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SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 173 | Gangtok | Monday | 02 July 2018

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5



BRIDGE OVER MANTAM

DIKCHU, 01 JUL: Nearly 95% of the work on the 160 metre long suspension bridge across Mantam lake in Upper Dzongu has been completed and the final touches of fixing a wire net along the side is currently underway. The bridge is expected to be completed over the next couple of days. The people, however, have started using the bridge and Home Guards have been deputed to the spot to ensure public safety, informs the Sub-Divisional Office, Dzongu. Now, people of the cut off areas of Upper Dzongu need no longer depend on the motor raft to cross the lake. **[Wangchuk Bhutia]**

SKM students' wing wants 90% of opportunities in SU to be reserved for locals

SAGAR CHHETRI

GANGTOK, 01 JUL:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's students' wing has demanded 90% reservation in the higher studies and job openings in Sikkim University for local students and candidates and has demanded that the State Government take up this issue with the Centre and



other concerned authorities at the earliest. The students' wing has further threatened to take a "strong stand" on the matter if the State government fails to do so.

ernment fails to do so.

Addressing a press conference here today, SKM students' wing general secretary, Sonam Chopel Sherpa, contended that local students had lots of expectations from Sikkim University when it was established in the State.

He added that since there was no reservation for local students in the university, the academically-inclined youth here have not been receiving the required opportunities to pursue the higher studies in the university which they had believed was established for them.

Mr Sherpa argued that if Article 371F of the Constitution of India can be used to protect

the State Bank of Sikkim during demonetization, then the State government should be able to use this Article in the interest of local students as well so that they receive better opportunities in Sikkim University.

The SKM students' wing vice-president, Bhim Kumari Sharma, in turn stated that despite many educated unemployed youth in the State, there was no job reservation for locals in Sikkim University. This, she said, the party has confirmed with the Acting Vice-Chancellor of Sikkim University during a recent meeting on 28 June.

SKM publicity secretary to pg02

NAMCHI NEWBORN DEATH CASE DUE TO ALLEGED MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE

Family rejects Department's statement, fears enquiry is compromised



BIKASH CHETTRI

NAMCHI, 01 JUL:

The bereaved family which lost their newborn child to what they are convinced was medical negligence at the District Hospital here have rejected the claims made by the Health Department on the matter. Ruining that the Department's attitude, as reflected in a recent press statement issued by it,

suggested that the Health Department was already trying to cover-up for its own staff, the young couple and their families today addressed the media here to present their side of the story demanding that justice be provided to them.

Speaking with this correspondent, Eden Bhutia, who lost her newborn child at the hospital recently, said

that they have lost all hope for justice from the Health Department after reading their statement in various news-reports.

"The department's statement clearly shows that they are trying to protect their duty officer and medical staff even though the hospital administration knows the facts of my case," she said.

She countered the claim that the duty

Nim Riki adjudged player of the match in Bhutan Women's League match

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 01 JUL:

Sikkim footballer, Nim Riki Sherpa, was adjudged the Woman of the Match today at Thimpu, Bhutan.

She was playing for Thimpu-based club, Sunrise FC, and was up against Thimpu City Ladies in the Women's Super League 2018 being organised by the Bhutan Football Federation.

Sunrise FC won the match 4-0. Nim Riki Sherpa was adjudged the player of the match.

Two other Sikkim



girls, Nimita Gurung and Aita Hangma Limboo, also played in the match today for Sunrise FC. All the three girls are from

Soreng Girls Football Academy, West Sikkim.

[Photo & Details taken from 'Women Football In Bhutan' Facebook page.]

Activists voice concern over report ranking India most dangerous country for women, call for introspection

UZMI ATHAR

NEW DELHI, JUL 1 (PTI):

Activists have voiced concern over the findings of a recent survey that ranked India the most dangerous nation in the world for women, saying the government should introspect the "deteriorating" condition of women in society rather than simply rejecting the report.

The Thomson Reuters Foundation, after a survey of about 550 experts on women's issues, has ranked India the world's most dangerous country for women, followed by war-torn Afghanistan and Syria, due to the high risk of sexual violence.

Magsaysay Award winner social activist Aruna Roy said the rising curve of violence in India, prompted by bigotry and obfuscation, has taken a greater toll on women as the most vulnerable group.

"It remains a fact that Indians are a deeply patriarchal society and have remained so for far too long. This survey, however accurate or not, is a warning that perceptions about gender intolerance in India is something to be taken very seriously. Far too often, all of us have begun to worry about our collective safety in our ordinary day-to-day existence," she told PTI.

"The issue is not whether India is first or third or fourth, the issue is that this perception should be taken seriously to set our house in order".

Social Activist Kavita Krishnan agreed with Roy, saying the discussion here should not be about where has In-

dia been placed in the ranking.

"We are in a very bad state in any case and there needs to be a discussion on how to improve that rather than the pointless discussion if we are number 1 or not," the All India Progressive Women's Association secretary said.

