers and we expect our party workers to emulate what PD Rai is doing today as the party cannot be blackmailed by anyone," he said.

He also clarified that there would not be no changes in the candidates list.

As for criticism from some quarters that five MLAs who defected to SDF from SKM had been given tickets over older SDF workers, Mr Dahal said that the decision was based on the performance of the MLAs in their respective constituencies and the feedback received from the people.

Bhaichung to gift...

but I have an even deeper resolve to make Sikkim a better place for all and I am ready to give up my personal emotions for the larger cause of a new, clean Sikkim and realize the slogan Naya Sikkim, Hamro Sikkim."

The donation drive will be conducted on <http://htc-group.org> which will go live on Monday (25 Mar, 2019) at 10am.

Details of the methods of donation and links to donate online shall be soon posted on the Facebook page of Hamro Sikkim Party and other online media platforms, it is informed. All donations will be through banking channels and will be publicly disclosed, Mr Bhutia added.

SDF launches...

philosophy of "Janta Raj Ma Jantai Raja", SDF is organizing the largest participative agenda setting exercise in Sikkim's history to enable people to set the agenda of the incoming SDF government, said Mr Rai.

"Our party president, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling had given the clarion call of "Youth First" and hence we first sought the views of the youth through the MyFirstVote4Chamling campaign. We are also going door-to-door with SDF Pariwar campaign to directly understand the opinions of people. We are the only party to put Sikkim & Sikkimese first," he added.

Meanwhile, a press release informs that the campaign is in line with the innovative, tech-savvy and people-centric campaign strategies adopted by the SDF to engage with the people. It will adopt various mediums in order to solicit feedback from the masses. The party will also seek suggestions from various subject matter experts and specialists through different outreach programmes.

A source close to the campaign has revealed that the campaign aims to leverage "Big Organizing" strategy, which was adopted by Bernie Sanders in the 2016 Presidential Campaign in the United States of America.

Earlier, the SDF party had launched the "MyFirstVote4Chamling" campaign on the occasion of Losar (05 Feb 2019) to directly seek suggestions from first-time voters – the campaign has received over 27,000 suggestions till now.

Party president Pawan Chamling had recently launched the SDF Pariwar campaign, a 10-day long door-to-door campaign directly interacting with 1 Lakh households across Sikkim to understand their aspirations, the resolution of which will be the priority of the SDF government. The campaign, through 15,000 SDF Pariwar Sahyodhas (SDF Pariwar Ambassadors) has reached over 55,000 households, establishing connect with 2 lakh people in 6 days, according to SDF.

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Tearful Muslims return to Christchurch mosque as NZ works to move on

CHRISTCHURCH, MAR 23 (AFP): Muslims prayed at Christchurch's main mosque on Saturday for the first time since a white supremacist massacred worshippers there as New Zealand sought to return to normality after the tragedy. The Al Noor mosque was taken over by police for investigations and security reasons after alleged gunman Brenton Tarrant attacked Muslims gathered there and at a smaller mosque for Friday prayers on March 15, killing 50 people. But Al Noor was handed back to the local Muslim community on Saturday and began allowing small groups onto its grounds around midday.

"We are allowing 15 people at a time, just to get some normality," said Saiyad Hassen, a volunteer at Al Noor, adding that there was as yet no known plan to fully reopen. Among the first to enter was Vohra Mohammad Huzef, who survived the bloodshed.

Huzef, a Christchurch civil engineer originally from India, said two of his roommates were killed and he managed to survive only by hiding under bodies. "I could feel the bullets hitting the people and I could feel the blood coming down on me from the people who were shot," he said.

"Everyone wants to get back in again to give praise and to catch up. This is the central point of our community." The attacks have shocked a country of 4.5 million known for its tolerance and prompted global horror, heightened by Tarrant's cold-blooded live-streaming of the massacre.

New Zealand came to a standstill on Friday to mark one week since the massacre, with the Muslim call to prayer broadcast across the country followed by two minutes of silence for the dead.

The nationwide ceremonies saw poignant scenes of Kiwis embracing Muslims, Maoris performing the traditional haka war dance, and non-Muslim New Zealand women donning makeshift Islamic headscarves in solidarity.

A day earlier, the country outlawed the military-style rifles used in the assault with immediate effect. Police confirmed they had also handed back the Linwood Mosque, the second killing zone several kilometres away, but no plans to allow visitors were announced. An armed police presence will remain at both mosques, as well as others around New Zealand.

Workers have rushed to repair bullet-pocked walls and clean blood-spattered floors at the two mosques. At Al Noor, the small groups of visitors removed their shoes and socks and knelt down at a garden tap to wash their feet and faces in ritual pre-prayer ablutions.

Some wept quietly as they made their way into the mosque, where bright sunlight streamed through windows and the air smelled of fresh paint. No bullet holes were seen.

Santosh Trophy team begin training in Mangan for final round



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 MAR:**

Sikkim men's team will undergo a week-long residential coaching camp at Mangan in North Sikkim in preparation for the upcoming final round of the prestigious 73rd edition of the National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy.

Sikkim has qualified for the final round of the tournament after a gap of over a decade. The State team had topped group-B from East Zone in the qualifying round played in February.

The State team will start training in Mangan on Saturday. The final round will be played in Ludhiana

in Punjab and Sikkim will take on Karnataka on 11 April in its first match.

Addressing the State team here at Paljor Stadium this morning, Sikkim Football Association president, Menla Ethenpa, congratulated them for their wonderful game in the qualifying round and expressed confidence

that the team will display an even better game in the final round.

He also thanked equipment partner, Vector X, for its support to SFA.

SFA vice-president, Chewang Paul, also conveyed best wishes to the team members.

Vector X marketing manager, Mohit Arora,

thanked SFA for taking Vector X on board and assured to provide all possible support from the company.

Speaking to media persons, State team captain, Mayal Dok Lepcha, shared that the residential camp was very important for the State team to bond better and refine coordination.

He added that the training will be held both at the Mangan public ground as well as the five-a-side football turf.

He expressed happiness with the outstanding performance of the State team in the qualifying round where it knocked out a strong team like West Bengal to qualify for the final round.

"We are ready for the final round as all players are in high spirits and are inspired by their performance in the qualifying round. We are confident that we will perform even better in the final round," he said.

Improvements happen with public participation: MEO Singtam

**YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 23 MAR:**

"Improvements happen only with public participations, and as the Municipal Executive Officer I hope to receive public interventions to bring improvements," said PK Rai, the new Municipal Executive Officer of Singtam Nagar Panchayat.

"I have many memories in this place and have now received the opportunity to work for Singtam. With time, this place has also changed a lot and considering the

present generation it's time to include them in this process so that they can contribute with innovative ideas," Mr Rai added while speaking to SummitTimes.

When the inadequacy of civic facilities was pointed out, the MEO said the SNP was looking into such issues and added that he will soon be convening an interactive meeting with locals and social organizations based here to get things moving in the right direction.

Kaziranga Univ launches first and one-of-its-kind MBA in Event Management.



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 MAR:**

The School of Business at the Assam Kaziranga University has launched an MBA Programme in Event Management, a campus-based 2-year programme, to be conducted in association with the Bangalore-based event management institute team.i.

The programme was launched at a press conference yesterday by Pro-Chancellor Basant Khetan, Vice Chancellor, Dr PK Mishra and Di-

rector, Rainy Khetan, in the presence of Harisha Prabhu, Director and Vice President of DNA Entertainment Pvt. Ltd, Arvind Jyot Sabhaney, CEO team.i and Prof Srinivas Govindarajan, founder, Vertical Limits, and visiting professor at the Kaziranga University School of Business.

With classes scheduled to start in the autumn semester of 2019, the MBA in Event Management programme will be the eighth MBA programme offered by Kaziranga University.

World Water Day observed at Lingi Payong School

**SUMMIT REPORT
LINGI PAYONG, 23 MAR:**

World Water Day was observed on Friday by the Eco Club of Lingi Payong School on the theme, "leaving no one behind."

The programme started with an introduction to the significance of the day by Vivek Khatiwara of Class X followed by a short speech by GTS, Prakash Limboo, who briefed the audience

about the history and observation of the day.

Students of different classes presented their views on the need and importance of water conservation and urged everyone to follow the practices of water conservation for a safe and healthy future.

The programme was conducted and coordinated by teachers Lila Dhar Adhikari, Prakash Limboo and Goma Adhikari.