Countering the government's assertion that women enjoy freedom in India, Krishnan quoted the National Family Health Survey report which says that in some state, 40 per cent of women cannot go to a health centre alone even today.

"The government is talking of cities where the women have more freedom but what about rural areas where a large percentage of population resides," she asked.

"Moreover, in recent years, we have seen that people are openly coming out in support of child rapists, this was something never seen in the country before," she said, giving the example of an incident in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua, where an eight-year-old girl was raped and killed.

At least two ministers of the state government of the day were accused of supporting the accused in the case.

The Women and Child Development Ministry had dismissed as "clearly inaccurate" the survey, saying it was based on perception of "unknown persons" and it has used a flawed methodology to arrive at the conclusion.

"The ranking is based on a per-

turn to pg03

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Gangtok on
Monday,
02 July

Temp: 23°C/18°C
Forecast: Periods of
rain, some heavy, and
a thunderstorm; cool-
er; watch for flooding.
Sunrise: 04:44 AM
Sunset: 6:34 PM

Singtam
Nagar
Panchayat
expands CCTV
coverage
of town

YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 01 JUL:
Singtam Nagar Panchayat has increased the CCTV watch over town to 14 cameras. The move, Ms SK Pradhan, president of Singtam Nagar Panchayat, informed SummitTimes, was aimed at discouraging antisocial activities in the town.

"A letter of concern was placed by former SHO of Singtam Police Station, Ajay Rai, expressing concern over rising crime and antisocial activities like drug peddling to which the young are especially susceptible. With wider CCTV surveillance, we hope to be able to curb these trends," Ms Pradhan explains.

Complaints about loitering and public nuisance have also been coming in from areas and organizations like the Dara Gaon Suraksha Samity of ward no 02 have even lodged General Diaries at Singtam Police Station against it, it is informed.



SAM STUDENTS TAKE ANNUAL EXAM

SINGTAM, 01 JUL: Students learning vocals at Sikkim Music Academy (SAM), Singtam, took their annual vocal exams, for both Diploma and Degree courses, at Siliguri today. 21 students appeared for the First year, Second year, Third year and Fourth year exams, informs Ganga Mukhia, Founder/ MD of SAM. SAM was established in the year 2005 and is affiliated to Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad. The students were happy and confident of their performances, Mr Mukhia adds. He is a Sikkim State Awardee in Music. Admissions for the new session at SAM have also started. [from SHITAL PRADHAN]



IHRACO FELICITATES TWO DOCS ON INTERNATIONAL DOCTORS DAY

RANGPO, 01 JUL: International Human Rights & Anti-Crime Organisation, Rangpo, celebrated International Doctors Day here today with felicitation of two doctors working at ESI (Rangpo). Dr Ashish Lama and Dr Vikky Pradhan were felicitated with khadas, Marwadi pagdi and chocolates. The felicitation programme was also attended by IHRACO state president, Ganesh Sharma. The two doctors were felicitated for their service to the society and, while addressing the program, they thanked the IHRACO team for the gesture. [from SANJAY AGARWAL]

Activists voice concern
over report ranking...

contd from pg01

ception poll based on responses to simply six questions. The results are not derived from any kind of data and are solely based on inherently subjective opinions," the Women of Child Development Ministry had said. "Further, the poll has been conducted with 548 respondents, which have been defined by Reuters as 'experts focused on women's issues'. However, information on their designation, credentials, country of expertise or qualifications is not available. Thus, reliability is an issue," it said.

Activists believe that instead of questioning the credibility of the report, the government needs to introspect on the findings.

"We know we are in a bad state, that calls for introspection rather than dismissal," said Mariam Dhawale, General Secretary of the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA).

"The incidents of violence have increased in recent years and the mentality of blaming the victim for sexual harassment crimes is worsening the situation. The report's findings should strengthen the resolve of the government to improve the condition of women," said Dhawale.

The survey asked respondents which five of the 193 UN member states they thought were most dangerous for

women and which country was worst in terms of healthcare, economic resources, cultural or traditional practices, sexual violence and harassment, non-sexual violence and human trafficking.

Respondents also ranked India the most dangerous country for women in terms of human trafficking, including sex slavery and domestic servitude, and for customary practices such as forced marriage, stoning and female infanticide, the foundation said.

Human rights campaigner and social activist Shabnam Hashmi agreed with the findings of the report.

"The kind of chaos that the country is witnessing right now has not been seen before. We are seeing organised gang rapes, dilution of acts. The report is correct and the condition of women has worsened in the last four years and if we have jumped from the fourth to first position, it is not at all surprising," Hashmi said.

In 2011, India was ranked as 4th most dangerous country for women in the world. Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Pakistan ranked before it. The latest poll was conducted online, by phone and in person between March 26 and May 4 with an even spread across Europe, Africa, the Americas, South East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific.

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Paryavaran Mahotsav at Phidang

MANGAN, 01 JUL [IPR]: A cleanliness drive as part of the Paryavaran Mahotsav was carried out at Phidang in Lower Dzongu under Lum Gor Sangtok GPU on 30 June.