Sikkim cricketers selected for Senior NCA Camp 2019



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 MAR:**

The Senior Men's & Women's camp for the North East States 2019 will be conducted at Imphal, Manipur and Shillong, Meghalaya respectively from 10 Apr to 4 May, 2019 by the National Cricket Academy (NCA), BCCI.

Four Ranji players Ashish Thapa, Bibek Diyali, Nilesh Lamichaney and Lee Yong Lepcha from Sikkim have been selected for men's camp and five senior women players Sunita Rai,

Tshering Ongmu Lepcha, Purni Maya Gurung, Dichen Ongmu Lepcha, and Pranita Chettri have been selected for women's camp by the All India Selection Committee, a press release informs.

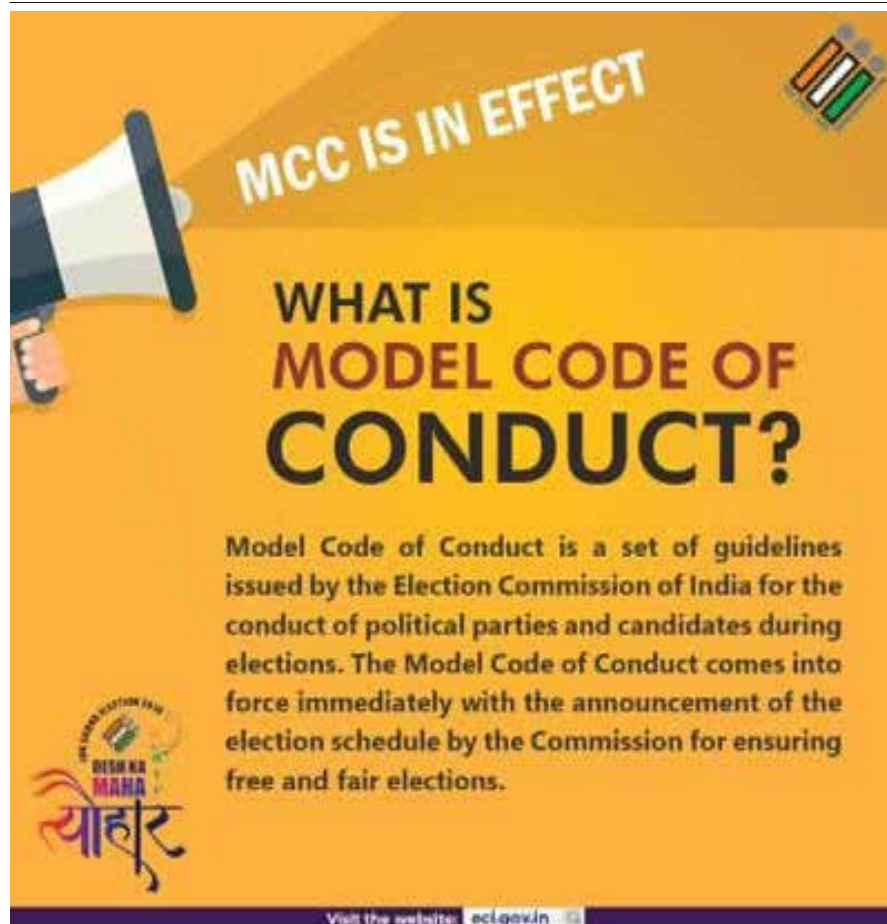
After inclusion of Sikkim as a full member of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in 2018, this is for the first time that senior players from Sikkim have been called for the NCA camp.

National Cricket Academy, established in 2000, is a cricket facility

of the BCCI for training cricketers who are identified as having the potential to represent the Indian cricket team. Every year NCA select players from different zones and conduct Camps at various places where these players are groomed for the future.

It is a golden opportunity for Sikkim players to improve their game under the guidance of Professional Coaches, Trainer and Support Staffs of National Cricket Academy, the release adds.

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Sikkim strength lifting team to take part in Federation Cup National C'ship



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 MAR:**

A 20-member Sikkim Strength Lifting Association (SSLA) is all set to represent Sikkim in the 28th edition of Sub Junior, Junior, Senior and Master Federation Cup National Strength Lifting Championship 2019 for men & women to be held from 28 to 31 March at Lovely Professional University, Phagwara in Punjab.

The State team comprises of 16 men and 04 women. The team will be accompanied by international strength lifter, Pema Dorjee Bhutia as team coach and Edu Tshering Bhutia as team manager. The team is scheduled to leave for the championship on 25 March.

In a small function held here at White Hall complex on Thursday afternoon, SSLA executive members expressed their best wishes to the State team.

The function had local entrepreneur, Chandra Kala Pradhan as the chief guest, who expressed her best wishes to the team and encouraged them to return home with medals and laurels. She further stressed upon the need for support and encouragement to local

sportspersons so that they can reach national and international levels. She also encouraged young children to take up sports to stay fit and healthy.

SSLA vice-president, Mani Kumar Rasaily mentioned that SSLA has already produced lots of national and international strength lifters from Sikkim in a short duration of time. He encouraged the team members to give their best efforts in the championship.

SSLA chief coach, Pema Dorjee Bhutia mentioned that the association is sending eight new young lifters between the ages of 15 to 17 years to the championship this time. He stated that the preparation went very well and all team members are in top form.

"We are confident of returning with medals and laurels for the State from the championship," he expressed.

On the occasion, SSLA general secretary, Sonam Tshering Bhutia and treasurer, Pema Tseten Bhutia also expressed their best wishes to the team. The function concluded with the presentation of vote of thanks by an international lifter, Kalpana Chettri.

BEFORE THE OATH COMMISSIONER EAST SIKKIM AT GANGTOK

AFFIDAVIT

I, Hanok Biswakarma, S/O Shri Karna Kami aged about 35 years, by faith Christianity by Occupation Labor a resident of Borong, P.O. & P.O. Ravangla, South Sikkim Pin 737139, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:-

1. That I am legal son of Shri Karna Kami.
2. That my name is Hanok Biswakarma and son of Shri Karna Kami and the same has been recorded at my voter card identity card No. SUC0015388 issued by Election Commission of India.
3. That my name is Hanok Biswakarma and son of Shri Karna Kami and the same has been recorded at my AADHAAR card No. 3042 4505 8618 issued by Unique Identification Authority of India (Government of India).
4. That my name was mistaken as Sriman Kami son of Shri Karne Kami in my old voter card no. SK01/0111/000693 issued by Election Commission of India.
5. That this affidavit is made bona-fide and declared that Hanok Biswakarma and Sriman Kami is a same person.
6. That this affidavit is made bona-fide.

Deponent

ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM GANGTOK

Memo No: 622/SD IV/R&B/2018-19/324 Date: 22.03.2019

CORRIGENDUM

NIT published vide memo no 622/SD IV/R&B/2018-19/257 dated 26.02.2019 and published vide R.O. no. 763/IPR/Pub/Classi/18-19/ dated 05.03.2019 under 33-Kopibari Syari GPU has been kept in abeyance till further notice.

Sd/-
Assistant Engineer
Sub Division IV
Roads & Bridges Department

R.O. No. 784/IPR/Pub/Classi/18-19 Date: 23.3.19

SummitTIMES

Media as a Circus

But it needn't be

The funds crunch which has hit states across the country has also led to cost-cutting measures in Sikkim when it comes to publicity and promotion. It was, however, not always like this. Some years back, the State Government would play a lavish host to visiting journalists and even embedded journalists, flying in media-persons from the mainland to cover events in the State.

At one of those gigs some years ago, a journalist from Delhi, here to cover an international flower show, had asked a question and inadvertently provided the answer himself. Attached with a national TV news channel, he was befuddled by the lack of coverage of interesting events in Sikkim in the national media. And then he wondered aloud whether it would have been a good idea to invite a “celebrity” over for the International Florishow to ensure blanket television coverage. He had a point, if national TV news can beam live footage of a New Year dance show by, say a Rakhi Sawant, they would surely have their OB vans parked at Saramsa or the flower show complex in Gangtok if she was called over instead of a high-ranking national official or leader. Chances are that a celebrity would have ensured an army of hysterical TV correspondents out-screaming each other from Ranipool to Saramsa breaking news about which hand the celebrity snipped the ribbon with. We have seen that play out, but also, let’s accept it, it is one thing to get a celebrity brand ambassador and quite another to have them over to just receive coverage. The actual event could get dulled in the limelight. There might still have been an outside chance that they might have mentioned the word Sikkim in the report and it would really be too much to expect them to talk about the flowers or vegetables (no one said “organic” until Aamir Khan did and Modi followed suit some years later) unless of course, a grower claimed a vegetative freak. Yes, that might also have made it as breaking news.