The programme was attended by Panchayat Dawa Lepcha, DFO Namgyal Tsh. Bhutia ACF Wildlife

North Karma Geley Lachungpa, ACF (Env. & SC) North Tseten W. Lachungpa, RO Dzongu along with residents and JFMC President.

Avenue plantation was also undertaken by the team of Forest officers along with the team from

Irrigation and Flood Control Department along the road near Ganesh Tok. 100 saplings of Age-lia, Hydrangia and Cherry were planted on the day. The plantation was coordinated by a team led by DFO (Sericulture) and ACF (landuse).




Paryavaran Mahotsav
in South Sikkim

NAMCHI, 01 JUL [IPR]: Paryavaran Mahotsav was celebrated with plantation and cleanliness drives in different areas of South Sikkim. Avenue plantation along State Highways was taken up at various locations in active participation of local public, Line Departments, Schools, NGOs and Pharmaceutical companies with the Ward and Zilla Panchayat members coordinating and supported the Forest Department. Likewise, Ten Minutes to Earth was also observed. Cleanliness drives were held at Namchi, Lingmoo, Yangyang, Melli and many more places.



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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
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HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES &
FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
CONVOY GROUND, TADONG.


NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Memo No. 205/CHSO/18-19 Date: 29/06/2018

Sealed quotations are invited from the reputed manufacturers, authorised distributors/dealers/ representative for the supply of equipments, instruments, fixtures, furnitures, computers and accessories for setting up 5 bedded dialysis centre at District hospitals Namchi for the year 2018-19.

The Tender Details can be obtained from Sikkim Government website www.sikkim.gov.in w.e.f 02/07/2018.

Sd/-
Joint Director
Central Health Stores Organization.
R.O. No. 163/IPR/Pub/classi./18-19 dt. 29.06.2018



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
HORTICULTURE AND CASH CROPS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
KRISHI BHAWAN, TADONG

Memo No: 66/Engg/HCCD Dated: 28.6.18

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

"Expression of Interest" is invited for leasing out a three storied RCC building for Wholesale Regulated Market cum Integrated Pack House at Melli, South Sikkim. The following spaces and facilities as mentioned below will be handed over at present.

1. BASEMENT – I: 79.0 ft x 29.0 ft (2291.0 sft).
One Auction Hall (46.5 ft x 29.2 ft = 1353.0 sft).
One Canteen/multipurpose room (20.0 ft x 29.0 ft = 580 sft).
One kitchen/Ladies toilet/Gents Toilet.
2. GROUND FLOOR: 80.0 ft x 60.0 ft(4800 sft)
Dry Store – I (1300.0 sft)/ Grading Area (210.0 sft).
Dry Store – II (832.0 sft).
Two Office rooms with 217.0 sft area each.
3. TOP FLOOR: The fully air-conditioned top floor is the integrated floripack house with the following facilities.
(i) Grading & Sorting Room (900 sft).
(ii) Pre Cold Store (96.0 sft).
(iii) Cold Store- I (396.0 sft)
(iv) Cold Store – II (850.0 sft).
(v) Auction Hall (900 sft) : This climate controlled room have sitting capacity for 40 bidders (20 tables & 40 chairs), PA system & LED TV.

Terms of reference:

1. The facilities created would be handed over for a period of 5 (Five) year in "as is where is basis" which can be extended further based on the performance.
2. The unit would be handed over to the highest bidder.
3. The interested individual/Agency should be preferably local.
4. The interested individual/Agency should be registered with APEDA as a merchant.
5. The interested individual/Agency should be having National and International market linkages.
6. The interested individual/Agency should market Agricultural and Horticultural products of Sikkim only.
7. List of Equipment's for Grading and Packing process, Computer and Peripheral's, P.A systems and other electrical items, other inventories and furniture's will be available from the Engineering Cell of the Department.
8. Timely repair, maintenance of the unit should be ensured and electricity bill be borne by the individual/ Agency.
9. The unit shall be subject to time to time inspections by the government officials during the lease period.
10. Further facilities may be added by the Department to strengthen the unit depending upon the availability of fund which will not be covered by this EOI and a separate EOI shall be floated for the same.

The "Expression Interest" in sealed envelope should reach the office of the Director-II, Horticulture and Cash Crop Development Department, Krishi Bhawan, Tadong, East Sikkim on or before 2.00 pm on 24.7.2018 and shall be evaluated on the same day by the Evaluating committee in the presence of authorised representatives of the individual/Agency.

Sd/-
Mission Director
HCCD Department
Government of Sikkim,
Krishi Bhawan, Tadong

R.O. No. 162/IPR/PUB/Classi/18-19
dt. 29.6.2018

SummitTIMES

Going Green

Inspire the Young to Develop 10-Minute Dedication into Life-long Pact

The State Green Mission was a wonderful idea, pleasantly imaginative and reassuringly evocative of the need to recognize Green as The Colour for the next generation and underscored as the mission to ensure sustenance. It was a mission launched by the State Government, but it was not just a government programme. It might have ended up there, but the original idea was to catalyze public participation in ecological conservation; no, not the government 'approved' joint resource management assemblies, but a more from-the-people initiatives.