It is almost embarrassing to belong to the profession [journalism, not floriculture] nowadays. While the pressures of attending to shortening attention spans are obvious, the focus is disconcertingly shifting from bringing the news to becoming the news. As a respected media commentator put it: Competition is being met by “privileging sensationalism over significance, celebrity before achievement, intrusion before purposeful investigation and entertainment before reliability.” Too much of the journalism around nowadays mistakes entertaining for informing. The media alone is not to blame. It is after all the audience which hands over success to scandalous print over sensible reportage. But then again, we cannot blame it on the audience alone, the media is the only segment of democracy which does not fall under any controlling authority and also the only profession which has no entry regulations. We are truly free. While we are free to scandalise, we are also required to inform more professionally. Entertainment is not the only way to get people reading or watching news, engaging styles might also work. But then again, why will we work hard at preparing an engaging, relevant text when the audience will lap up scandalous entertainment just as well.

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

Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men – a review

KAREN BOYLE
theconversation.com

Feminist campaigner Caroline Criado Perez’s latest book is an essential if enraging read. It might seem ironic that the central figure in *Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men* is a man, but Perez argues convincingly that the “default male” is the figure our world is designed around.

Unfortunately, the default male is also a stand-in for “human”, with consequences for women that range from the annoying (longer loo queues, phones that don’t fit our hands) to potentially lethal (protective clothing that fails to protect, misdiagnosis of heart attacks).

Perez’s analysis is wide-ranging and compelling, and no matter how familiar you think you are with the distorting effects of default male thinking, there will be examples in here that enrage you anew.

Did you know (I didn’t), that worldwide, indoor air pollution is the single largest environmental risk factor for female mortality and the leading killer of children under the age of five? And that toxic fumes from stoves are one of the main contributors? As women typically take on the bulk of domestic work and child care, this means gender roles are literally killing them. The beauty of the book is that it makes you wonder how it is possible that you didn’t know this.

THE POWER OF INFORMATION

This is a book about how knowledge is created, shared and reproduced, challenging readers to think about the limits of our own, and seek out new ways of knowing. It should perhaps come as no surprise that Perez’s own authority is continually under attack from blokes who’ve done a quick Google search to trump her years of research. Safiya Umoja Noble’s work on algorithms of oppression could have alerted them to the folly of using Google as the authority on these things.

Perez’s experiences as a feminist in the public eye point to the double-edged nature of visibility for women: this is the woman who received death and rape threats for suggesting the Bank of England should have a woman on a banknote.

At one level, it is encouraging that the costs of visibility for women in public life are themselves increasingly visible, as in Amnesty’s recent research on the toxicity of Twitter. But it is hard to be encouraged when the abuse continues.

The default male pollutes the very language we use to talk about these things. Feminist legal scholar Catharine MacKinnon made this point brilliantly in the *New York Times*. She declared that the #MeToo campaign had done what the law could not: sexually assaulted women who had once been disbelieved and denigrated were being believed and

valued. But MacKinnon noted too that the courts are “hidebound and less nimble than culture”, and there is still a long way to go:

“Legal standards for retaliation – one of the biggest fears behind non-reporting – need to change to protect [women reporting crimes]. Culturally, it is still said “women allege” or “claim” they were sexually assaulted. Those accused “deny what was alleged”. What if we changed the emphasis and said that survivors “report” and the accused “alleges” or “claims” it didn’t happen?”

MacKinnon’s point is that the very way we talk about these things is skewed – privileging the male accused while framing women’s reports as sus-

But one of the most powerful takeaways from Perez’s book is the extent to which so much of this bias is unconscious, such that we are all infected by it. Feminism is the process of unlearning this, but it’s an ongoing process, for all of us.

So while I learned a huge amount from Perez’s book, I also winced when I read that urban planning “fails to account for women’s risk of being sexually assaulted”. I heard within this echoes of a victim-blaming narrative which asks what we should do to avoid being sexually assaulted, rather than what men should do to avoid sexually assaulting others.

At the same time, the book itself is built on a



pect. Her suggested change in emphasis still makes it clear that these reports are contested, but it no longer privileges the male point of view.

Writing about men’s violence against women is particularly pernicious in this respect. For instance, in the UK recently, Level Up – an organisation that campaigns to end sexism against women – successfully lobbied the Independent Press Standards Organisation to launch guidelines on the reporting of domestic homicide to avoid the hideous clichés which typically pepper reports of men who murder the women they are in relationships with.

We are all familiar with it: the “kind” men who just “snapped” in the face of some perceived infraction, whose histories of domestic abuse are mentioned only in passing. As feminist organisations including Zero Tolerance forcefully argue, journalists can and should do better.

BECOMING CONSCIOUS

Brexit deadline extended: why Brussels chose these dates and what happens now

NIEVES PEREZ-SOLORZANO
theconversation.com

The 27 members of the European Union have responded to Britain’s request to extend the Brexit process with two deadlines, having agreed that the original Brexit date of March 29 is no longer feasible.

If the UK prime minister, Theresa May, can get British parliamentarians to approve her withdrawal agreement almost immediately, she can have until May 22 to finalise the deal. If they reject the withdrawal agreement again, the deadline will be April 12. In this second scenario, the EU27 expect the UK to indicate a path forward before the April deadline. This will then be considered by the European Council. Otherwise, April 12 could be no-deal Brexit day. Theresa May had originally asked for a deadline of June 30.

The EU’s response to the political crisis in the UK reflects some old and newer dynamics in its Brexit negotiating strategy.

From the start of the Brexit negotiations the EU has remained committed to avoiding a no-deal Brexit. It is now using the flexibility afforded by article 50 to extend the negotiation period in order to allow for a common position to emerge in the British parliament, whether around the withdrawal agreement or some other alternative, including remaining in the EU.

Yesterday, after a long negotiation, the EU27 carefully and painstakingly knitted a safety net to ensure that they remain in charge of the Brexit timetable and that the options for a way forward are not limited to a default no-deal

outcome. Even though the French president, Emmanuel Macron, talked about no deal ahead of the Brussels summit, the EU27 clearly still want to find a different solution.



They have also disrupted May’s blame shifting strategy. With these deadlines on offer, she can’t say it’s the EU’s fault if no deal comes about when the withdrawal agreement is rejected by parliament.

The EU is a risk averse organisation and the member states are committed to acting in the best interest of the EU. Both deadlines are aimed at protecting the European elections in May. The priority is to prevent any challenges to the legality of the electoral process and the subsequent make-up of the European Parliament. April 12 would be the deadline for the UK

to register its intention to take part in the elections. Even though May has ruled this out, it would be a prerequisite if the UK were to end up seeking a longer Brexit extension. May 22 is the day before the

Irish Prime Minister, Leo Varadkar put it before the meeting. A unified agreement was reached in the end.

As a newer dynamic, the EU is no longer only negotiating with Theresa May. It is de facto negotiating with the British parliament too. With the April 12 deadline, the EU is giving the British parliament the opportunity to coalesce around a common position without the threat of a no-deal Brexit hanging over them should they decide to reject May’s deal again. It is now up to MPs to seize this opportunity, find a cross-party consensus as to what kind of Brexit they want, and to mandate the prime minister – whomever this may be – to negotiate with an inclusive mandate.

As the Brexit endgame approaches, the EU is in the driving seat, having drawn on decades of a consensus-building culture and on the expertise of a robust negotiating team. As they respond with flexibility, understanding and some exasperation to yet another political crisis in the UK, the EU27 remain firm in their message: the withdrawal agreement will not be renegotiated, only the political declaration defining the terms of UK-EU post-Brexit relationship can be amended. A no-deal Brexit is not the preferred scenario, but the EU is ready for it.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in European Politics, University of Bristol]

First time in Garo Hills

CK LEPCHA
In January 2019, we traveled to Tura to visit a friend. It was my first trip to Garo Hills, Meghalaya. Despite having lived in Shillong for six years or so, I had never been to Tura. We even forget that Garo hills exist because we often equate Meghalaya with Shillong and forget the rest of the state.



Of course, Meghalaya is one of the most interesting and welcoming states in the region. Its colonial history has a lot to do with its character and the make-up of present Meghalaya. Any tourist would find it very fascinating that the first ride from Guwahati to Shillong would take them through a shared highway. Because when one makes way up to the hills from Guwahati on Asian Highway 1, the left side of the road belongs to Assam and the right side belongs to Meghalaya. So for those, whose idea of a state border is drawn in a clear cut fashion, this could be the beginning of realizing how borders are much more than mere demarcation of boundaries.

There is actually so much continuity and shared lifestyle between the two sides of the road that the attempts to distinguish oneself from the other in state-centric ideas often differ starkly from the every-

day realities in a big way.

The road to Tura from Guwahati is not via Shillong but it diverges in Guwahati itself. It goes eastward through several towns in Assam before heading North towards Tura. One can take buses, shared taxis, or a hire a car to Tura and will reach the destination in about five hours or so.

Unlike the road to Shillong, you don't see too many AS license plate vehicles driving up for the weekend in the recently constructed four lane highway. Instead, there are lots of buses overflowing with goods on the roofs, and the



roads are like any highway across the plains of India before you start ascending towards Garo hills.

Along the way, the driver picked up a package for someone in the hills and accommodated two ladies in the empty seat behind. There was a mid-way stop for chai or food in case one was hungry but we ended up browsing the shops selling local food items and handicraft products.

By the time we reached Tura, it was almost dark and everybody seemed to be rushing back to their homes. The reason being there was going to be bandh from 8:00pm onwards opposing the Citizenship amendment bill. While we had been hearing news about Northeast opposition to the proposed bill, we realized Garo hills was enraged and angry too.

The next morning, we could see posters all around



town against the bill. They opposed the earlier 2016 bill and were not happy with the way people at the centre were calling the shots this time too.

They lived too close to Bangladesh border to risk their share of resources with those from across the border. They had their exchanges in the

smaller communities. Of course the bill was to die a 'natural death' as reported by news outlets but the sense of neglect and disregard to many of the issues in the region is not a new thing.

In Meghalaya, Garos are one of the major tribes but they always come second to their Khasi counterparts. Majority of development, beautification and promotion for tourism happens in Khasi hills as the

Garo hills have been kept aside as disturbed area with only basic infrastructure and remains of the insurgent movement from the yesteryears. Indeed, they had their share of killings, kidnapping of people and holding them for ransom until their demands were met. But we also know that these things mostly happen because of the failure of the state. And Garo hills have largely been ignored and forgotten by both Meghalaya and the Indian state.

However, things seem to be looking up as of now. There is a dynamic Garo Chief Minister who seems



weekly border haats or the celebration of certain festivals, but the idea of providing Indian citizenship to their neighbors within six years' time meant there was going to be a population influx and they might be ousted in many ways. Also, the exclusive agenda of granting citizenship only to non-Muslims very much promulgated the ruling government's pro-Hindu narrative.

Like most tribes in India and elsewhere, the rules of the state were threatening the existence of the

to be calling the right shots as my trip was to reveal a side of Meghalaya that I hardly knew.

In the next few days, I would get to visit fish sanctuaries, ride through the rivers, visit traditional villages, go shopping in the local market and hang out with people at the border. It made me wonder why I didn't come to Garo hills earlier but it also showed me that at least I had arrived and it was at the right place at the right time.

To be continued...

Turncoats preferred by TMC, BJP in Bengal poll battle

Pradipta Tapadar

KOLKATA, MAR 23 (PTI): The ruling Trinamool Congress and the opposition BJP, who are ready to battle it out in the Lok Sabha polls in West Bengal, are preferring turncoats over their tried and tested leaders.

There is discontent over candidate selection within both the parties dominating the poll scenario in the state. Senior TMC leader and its South Dinajpur district chief Biplob Mitra said there is anger among grass-roots level workers of the party over giving tickets to newcomers and ignoring the old timers.

The TMC is going solo and has declared names of candidates for all 42 Lok Sabha seats. The BJP declared its first list of 28 contestants in the state Thursday. The two parties defend their decision, saying winnability was of prime consideration for them.

However, the TMC feels it is the best way to quell the infighting in the party, whereas for the BJP, fielding turncoats had become a compulsion as it did not have enough candidates to assure its victory.

"We have party leaders and workers who are working very hard. We had given them tickets in panchayat and assembly polls. But in case of fight-

FIELDWORK REFLECTIONS

Midwives of the fishing community

MONGFING LEPCHA
For our Masters dissertation, we had gone for our fieldwork to the Annavaram Village of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. My research focus was on the traditional midwives of the fishing community, which is also the focus of my PhD as I usually look at demography taking into consideration fertility, mortality and migration. I mostly collect data from married women. Sometimes, few male informants volunteer but it is usually the females who are more open in answering the questions which deals with fertility and mortality.

While collecting data in the fishing village, I noticed that the middle aged generation delivered their babies at home instead of seeking modern medical assistance. Most of them while asking about the place of birth of their child answered that they had their babies at home.

Upon asking about the assistance during delivery, they uttered a word "Mantrasahani" who are the traditional midwives or experts in assisting mothers deliver babies. Their knowledge is based on the lived experiences they come across and are also passed down by their elders. Not everyone can be Mantrasahani unless one puts own's interest and efforts in learning how to assist the mothers. Mantrasahanis are not just experts in assisting the mothers but also possesses knowledge about the kinds of foods mothers should eat and avoid pre and post delivery of the child. They mentioned that during their times there were no medical facilities around, so all they knew was the avail-

ability of Mantrasahanis. It was also a fact that modern health care facilities were far off their reach which left them with only option of seeking assistance from mantrasshanis but that situational obligation never deviated them from trusting the experiential knowledge of the midwives.

Childbirth is a very crucial phase for all expecting mothers who goes under many physical as well as mental stressess. As such they need proper care pre and post pregnancy. During my fieldwork I came across few cases of miscarriages which were due to heavy duty work even during the crucial

livery of baby. However, she also added that the mothers also need to be cautious and be aware of how much their bodies can handle the workload rather than pushing themselves to the extreme level of activities which can be harmful for both mother and the child. She also added that after the delivery they suggest the new lactating mothers to consider taking proper rest and consume healthy foods which included taking coffee and jaggery for strength and nutritious breast milk for child.

When asked about how she assists the mothers during delivery, she answered that delivering a baby entirely depends on the mother's strength and courage. What mantrasahanis does is put pressure from outside to push the baby while the mother get exhausted. The pressure needs to be put by gently massaging on the right location of the mother's belly. She also narrated a case where a mother was so exhausted during delivery that she was or a verge to lose her consciousness, even the external massage was not working as the head of the baby was stuck; so she put her hair inside the mother's nose to make her sneeze. The pressure of the sneeze worked and the baby's head popped out. The tricked was an instant approach which worked she added. Similar to this, many cases makes them more professional in assisting the mothers.

However, the influence of modern health care system, the practice of approaching a mantrasahani is decreasing along with their numbers in the village. As their number is dwindling so is their

knowledge. Now people especially the younger generation prefer modern healthcare practices over the traditional which is why people no longer wants to acquire the traditional knowledge. Also, the modern schemes include some decent incentives to mothers who give birth at hospitals which is also one of the reasons that keeps people away from mantrasahanis.

The few mantrasahanis left in the village are there as an emergency and alternative options which people rarely chooses. After they are gone the practice of mantrasahanis will only exist in stories that will one-day fade away with time just like them.

Although modern healthcare practice is more prevalent and gaining more importance with obvious reasons but alongside there should be an alternative approach to safeguard the traditional knowledge that has proven effective even before the advent of modern healthcare system. I believe that traditional knowledge is the base for the modern approaches even in healthcare and the approach to modernity should not be at the expense of losing the traditional knowledge.

[the writer is a Research scholar, Department of Anthropology, Sikkim University]



Mourinho eyes management comeback and third Champions League

BASEL (SWITZERLAND), MAR 23 (AFP): Jose Mourinho is gunning for a return to top level management and a third Champions League title, the former Real Madrid and Manchester United manager revealed on Friday in an interview with AFP.

Mourinho has been out of work since being sacked by United in December and said he would like to be appointed as a boss at a club where he can add to his European triumphs with Porto in 2003 and Inter Milan seven years later, and draw level with Zinedine Zidane, Carlo Ancelotti and Bob Paisley.