Tree plantations should have been the trigger that reintroduced Sikkim to greenery and nature and the need to nurture it and not just 'organise' plantation drives to get photos taken and press releases drafted. The act of planting trees should have ideally led to understanding Sikkim's ecology more intimately than the token 'biodiversity hot-spot' introduction that completes most understandings of what the State contains. This obviously did not happen because most plantation drives were undertaken with saplings that the 'volunteers' neither recognized, nor even bothered to enquire about, leading to a situation where the survival rates of planted saplings remain anybody's guess. The fault was not with the idea though. Maybe, the people's participation which might have been cultivated gradually was compromised by eager-to-please and prompt-to-be-counted organizations and departments which usurped the initiative, and as is wont, distanced the people from the idea with their fawning and obsession for hierarchies. Do plantation drives need a chief guest, for instance?

Of course, it is very possible that the general public has grown too lethargic even to engage in an initiative which conserves their own future, but hopefully, the generation still in the making is more open and willing. Ideas like the State Green Mission, then the 10 Minutes to Earth Initiative and now the Mith-Mithni connect being established with trees should address them directly by informing them in schools and colleges and inviting them over to power the Mission. It is in this light that the "10 Minutes to Earth" initiative had brought fresh hope. The expressed intent was to unite the entire population of the State in a simultaneous plantation drive across the State. It was a huge task, and would have succeeded not if all the 6 lakh residents of the State actually plant a sapling each at the same time, but if, for those 10 minutes, Sikkim came together to acknowledge the environment and stood together to recognize that they have a responsibility towards it.

Many have seen the 10-Minute dedication as a gimmick, and they would not be completely wrong, because a gimmick it is. And a gimmick is what is prescribed to shake loose the propensity acquired by Sikkim to lie to itself and simply pretend that all is well. The Batti-Bandh campaign in Sikkim several years ago was a gimmick as well, a global one at that, but it worked, because it reminded the people of the need to conserve energy. The 10-Minutes to Earth needs to be seen in similar light – as a means to compel all of Sikkim to notice all they have lost, what they still retain and what they could nurture and conserve in the environment they inhabit. For the dedication to lead to commitment, the young will need to be roused, not the departments and Panchayats. The young, if they are adequately inspired, will keep the pact for life where the official arms will only keep the date. It is the former that the 10 Minutes to Earth and every other initiative aimed it public engagement and conservation should seek to establish.



CONIFA: how the 'other World Cup' is helping unrecognised nations through football

JOEL ROOKWOOD
theconversation.com

The FIFA World Cup commences in Russia this week, with events on and off the pitch at the 32-team tournament set to dominate global media coverage for the next month.

But the World Cup is not this summer's only festival of international football. For regions and communities that FIFA has not or will not offer membership to, CONIFA is an alternative confederation, which also organises "international" competitions. This weekend the final of the third CONIFA World Football Cup took place in England, the culmination of a ten-day tournament.

Karpatalja – a Hungarian-speaking minority from western Ukraine – was crowned champions on Saturday after defeating Northern Cyprus in the final on penalties at Enfield Town's Queen Elizabeth II Stadium, one of ten venues across London to host matches. The breakaway Turkish Republic also lost the final of the European equivalent in similar circumstances on home soil last year.

CONIFA (Confederation of Independent Football Associations) was established in 2013 and fills a significant void for some of those entities FIFA neglects. The competition has been described as defiantly subversive of the geopolitical norm. Critics may question its relevance, yet the confederation is developing rapidly.

BUILDING BRIDGES

CONIFA professes to gather 166m people from 47 member entities, a mix of "nations, de-facto nations, regions, minority peoples and sports-isolated territories". It's a non-profit organisation that aims to "build bridges between people, nations, minori-

ties and isolated regions all over the world through friendship, culture and the joy of playing football".

International sporting organisations typically frame their agendas and impact in these positive terms, of course. But, for a football researcher like me, such mission statements are useful as they can then be subject to scholarly scrutiny, particularly in the case of larger confederations such as FIFA.

Academics can also look at the tournaments themselves. Recent research on sporting "mega events" has looked at whether hosting a tournament does actually promote physical activity, whether it helps the host acquire soft power (or even leads to "soft disempowerment"), and the behaviour and treatment of supporters during tournaments.

CONIFA is relatively new, and currently operates in the margins – scaled somewhere between "mega" and "minor". Consequently, though the journalist Steve Menary has outlined the history of organised football for unrecognised countries, recent events have not yet been subject to significant scholarly scrutiny.

Though academic research specifically on CONIFA is limited, two geographers at Portland State University in Oregon have looked at the Cascadia region (the US states of Oregon and Washington, and the Canadian province of British Columbia). Their work examines how football has mobilised a shared regional narrative either side of the Canada-US border.

My own academic writing on the CONIFA tournament is in press, but a documentary I made The other World Cup: Football Across Borders was released last year and shown at the inaugural Football Collective conference. The film culminates in

the 2016 World Football Cup, hosted and won by Abkhazia, a self-declared independent territory, considered by the UN to be a part of Georgia. It examines football, statehood, identity and conflict within the fractured Georgian-Abkhazian context. Despite CONIFA's claim and objective to "leave all politics behind" therefore, its events and those involved can prove relatively political.

APPEALS TO FOOTBALL ROMANTICS

The 2018 CONIFA tournament was much bigger than previous editions. For the first time, it was hosted in a global metropolitan city and was supported by lucrative sponsorship from bookmakers Paddy Power. Matches were shown live on Facebook, record attendances were set, and the mainstream global media paid attention.

There were some governance issues, most notably the mid-competition withdrawal of Eilan Vannin (the Manx name for the Isle of Man) in a dispute over an unregistered player. Further political and governance challenges are likely in the future as CONIFA continues to develop and grow. But its expansion reflects and shapes the interests of the football community in this unique format of "international" football.

It also appeals to football romantics: for instance Matabeleland featured 60-year-old former Liverpool goalkeeper and Zimbabwe international Bruce Grobbelaar. As the behaviour of many players and supporters demonstrates however, CONIFA events also provide substantial opportunities to shape and express collective identities through football. The "other World Cup" is here to stay.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Sport Business Management, University of Central Lancashire]

Before he was murdered, here is what a disabled asylum seeker had to say about Britain's 'hostile environment'

REBECCA YEO
theconversation.com

Kamil Ahmad, a disabled man, fled his home in Iraqi Kurdistan after being tortured and imprisoned. He arrived in Bristol, England, in 2012 hoping to find peace and safety, but his application for asylum was refused. On July 7, 2016, Kamil was murdered. This was almost exactly three years after the murder of another disabled refugee from Iran, Bijan Ebrahimi, also in Bristol.

Official enquiries have taken place into the two murders, which were both found to be racially motivated. The serious case review into Kamil's murder, published in June 2018, found that he was failed by many agencies and that the fatal assault on him "could have been avoided". In light of his experience, it concluded: "It is timely for agencies in Bristol to consider whether an unconscious bias affects how they respond to the designation 'refused' (or 'failed') asylum seeker."

Bijan had a more secure immigration situation than Kamil, as he had been granted refugee status. However, an enquiry found evidence of institutional racism which led to police assumptions that Bijan was to blame for the assaults he reported, and a failure to deal adequately with his complaints.

The precarious existence of asylum seekers, particularly those who are disabled and those whose cases have been refused, cannot simply be attributed to individual acts of hostility or to the oversight of individual agencies. Rather, it's the result of deliberate government policy. The hostile environment for immigration is designed to be hostile – and this deliberate hostility is being rapidly extended to wider sections of

the population.

In an interview I carried out with Kamil in 2012 he spoke of his despair at the scale of injustice he was experiencing in Britain. He drew parallels between his life as a disabled refused asylum seeker in Britain and his time in Abu Ghuraib prison in Iraq. He was stuck, unable to return to the place he had fled, but with his basic rights denied in Britain.

A DISABLING SYSTEM

Many people involved in the asylum sector describe it as disabling. Some arrive in the UK as disabled people, but others become disabled after they reach the UK. Several asylum seekers who I've interviewed as part of my research describe the system as psychological torture. And if a person is tortured then symptoms are inevitable.

The despair one person who I interviewed felt led him to jump off a bridge. This caused long-term physical injury alongside the ongoing mental distress. Another person developed serious back problems after being made destitute and having to sleep on park benches.

The denial of rights to asylum seekers, including disabled asylum seekers, in Britain has been increasing, under governments of all political colours. Since the 1951, the Convention on the Status of Refugees which protected the rights of refugees internationally, there have been 16 immigration acts in Britain, each reducing the rights of migrants further. These laws combine with what appears to be wider acceptance that some people deserve human rights but others do not. If our commitment to universal human rights is broken, it's an easy step for rights to be removed from ever more people.

RIGHTS GRADUALLY REMOVED

The denial of rights has been gradually extended from one group to another. The 1999 Immigration and Asylum Act removed the right for asylum seekers to receive mainstream benefits, including disability benefits. The support available to asylum seekers was set at below income support – the minimum deemed necessary for citizens – with no consideration of the costs associated with being disabled. People also lost the right to choose

where to live and can be dispersed to areas of cheap housing, away from family, friends and support.

More than a decade later, the 2012 Welfare Reform Act drastically cut support available to all disabled citizens. It introduced the "bedroom tax", which reduced housing benefit for people deemed to have an "extra" bedroom and forced some to move to cheaper housing. This had disproportionate impact on those disabled people who require space for a carer or family member.