"If I can win a third Champions League, great," the 56-year-old told AFP.

"I would like to play in the best level, which is the Champions League.

"I want to be (in the race to win the Champions League next year). Sometimes, you are not in the race, but you have



to win other races."

Mourinho, who has coached in his native Portugal as well as in England, Italy and Spain left the door open to returning to those leagues or taking over at a club elsewhere.

"I can go back to a country I've been before and to be honest, I have enjoyed working in every country I did," he said.

"(Or) I can try something very important, which is to work in a fifth country and try to win everything in the fifth country like I did in the previous ones." - Powerful

PREMIER LEAGUE

Mourinho's time with United was his third with a Premier League club after two spells with Chelsea, where he won the

title three times, and he isn't surprised that England has four teams in the quarter-finals of Europe's top competition.

United, Manchester City, Tottenham and Liverpool have all made it to the last eight.

"English teams are powerful, they have a very competitive league. Sometimes, it goes against them because

many times, you have very difficult situations in the calendar," he said.

"The teams are good and strong, and you look at Man City, the level of investment. Top players, experienced players, top manager, experienced manager."

Asked about France attacker Kylian Mbappe, Mourinho praised the World Cup-winning teenager, who he says has the ability take over from Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo when they eventually hang up their boots.

"He is there, he is ready for next step. When the big monsters decide to stop, he will be there, just waiting," Mourinho said.

"Sometimes, you can be part of the team that reaches something, and you are just lucky to be at the right moment at the right time. That's not the case. He was very important for France being champion.

Djokovic, Osaka win Miami openers as Thiem tumbles

MIAMI, MAR 23 (AFP): Novak Djokovic put his Indian Wells disappointment behind him on Friday at the ATP and WTA Miami Open with a ruthless 7-6 (7/2) 6-2 destruction of Australian Bernard Tomic to move into the third round.

The Serbian world number one endured a meek exit at the hands of German Philipp Kohlschreiber in the California desert but arrived desperate to land what would be a record seventh title in South Florida.

Tomic, the current world No. 81, gave the 31-year-old a few problems yet the Australian struggles to consistently challenge the best players and this was evident once again as Djokovic eased through the gears at Hard Rock Stadium with just one hour and 13 minutes on the clock.

"In Indian Wells I wasn't feeling my best," conceded Djokovic who won 81 per cent of points on his first serve and hit 11 aces.

"Everyone has nerves coming onto center court regardless of how much experience you have and what your ranking is. You care about it and if you are nervous that means you care.

"I commonly feel like that. This was my first time playing at this new stadium, it felt like being indoor a little bit. It's unique. "Now hopefully,"

he added, "I can build some momentum." On a day that saw Djokovic, top-ranked woman Naomi Osaka and 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams advance, the shock of the day was the departure of Indian Wells Masters winner Dominic Thiem, who was beaten 6-4 6-4 by highly rated Polish 22-year-old Hubert Hurkacz.

Elsewhere, there was disappointment for Kei Nishikori. The fifth seed lost to Serbian Dusan Lajovic 2-6 6-2 6-3 but reigning champion John Isner outlasted Italian qualifier Lorenzo Sonego 7-6 (7/2) 7-6, (9/7).

Japanese star Osaka

had to keep her emotions in check as she opened her campaign by outlasting Yanina Wickmayer 6-0 6-7 (3/7) 6-1.

Since winning her second consecutive Grand Slam title in January at the Australian Open, Osaka has failed to go deep in Dubai or Indian Wells.

But she appeared in solid form against 141st-ranked Wickmayer, despite losing her way in the middle of an entertaining match at Hard Rock Stadium.

The 21 year-old was forced to dig deep after the Belgian, who reached the Miami Open last eight in 2010, forced a third set as Osaka's game badly dipped.

- 'JUST BREATHE' -
"In the second set, I

got really emotional, so in the third, I just tried to shut off my feelings," Osaka said. "I started thinking about winning and not the things I could do in order to win. I had a dip and she started playing really well.

"I just had to breathe and regroup," she said.

"I find myself doing it often when I am in emotional situations, it's like an energy saver."

Next up in the third round is Taiwan's Hsieh Su-Wei, who defeated American Alison Riske 6-2, 7-5.

The pair had a roller-coaster clash in the Australian Open at the start of 2019 with Hsieh a set and 4-1 up in Melbourne only to lose a dramatic third-round encounter.

Serena Williams survived a second-set lull to beat Sweden's Rebecca Peterson 6-3 1-6 6-1 and elder sister Venus also advanced with a 7-6 (7/4) 6-1 win over Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro.

There will be a repeat of last week's WTA final in Indian Wells between Bianca Andreescu and Angelique Kerber.

Canadian 18-year-old Andreescu, who brilliantly won her maiden WTA title in California, beat American Sofia Kenin 6-3 6-3 to book a third-round meeting with three-time Grand Slam winner Kerber, who saw off Russia's Karolina Muchova 3-6 6-3 6-3.

Messi to miss Morocco friendly after injury on international return

MADRID, MAR 23 (AFP): Lionel Messi will miss Argentina's friendly against Morocco next week after picking up a groin injury in the shock 3-1 defeat to Venezuela on Friday as he made his first international appearance since the 2018 World Cup. Barcelona star Messi started the fixture following a self-imposed eight-month exile in which he missed six friendlies since the tournament in Russia, which they exited in the last 16 at the hands of eventual champions France. The Argentine Football Federation tweeted the injury update following the loss at Atletico Madrid's Wanda Metropolitano stadium.

Gonzalo Martinez has also been ruled out of the fixture in Tangier with a thigh problem. Salomon Rondon and Jhon Murillo gave Venezuela a two-goal advantage at the break. Argentina forward Lautaro Martinez halved the deficit before Josef Martinez scored from the spot to claim the spoils in the friendly. Messi's 129th cap started poorly as Newcastle forward Rondon controlled a long ball before hammering home a half-volley past Argentine goalkeeper Franco Armani.

The pick of the goals came as 23-year-old Murillo scored for only a third time in 17 internationals. He received the ball on the corner of the box, was given plenty of space by the Albiceleste defence and the winger fired home powerfully past Armani with a minute left of the first half. Argentina's Martinez gave his side some hope on the hour mark as Messi found Giovanni Lo Celso who played in the Inter forward to finish.

Rafael Dudamel's side, ranked 32nd in the world, claimed a third after Martinez was tripped in the box. The Atlanta United attacker skipped up to take the penalty, sending Armani the wrong way to score with 15 minutes remaining.

All eyes on Warner as Sunrisers eye winning start against KKR

TAPAN MOHANTA

KOLKATA, MAR 23 (PTI): Come-back man David Warner will be the cynosure of all eyes when last year's finalist Sunrisers Hyderabad open their campaign against two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders in the 12th Indian Premier League here Sunday.

Under Warner's captaincy Sunrisers won their maiden IPL title in 2016 and in 2017 he was the leading rungetter for his team.

But the Australian opener missed the last IPL because of last year's infamous ball tampering episode in Capetown, and is set make his IPL comeback along side Steve Smith. Warner will be the most scrutinised player for Sunrisers this season after he was banned for a year over his role in the ball-tampering scandal.

While Warner and Smith were banned for a year, young Cameron Bancroft was left out for nine months for his role.

And come this year, both Warner and Smith would be hoping to make an impact for their respective IPL sides.

Even as his international ban will end on March 28, the left-handed opener is eligible to play in the franchise league and would be hoping to get into his zone to stake a claim in Australia's World Cup squad.

Warner went under the knife for an elbow injury in January during the Bangladesh Premier League but made a successful comeback for his Sydney club Randy Petes with a 77-ball century in a one-day game earlier this month.



Kane Williamson, who led them to runners-up finish in the Aussie's absence last season, will continue to captain Sunrisers, a team that is known for its depth and variation in bowling. While Bhuvneshwar Kumar will lead Sunrisers pace department, Afghanistan's Rashid Khan will be in charge of the spin attack.

Sunrisers have traded in Vijay Shankar, Shahbaz Nadeem and Abhishek Sharma for Shikhar Dhanwan, but the it remains to be seen how they overcome the Indian opener's departure.

In KKR's camp, skipper Dinesh Karthik will look to make most of the IPL opportunity to get the selectors' attention.