Together with wider cuts to services and support, this led a UN investigation to report "grave and systematic violations of the rights" of disabled people.

There have been many protests about the wider treatment of disabled people. Yet even now, similarities with policies imposed on disabled asylum seekers more than a decade earlier are rarely mentioned. It's as if different standards are acceptable for asylum seekers compared with the broader citizenry.

I suggest that the removal of rights from disabled citizens is the price we are paying for our collective lack of resistance when the rights of asylum seekers were removed. If, back in 1999, we'd had a movement strong enough to resist the removal of rights from disabled asylum seekers, then perhaps similar policies would not have been imposed on disabled citizens more than a decade later.

Since these tragic events took place, there has been growing determination to address the injustice which Kamil and Bijan faced. An initiative to build a broader movement of solidarity in their honour has had the support of 18 different organisations, including disabled peoples groups, the asylum sector, trade unions, mosques and the University of Bath.

[the writer is PhD Candidate, University of Bath]

How does your body 'burn' fat?

DAVID PROLOGO
theconversation.com

Many of us may be considering "burning some fat" so we feel better in our bathing suits out on the beach or at the pool. What does that actually mean, though?

The normal fat cell exists primarily to store energy. The body will expand the number of fat cells and the size of fat cells to accommodate excess energy from high-calorie foods. It will even go so far as to start depositing fat cells on our muscles, liver and other organs to create space to store all this extra energy from calorie-rich diets – especially when combined with a low activity lifestyle.

Historically, fat storage worked well for humans. The energy was stored as small packages of molecules called fatty acids, which are released into the bloodstream for use as fuel by muscles and other

er organs when there was no food available, or when a predator was chasing us. Fat storage actually conferred a survival advantage in these situations. Those with a tendency to store fat were able to survive longer periods without food and had extra energy for hostile environments.

But when was the last time you ran from a predator? In modern times, with an overabundance of food and safe living conditions, many people have accumulated an excess storage of fat. In fact, more than one-third of the adult population in the United States is obese.

The major problem with this excess fat is that the fat cells, called adipocytes, do not function normally. They store energy at an abnormally high rate and release energy at an abnormally slow rate. What's more, these extra and

turn to 05



A mural, which Kamil Ahmad, a disabled asylum seeker murdered in Bristol, worked on.

Tripura lynchings: Cops launch awareness drive, increase vigil

AGARTALA, JUL 1 (PTI): To keep the rumours over child-lifting and mob violence at bay, the Tripura Police has launched community engagement initiatives across the state, a top official said today.

This comes in the backdrop of back-to-back lynching incidents on Thursday as rumours on the presence of "child-lifters" spread in different parts of the state.

"All district police officials have been asked to initiate confidence-building measures in their area to sensitise people against rumour-mongering," Inspector General of Police (Law and Order) K V Sreejesh told PTI.

There were, however, no fresh reports of mob violence from any part of the state, he said.

"We started taking community-engagement measures ever since the rumours regarding child-lifters started spreading. We have intensified our engagement in the villages and far-flung areas as community policing has proved to be a powerful instrument to enforce law and order," Sreejesh added.

Under its "Prayaas" initiative, the Tripura Police is aiming to forge stronger police-public ties to improve the delivery of law enforcement services to the people.

The initiative also involved aware-

ness programmes to curb crimes and rumours, Sreejesh said.

On June 28, 33-year-old Sukanta Chakrabarty was lynched at Kalachhara in South Tripura district. He was a member of a team set up by the state government to campaign against rumour-mongering.

An unidentified woman and a hawker from Uttar Pradesh were also lynched the same day at Bishalgarh in Sipahijala district and Murabari in West Tripura district respectively. Several people were also injured in the three incidents.

Patrolling was intensified across the state and the police were trying to hold informal engagements with the people,

Sreejesh said.

West Tripura District Magistrate Sandeep K Mahatme said the local administration was also running awareness campaigns and urging the people to maintain peace and steer clear of rumours.

"We are going to the markets and other such places where people gather in large numbers. We are reassuring them that there are no child-lifters operating anywhere in Tripura," he added.

Meanwhile, the state government's ban on text messages and mobile Internet services was extended by another 24 hours last night, Sreejesh said. Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb has appealed to the people to maintain calm.



Nepal-India eminent persons' group agrees to update all bilateral treaties

KATHMANDU, JUL 1 (PTI): The Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) on Nepal-India relations has agreed to update all the bilateral treaties and agreements reached in the past in line with the present reality of the two countries, according to a media report.

The EPG members reached the agreement in a joint report prepared after concluding its last meeting held in Kathmandu yesterday.

The EPG, which was formed in January 2016 with the mandate to review various aspects of the bilateral relations including Nepal-India Friendship Treaty 1950, has said it will submit the report to prime ministers of Nepal and India soon, according to a statement issued by the EPG.