Taking charge of the team after Gautam Gambhir's exit, Karthik led KKR to third place finish following their loss to SRH in the second eliminator last year.

KKR have roped in Carlos Brathwaite to go along side Andre Russell, Sunil Narine as they would

look to reinforce their batting firepower with Chris Lynn.

Team (from):

Kolkata Knight Riders: Dinesh Karthik (c), Robin Uthappa, Chris Lynn, Shubman Gill, Andre Russell, Carlos Brathwaite, Sunil Narine, Pi-yush Chawla, Kuldeep Yadav, Nikhil Naik, Joe Denly, Shrikant Mundhe, Nitish Rana, Sandeep Warrier, Prasidh Krishna, Lockie Ferguson, Harry Gurney, KC Cariappa and Yarra Prithviraj.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Kane Willilamson (c), Manish Pandey, Martin Gupthill, Ricky Bhui, David Warner, Deepak Hooda, Mohammad Nabi, Yusuf Pathan, Shakib Al Hasan, Abhishek Sharma, Vijay Shankar, Sreevats Gowssami, Jonny Bairstow, Wriddhiman Saha, Siddarth Kaul, Khaleel Ahmed, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Rashid Khan, Basil Thampi, Billy Stanlake, T Natarajan, Sandeep Sharma, Shahbaz Nadeem.

Match starts: 4pm.

India U-23 colts face Tajikistan in must-win match

TASHKENT, MAR 23 (PTI): India U-23 team will look to shrug off the first-match disappointment when it takes on Tajikistan in a "do-or-die" fixture here Sunday.

The India colts had lost to defending champions Uzbekistan in the first match.

"It's a very crucial game for us. It's more important given the current standing of the table," Head coach Derrick Pereira said.

"You might say it's do-or-die for us. We'll surely try to put in our best performance and see what awaits us."

After fighting valiantly in the first 45 minutes, the Indian boys eventually went down 0-3 against Uzbekistan.

Looking back, Pereira feels 'inexperience' cost the team dearly.

"Uzbekistan were physically stronger, and technically better than us. Our inexperience cost us the match. We have got two chances in the first half. Had we converted, we could have got an edge," he explained.

Unlike other groups in the qualifiers, group F comprises of only three teams which makes every single game hugely crucial in their pursuit of a berth in the finals, which is scheduled in Thailand next year.

"As we are playing only two matches, it's tough for us to rectify things and implement them on the pitch within 48 hours of playing the first match. But, we'll take the challenge head-on," Pereira said.

Vinit Rai, who donned the captain's armband at the Pa-

khtakor Stadium Friday, expressed that his team has the potential to make a comeback against Tajikistan.

"We have made some mistakes and got punished against Uzbekistan. But if we are able to play to our true potential, we can surely get a positive result. We can't afford any margin of error. We have to take the chances with both hands whatever comes our way," Rai said.

Pereira said his team will go into the match with a positive mindset.

"In Football, you never give up. That's the charm. We go to the next match with a positive mind set and put in our best performance. You never know, anything is possible in football."

The match will kick-off at IST 5.30pm on Sunday.

India start Azlan Shah campaign on positive note, beat Japan 2-0

IPOH (MALAYSIA), MAR 23 (PTI): India defeated Asian Games champion Japan 2-0 to start its campaign at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey tournament on a positive note here Saturday. Varun Kumar converted a penalty corner in the 24th minute to hand India the lead before Simranjeet Singh (55th) scored a diving field goal from skipper Manpreet Singh's brilliant pass to secure full three points for the five-time champions.

India will play Korea in their next league game on Sunday before taking on hosts Malaysia (March 26), Canada (March March 27) and Poland (March 29).

The top two teams from the round robin league stage will play in the final on March 30.

After a goalless first quarter, India slowly took control of the proceedings. Eight minutes into the second quarter, India won a penalty



corner and Varun made no mistake in finding the back of the Japanese goal with a powerful dragkick.

The Indian midfield manned by skipper Manpreet and Kothajit

Singh stole the limelight by creating numerous scoring chances but the forwardline was guilty of wasting opportunities. With four minutes remaining for the second hooter,

remaining for the third hooter, Japanese striker Kenji Kitazato took a brave shot on goal but missed the post by a big margin. Playing in

Mandeep Singh missed the target by a whisker after being set up by a good pass from Sumit Kumar (Junior).

In the third quarter, Japan secured their first penalty corner in the 33rd minute but India custodian PR Sreejesh did well to thwart the danger.

The following minutes saw both India and Japan create scoring opportunities but in vain.

With two minutes remaining for the third hooter, Japanese striker Kenji Kitazato took a brave shot on goal but missed the post by a big margin. Playing in

overcast conditions with temperature hovering around 28 degrees, India continued its hunt for a second goal and earned a penalty corner within minutes of the fourth quarter.

But this time Varun missed the mark, allowing Japan to launch a quick counter attack, which was kept at bay by Birendra Lakra's alertness.

Japan tried different ways to dislodge India, used full-press to gain ball-possession but did not succeed.

Japan removed their goalkeeper to add an extra man in the 55th minute but the tactic backfired with India making use of the opportunity to double their lead. It was a diving effort by Simranjeet that put India ahead.

With just two minutes remaining, Japan secured another penalty corner but the attempt was well-defended by Surender Kumar, backed by goalkeeper Krishan Pathak, who replaced Sreejesh after half-time.

Death toll climbs to 64 in one of China’s worst industrial blasts in recent years

BY K J M VARMA

BEIJING, MAR 23 (PTI): The death toll climbed to 64 in one of the worst industrial accidents of China in recent times which knocked down buildings, tossed children into air and caused a tremor equivalent to a magnitude-3.0 earthquake, officials said Saturday.

The officials said that 24 others were missing. The explosion occurred after a fire in the fertilizer factory in Jiangsu province on Thursday, according to the government of Xiangshui county.

Thirty-four people were in a critical condition and 73 seriously injured, state-run China Daily reported. The death toll is expected to rise as several people have been critically injured.

Over 640 people were injured in the incident.

More than 3,000 workers and around 1,000 residents have been relocated to safe places. The Ministry of Emergency Management said that 88 people were rescued from the scene.

Such is the scale of the devastation that the entire industrial park in the Yancheng resembled an area struck by a massive earthquake with almost all buildings demolished in one go.

It is the worst industrial accident since the massive explosion rocked the port area of Tianjin in 2015 in which 173 people were killed. The China earthquake centre reported an earthquake of 3.0 magnitude during the time of the blast. An aerial video posted by China Daily which provided the first detailed view of the area



showed shocking images of the blast which has destroyed the entire neighbourhood, causing an extensive damage showcasing the destructive side of China’s unbridled industrial development.

Jiangsu Tianjiayi Chemical plant, where the blast took place, was flattened and 16 neighbouring factories were left with varying degrees of damage. The impact smashed windows and uprooted roofs of some buildings and reduced others to rubble.

Officials claimed that the rivers outside the chemical industrial park were not polluted. Executives

of the chemical plant have been taken into police custody. Schools and kindergartens had been closed while the authorities monitored air and water quality, an official said. Since Friday, injured people began streaming into the emergency ward at Xiangshui People’s Hospital one of the biggest in Xiangshui county, about 300 km north of Shanghai, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Saturday.

Survivors of the devastating chemical plant blast in eastern China told media that they had seen giant fireballs exploding and children being shot into air by the

force of the blast. As rescuers continued to search for survivors following the explosion, those caught up in the “earth-shattering” said that people living 10 km away from the blast site had been left choking on toxic clouds.

Wang Xinfang said shards of glass from the windows had been “falling like rain” in a village six kms away from the plant. She had been out shopping at the time of the explosion and immediately run out of the store, the Post report said. She later found one member of her family crushed in the rubble of their home near the site while

her house, in the neighbouring village of Haianju, suffered extensive damage. Li Hongmei, a hotel owner from Chenjiagang, said she had seen a three-year-old boy being thrown into air by the force of the shock-wave that left him visibly terrified.

Gao Congbiao from Shadang village, 6 km away from the plant, had been working on his land when he saw a “big fireball exploding into wild flames” and said the “earth-shattering” blast had left his home and farmland seriously damaged. Gao, a member of a local Christian congregation, said many of the windows at his church had

been blown out, forcing the group to cancel their regular Friday prayer meeting. He said the flames rose to height of around four storeys and then triggered a chain of explosions, by setting off a nearby benzol storage tank.