"This is a step forward in reviewing and resolving various bilateral issues. As we have succeeded to prepare the joint report in consensus, it has laid a strong ground for further work, EPG Nepal Coordinator

Bhekh Bahadur Thapa was quoted as saying in My Republica. There are four members each from Nepalese and Indian sides in the group.

EPG members from Nepal include Thapa, Nilambar Acharya, Suryanath Upadhyay and Rajan Bhattarai. Members from India include Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, Mahendra P Lama, Jayanta Prasad and BC Upreti.

During earlier meetings of the EPG, the Nepali side presented facts regarding the need to review the Nepal-India Peace and Friendship Treaty of 1950 so as to update it as required by time and situation.

Both sides have agreed to suggest the governments of Nepal and India replacement of the 1950 Treaty with a new one.

The EPG was formed four years ago by the governments of Nepal and India for reviewing the entire gamut of Nepal-India relations and update bilateral agreements and treaties.

Varsity denies permission for on-campus shoot of Tagore film

KOLKATA, JUL 1 (PTI): Visva-Bharati University has refused to grant permission for on-campus shooting of 'Nalini' - a Priyanka Chopra production on the "relationship" between teenaged Rabindranath Tagore and a Marathi girl, university sources said.

"We have come to the decision after discussing the script with all authorities concerned, including ashramites and experts on Tagore. We can't allow the shoot of such films on the campus, it might hurt the sentiments of millions," officiating Vice-Chancellor Sabuj Koli Sen said yesterday.

Mariam Longri from Arunachal crowned 16th Sunsilk Mega Miss North East 2018



GUWAHATI, 01 JUL: In front of nearly 1000 spectators from all across the north-eastern region, Mariam Longri from Kharsang, Arunachal Pradesh was crowned the 16th Sunsilk Mega Miss North East 2018 at the ITA Cultural Complex, Machkhowa on Saturday evening. Besides, Tsurila from Nagaland and Jyotisma Baruah from Assam became the 1st and 2nd runners up respectively.

The contestants had travelled to Guwahati for almost a week of activities which included grooming and training sessions conducted by Contestant Director of Mega Entertainment Jui Gogoi, followed by rehearsals, leading up to the Grand Finale of the pageant. The pageant has

been supported by Title Sponsor Sunsilk, supported by Assam State Biodiversity Board, Hospitality Partner Radisson Blu and Education Partner ITTF College.

Mariam, who has just appeared for her Class 12 exams from Donyi Polo School, Itanagar, is the youngest of nine siblings. Her father is a retired inspector, while her mother runs an NGO. Speaking about her success, an overwhelmed Mariam said, "This is a dream come true moment for me. I always wanted to be in a position where I can help, motivate and influence people to lead a beautiful life. Thanks to Mega Entertainment and the panel of judges for believing in me. I am overwhelmed beyond words..."

Bengal Congress divided over alliance with TMC

KOLKATA, JUL 1 (PTI): Fissures seem to have appeared in the West Bengal unit of the Congress over the issue of forging an alliance with the TMC for the crucial 2019 polls, with a section of leaders keen on the tie-up and the state leadership rejecting the idea.

The Congress, which lost its political ground to the TMC and the BJP to an extent, has been fighting hard under the leadership of state Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury to make its presence felt in parts of West Bengal.

Marred with the exodus of its elected representatives to the TMC, the party now seems to be in a fix over the issue of aligning with TMC to stop BJP's march in the state.

A section of MPs and

MLAs feel that aligning with the TMC would be the best way to win the maximum number of seats in 2019.

State president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and other leaders of the party, however, feel aligning with the TMC in Bengal will amount to "committing suicide" for the Congress in the state.

Abu Hasem Khan Chowdhury, Congress MP from Malda South and the brother of former Congress stalwart Ghani Khan Chowdhury, along with MLA Maniul Haque, had met TMC secretary-general Partha Chatterjee at his residence last Thursday, the day BJP president Amit Shah held a rally in Purulia.

Khan Chowdhury had said he held talks with Chatterjee on the

possibilities of forming a grand alliance in the state.

"I had come to discuss whether a grand alliance could be formed in our state, on the lines of the (proposed) central model, to combat the BJP in Bengal. I will submit my report to the party high command," he added.

His move had raised several eyebrows in the state Congress leadership, who were not eager to warm up to the idea of forming any alliance with the ruling party.

When contacted, Maniul Haque, the Congress MLA from Farra-ka, who had accompanied Khan Chowdhury to Partha Chatterjee's residence, said he plans to join the Mamata Banerjee party as it has better prospects in the election.

How does your body 'burn' fat?

contd from pg4

enlarged fat cells produce abnormal amounts of different hormones. These hormones increase inflammation, slow down metabolism, and contribute to disease. This complicated pathological process of excess fat and dysfunction is called adiposopathy, and it makes the treatment of obesity very difficult.

When a person begins and maintains a new exercise regimen and limits calories, the body does two things to "burn fat." First, it uses the energy stored in the fat cells to fuel new activity. Second, it stops putting away so much for storage.