“I was standing along the wall and my helmet was immediately blown away,” the worker told Caixin.com. “After the second explosion, the road was full of people running for their lives,” the Post quoted him as saying.

Some survivors of the blast told how they had been left trapped in the wreckage and had to endure an agonising wait to be rescued.

Wang Qiang was in a meeting 300 metres from the plant when the blast rocked the building and left him buried under a pile of rubble in what used to be the conference room.

While President Xi Jinping has urged all-out rescue efforts, the central cabinet has ordered an inquiry.

Xi, who is in Europe on an official tour, said that all-out efforts must be made to search those trapped, and the injured must be timely treated and relief work must be well carried out to maintain social stability.

Xi ordered that the cause of the accident must be identified as early as possible and that authoritative information should be timely released.

The fire fighter brigade of Jiangsu has mobilised 176 fire trucks with 928 personnel to join the rescue mission, the Ministry of Emergency Management said.

Mueller concludes Russia probe, submits report to US Attorney General

By Lalit K Jha
Washington, Mar 23 (PTI): Special counsel Robert Mueller has submitted the much-awaited probe report on alleged collusion between Russia and US President Donald Trump’s 2016 campaign, ending an investigation that has cast a shadow over the Trump presidency for nearly two years. A justice department official said that Mueller’s report did not recommend any further indictments.

During his 22 months of investigation, Mueller, a former FBI director, criminally charged three companies and 34 individuals, of which seven pleaded guilty and one was convicted. He had also posed question to President Trump which were responded to in writing. US Attorney General William Barr, to whom the report was delivered on Friday, told Congressional leaders that he may submit to them its summary “as soon as this weekend”.

Trump has repeatedly claimed that he was a victim of “witch hunt”, while asserting that there was no collusion between his campaign and the Russians. Reacting to the development, White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said, “The next steps are up to Attorney General Barr and we look forward to the process taking its course. The White House has not received or been briefed on the special counsel’s report.” President Trump’s counsel Jay Sekulow and personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, in a joint statement, said, “We’re pleased that the Office of

Special Counsel has delivered its report to the attorney general pursuant to the regulations. Attorney General Barr will determine the appropriate next steps.”

The probe report, which justice department officials described as comprehensive, does not recommend any further indictment. However, the Democratic leadership, which alleged that Russian interference helped Trump in the 2016 polls, on Friday demanded that the entire report be made public.

“Now that Special Counsel Mueller has submitted his report to the attorney general, it is imperative for Mr Barr to make the full report public and provide its underlying documentation and findings to Congress,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a joint statement.

“Attorney General Barr must not give President Trump, his lawyers or his staff any sneak preview of Special Counsel Mueller’s findings or evidence, and the White House must not be allowed to interfere in decisions about what parts of those findings or evidence are made public,” they said.

“The special counsel’s investigation focused on questions that go to the integrity of our democracy itself: whether foreign powers corruptly interfered in our elections, and whether unlawful means were used to hinder that investigation. The American people have a right to the truth. The watchword is transparency,” the two top Democratic leader said.

Imran Khan welcomes PM Modi’s greetings on Pakistan National Day



ISLAMABAD, MAR 23 (PTI): Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has welcomed his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi’s greetings on the eve of its National Day, saying time has come to begin a “comprehensive dialogue” between the two countries to address and resolve all issues, including the “central issue” of Kashmir.

According to official sources in New Delhi, Prime Minister Modi sent a letter to Khan, greeting people of Pakistan on the eve of its National Day and highlighting the importance of a terror-free South Asia.

Modi, in his message, said it was time for the people of the sub-continent to work together for a democratic, peaceful, progressive and prosperous region, in an atmosphere free of terror and violence, they said.

Khan, in a tweet, welcomed Modi’s message and said the time has come to begin a comprehensive dialogue between the two countries to address and resolve all issues, including Kashmir.

“I welcome PM Modi’s message to our people. As we celebrate Pakistan Day I believe it is time to begin a comprehensive dialogue with India to address & resolve

all issues, esp the central issue of Kashmir, & forge a new relationship based on peace & prosperity for all our people,” Khan tweeted on Friday.

India has made it clear to Pakistan that cross-border terror attacks and talks cannot go hand in hand.

India last year called off a planned meeting of External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi on the sidelines of the annual session of the UN General Assembly in New York after blaming Pakistan-based entities for killing of three special police officers in Kashmir.

Earlier, Khan also tweeted Modi’s message. “Received msg from PM Modi: ‘I extend my greetings & best wishes to the people of Pakistan on the National Day of Pakistan. It is time that ppl of Sub-continent work together for a democratic, peaceful, progressive & prosperous region, in an atmosphere free of terror and violence,’” Khan said.

Modi’s message to Khan came in the midst of severe strain in ties between the two nuclear-armed neighbours following the Pulwama attack and the subsequent air strikes by India

on a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror camp in Pakistan’s Balakot.

Significantly, India Friday boycotted a reception at the Pakistan High Commission here to mark Pakistan’s National Day, objecting to invites extended to several separatist leaders from Jammu and Kashmir for the event. The official sources in New Delhi said the prime minister sends a customary message on National Days to other heads of state and government and added that his message to Khan highlighted the importance of a terror-free South Asia.

Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after a suicide bomber of Pakistan-based terror group JeM killed 40 CRPF personnel in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pulwama district in February 14.

India launched a counter-terror operation in Balakot. The next day, Pakistan Air Force retaliated and downed a MiG-21 in an aerial combat and captured its pilot, who was handed over to India on March 1.

Every year on March 23, Pakistan celebrates its National Day commemorating the Lahore Resolution passed on March 23, 1940 and the adoption of the first constitution of Pakistan on March 23, 1956.

Two kin of Christchurch victims die after killings: officials

CHRISTCHURCH, MAR 23 (AFP): A grief-stricken mother who had travelled to New Zealand after her son was gunned down in the Christchurch mosque massacre passed away overnight, officials said Saturday.

The woman, whose name was not available, was one of two relatives of shooting victims to die this week as the city’s close-knit Muslim community reels from the killings of 50 people by an Australian white supremacist more than a week ago.

Hafiz Junaid, an imam from the city of Auckland in northern New Zealand, told AFP that the mother of one of the victims came from Jordan following the tragedy. Junaid said the woman was deeply distraught by her son’s loss.

“Last night she went to bed and

she did not wake up. She passed away,” Junaid said.

A police spokesman confirmed to AFP that one relative died from “a medical event”, and that another also had died, but offered no further details in either case.

The attack also left dozens wounded, some in critical condition, but the police spokesman confirmed that the death toll from the attacks remained at 50. The larger of the two mosques attacked by the gunman let in small groups of worshippers for brief visits on Saturday for the first time since the tragedy, shortly after police handed the houses of worship back to the local Muslim community.

Brenton Tarrant, 28, has been charged with murder in the attack.



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PIC



OUT AND ABOUT! The Irish singer, Niall Horan rocks a red, white and blue ensemble as he leaves Talksport radio studios in London.

‘Supernatural’ to end after season 15



LOS ANGELES, MAR 23 (PTI): The CW’s dark fantasy series “Supernatural” will culminate after its 15th season.

The series, created by Eric Kripke, features Jared Padalecki and Jensen Ackles as the two Winchester brothers who hunt demons, ghosts, monsters, and other supernatural beings.

In a video message on Twitter, the two actors along with their co-star actor Misha Collins broke the news of series end.

“We just told the crew that even though we’re very excited to be moving into our 15th season, it will be our last. 15 years of a show that has certainly changed my life, I know it’s

changed these two guys’ lives and we just wanted you to here from us that though we’re excited about next year, it will be the finale,” Ackles said in the video.

Padalecki added, “We’ve cried some tears and we’re going to work all that emotion into next season.” According to Variety, the final season will consist of 20 episodes.

The show is executive produced by Robert Singer, Andrew Dabb, Phil Sgriccia, Jeremy Carver, Eugenie Ross-Leming, and Brad Buckner. It is produced by Warner Bros. Television in association with Wonderland Sound and Vision.

It didn’t kill them: Barbra Streisand on Michael Jackson’s accusers

LONDON, MAR 23 (PTI): Veteran singer-actor Barbra Streisand has said that even though she believes the two men who accused Michael Jackson of sexual abuse in the HBO documentary “Leaving Neverland”, she has sympathy for the pop icon.

In an interview with the Times in the UK, Streisand said she empathises with victims-- Wade Robson and James Safechuck-- but the incident “didn’t kill them”.

“His (Jackson) sexual needs were his sexual needs, coming from whatever childhood he has or whatever DNA he has. You can say ‘molested,’ but those children, as you heard them say (the grown-up Robson and Safechuck), they were thrilled to be there. They both married and they both have children, so it didn’t kill them,” she added.

The response comes over a month after the premiere of the documentary, which focuses on longtime accusations of child sex abuse against Jackson. Streisand also said that she has

“combination of feelings” about the accusations.

“I feel bad for the children. I feel bad for him. I blame, I guess, the par-

In the documentary, Robson and Safechuck said Jackson spent years grooming both them and their families, gaining their trust so he could betray it.



ents, who would allow their children to sleep with him? Why would Michael need these little children dressed like him and in the shoes and the dancing and the hats?”

Jackson’s estate has denied the accusations. Jackson also denied child molestation accusations for years, and was acquitted in a child molestation case in 2005.

Jon Snow’s death sent Kit Harington to therapy



Game of Thrones star Kit Harington says he had to resort to therapy to deal with his character Jon Snow’s death in the show.

Jon Snow, one of the pivotal characters of HBO’s epic fantasy show, was killed at the end of season five, and Harington, in an interview with Variety, said it was his “darkest time” till the character was resurrected in the next season.

“It wasn’t a very good time in my life. I felt I had to feel that I was the most fortunate person in the world, when actually, I felt very vulnerable. I had a shaky time in my life around there - like I think a lot of people do in their 20s,” the actor said.

“That was a time when I started

therapy, and started talking to people. I had felt very unsafe, and I wasn’t talking to anyone. I had to feel very grateful for what I have, but I felt incredibly concerned about whether I could even f***ing act,” he added.

Harington admitted that the constant chatter among the audiences about his character’s fate made it “f***ing terrifying” for him to step out in public.

“You get people shouting at you on the street, ‘Are you dead?’ At the same time you have to have this appearance. All of your neuroses, and I’m as neurotic as any actor, get heightened with that level of focus,” he added.

The eighth and final episode of “Game of Thrones” will air in India on Star World on April 14.

Lucy Liu developing anthology series on real-life women heroes

Actor-director Lucy Liu is working on an anthology series which will champion real-life female heroes. According to The Hollywood Reporter, the “Elementary” star will executive produce and direct the first episode of the series. Titled “Unsung

Heroes”, the show is in the works at ABC Studios International, which Liu will back via her Moonvision Entertainment.

“Unsung Heroes” will profile women who were highly accomplished in their fields but did not receive acknowledgment for

their achievements and how their stories have impacted history. The first episode will focus on Anna May Wong, a star of Hollywood’s silent era. Liu’s longtime manager Maryellen Mulcahy and Ruthanne Secunda are also attached as executive producers.

Michelle Pfeiffer finds her Catwoman whip from ‘Batman Returns’



LOS ANGELES, MAR 23 (PTI): Veteran actor Michelle Pfeiffer has reunited with her Catwoman whip from “Batman Returns”, 27 years after the film’s release.

The 1992 film was directed by Tim Burton and featured Michael Keaton as Batman/Bruce Wayne. Veteran actor Danny DeVito played the villain the Penguin. “Look what I found. Needs a little TLC,” the 60-year-old actress posted on her Instagram page on Friday, alongside a video.

Following the success of the film, Pfeiffer went on to star in movies such as “Wolf”, “Dangerous Minds”, “What Lies Beneath”, “White Oleander”, “Hairspray”, “Stardust”, “Dark Shadows”, “Ant-Man and the Wasp” and “Avengers: Endgame”.

THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: Bewitched, bothered and bewildered! The moon and enchanting Neptune are in cahoots this Saturday, ratcheting up your powers of attraction. Although your spellbinding energy will draw a captive audience, beam it like a laser—sharp and direct. A few random fans might be the type to develop (glug) expectations. The last thing you need right now is an awkward “didn’t mean to lead you on” conversation.

TAURUS: Are your friends being as supportive as possible about your relationship goals? Maybe you just want to vent about your S.O. or a bad date without getting an earful of unsolicited advice this Saturday. But don’t assume they aren’t being your champions if they point things out that you don’t want to hear. There may be a reason they’re feeling protective of you, Taurus—and it could be the way that YOU are presenting the story.

GEMINI: Variety is the spice of a Gemini’s life, which means repetitive tasks can send you over the edge. Alas, some routines are unavoidable. Here’s an idea: What if you reframed them as rituals? Paying the bills can be a gratitude ceremony, for example. Play music, light a scent-

ed candle and set yourself up with a mug of tea. With each payment you send off, give thanks for the funds that put a roof over your head and give you light throughout the house.

CANCER: Expand your reach, Cancer. The borders are open on Saturday, thanks to a cooperative angle between the moon and no-limits Neptune. Instead of targeting the same crowd, mingle in different circles both online and in real time. If you’re on a dating app, try searching a few miles further from base. Seeking work or a new home?

LEO: Does something just feel “off”—or so very “on”? This Saturday, your intuition gets a razor-sharp reboot from the moon and Neptune. Don’t ignore that little voice in your head, whether it’s talking to you in a whisper or a scream. You owe it to yourself to investigate further. Hey Leo, you might just waltz into the opportunity of a lifetime. Curiosity may have killed the cat, but the Lion can handle the truth.

LIBRA: Having trouble sticking to your routines, Libra? Perhaps they’ve become

too punishing or impractical for your current lifestyle. You don’t have to give up on your fitness goals just because you no longer have time for your favorite 90-minute class. Download an app with guided at-home yoga classes or effective 15-minute HIIT workouts. Pin some healthy recipe inspo while you’re at it.

VIRGO: Saturday’s alignment of the moon and enchanting Neptune blesses you with the gift of gab. Time to seal those deals, Virgo! You’ll have people eating out of the palm of your hand. While you want to present everything in the most favorable light, don’t get carried away with poetic license. Eventually people will find out if you’ve embellished the truth, and that can weaken their faith in you.

SCORPIO: Saturday’s moon-Neptune formation punches your glamour card. Have fun being fashion-forward, even if you’re just adding a dramatic accessory. If you’re ready to freshen things up for spring, book the salon appointments and go comb the racks. You’ll probably want to wait until Mercury turns direct on March 28 to make any lasting changes, but in the meanwhile, here’s an idea: Begin by

shopping in your own closet with the aid of a professional stylist!

SAGITTARIUS: Ruby slippers? Check. Saturday could find even the most peripatetic Archer longing for a sense of home. Putting down roots doesn’t mean giving up your beloved nomadic ways. As Sagittarius Joan Didion wrote, “You have to pick the places you don’t walk away from.” A stable base can be a powerful launching pad for your worldly explorations. This weekend, bring a little magic back to your nest, whether you’re sprucing up the space with sacred touches or saving potential homes on Zillow!

CAPRICORN: Saturday’s planets put a little pep into your step—and your sales pitch. Pause from productivity mode to drum up enthusiasm for your cause. People’s motivation may be flagging, but that’s nothing one of your spirited talks can’t change. Presenting a new idea? Play up the positives FIRST, then you can bullet-point the potential pitfalls!

AQUARIUS: You’re cleared for takeoff, Aquarius! Saturday’s cosmic concord between the moon and no-limits Neptune will remove a

major obstacle from your path. Act swiftly but subtly. It’s too soon to draw attention to your agenda; in fact, doing so today could rile up a competitor you didn’t even know you had. Careful with your spending as you move toward this goal. It’s inevitable that you’ll have to shell out some cash, but comparison shopping will help you snag the best possible price. Stop and smell the roses on Sunday—and maybe write a blog post or poem about your experience!

PISCES: You’re a powerful presence this Saturday, Pisces—just watch the heads swivel when you walk into the room! Use this influential energy to drum up support for one of your expansion plans. Money could flow in for a pet project, or you could convince your boss to let you work from home a couple days a week. Maybe you’re hoping to sway your partner into an adventurous 2019 vacation like trekking the Camino de Santiago or exploring Mayan ruins. Instead of downplaying your desires, shoot for the moon! With expressive Mercury and your celestial guardian Neptune synced up in Pisces Sunday, you’ll get some help with verbalizing your desires.