The brain signals fat cells to release the energy packages, or fatty acid molecules, to the bloodstream. The muscles, lungs and heart pick up these fatty acids, break them apart, and use the energy stored in the bonds to execute their activities. The scraps that remain

are discarded as part of respiration, in the outgoing carbon dioxide, or in urine. This leaves the fat cell empty and renders it useless. The cells actually have a short lifespan so when they die the body absorbs the empty cast and doesn't replace them. Over time, the body directly extracts the energy (i.e., calories) from food to the organs that need them instead of storing it first.

As a result, the body readjusts by decreasing the number and size of fat cells, which subsequently improves baseline metabolism, decreases inflammation, treats disease, and prolongs lives. If we maintain this situation over time, the body reabsorbs the extra empty fat cells and discards them as waste, leaving us leaner and healthier on multiple levels.

[The writer is Associate Professor, Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences, Emory University]

Govt cancels export of sheep, goats to UAE after protests by Jains

NAGPUR, JUL 1 (PTI): The government has cancelled the export of sheep and goats to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that was to begin from the city airport from Saturday, following protests by the members of Jain community.

The export project, an initiative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, was spearheaded by Rajiya Sabha MP and Dhangar community leader Dr Vikas Mahatme.

It was aimed at increasing the income of farmers and open new avenues of self-employment.

The first consignment of a total 2,000 sheep and goats was to be sent from the city's Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport yesterday afternoon. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union minister Nitin Gadkari and others were scheduled to remain present on the occasion.

The programme, however, was cancelled and postponed for indefinite period after the ministry directed Mahatme to hold talks with the protesters first.

The members of Sakal Jain Samaj, led by Dr Richa Jain, are against the project. On Friday, they had taken out a march to the RSS headquarters to seek its support on the issue.

Talking to PTI, Jain, who is the president of Digamber Jain Mahasabha Samiti (Maharashtra), said there are several other options to increase the income of farmers rather than sending sheep and goats to slaughter houses.

"We are strongly against this project. Once it starts, it will not remain restricted to Nagpur alone, but will spread to other parts of the country," she said.

Messi, Ronaldo World Cup exits signal changing of the guard

MOSCOW, JUL 1 (AFP): Step aside Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo... there is a new group of kids on the block ready to seize the limelight and form the next generation of global megastars.

French teenager Kylian Mbappe announced himself in dramatic fashion on Saturday, overshadowing Messi as France beat Argentina 4-3 in the World Cup last 16.

That took his goal tally for the tournament to three -- two behind England talisman Harry Kane and one behind Belgium's Romelu Lukaku.

Messi and Ronaldo, captain of the Portugal side beaten 2-1 by Uruguay, also on Saturday, had been on a quarter-final collision course but the closest they will now come to each other in Russia is the airport departure lounge.

While they have set goal records tumbling both in Europe and Spain year after year, amazingly neither has ever been able to find the net in a World Cup knockout match in a combined 14 games.

For all Messi's brilliance at club



level with Barcelona, it appears the 2014 final defeat to Germany is the closest he will ever come to winning the World Cup.

Real Madrid forward Ronaldo, a European champion with Portugal two years ago, will be 37 by the time the next global showpiece rolls around -- meaning it is unlikely he

will improve on a run to the semi-finals in 2006.

- MBAPPE LEADS THE CHARGE - With the exits of the pair, both five-time world players of the year, confirmed on the same day, the stage is clear for a handful of young, hungry pretenders to seize the spotlight. Leading the charge is the 19-year-

old Mbappe, who achieved a feat no player had accomplished in 60 years, becoming the first teenager to score twice in a World Cup match since a 17-year-old Pele in 1958.

"I'm very happy, and it's flattering to be compared to a great player like Pele," said Mbappe, born a few months after France won the 1998 World Cup.

"But he's in another category. Still, it's great to join the list of players that have achieved such feats."

The Paris Saint-Germain striker, who as a child had posters of Ronaldo plastered across his bedroom wall, has three goals in three starts in Russia.

He finds himself trailing England striker Kane in the race for the Golden Boot, but his terrorising of the Argentina defence underlined his growing menace. He's not so much as arriving as arrived.

After four straight seasons with 20 or more goals in the Premier League, Kane is now demonstrating his ability on the biggest stage of all, leading England's attack and cap-

taining the side.

He struck twice in an opening win over Tunisia before bagging a hat-trick in his next outing and is the key figure for a youthful England side.

"It's going well, there's still a long way to go, the most important thing is winning games," said the 24-year-old Tottenham star.

Colombia midfielder Carlos Sanchez described Kane as an "emblematic player" ahead of their meeting with England in the last 16 on Tuesday.

Belgium's Romelu Lukaku is also enjoying a breakout World Cup campaign, answering his critics in re-sounding style after a disappointing campaign in Brazil four years ago.

The 25-year-old scored twice in successive matches in Group G, the first player from any nation to do so at the tournament since Diego Maradona in 1986.

He is Belgium's record scorer with 40 goals in 71 appearances and will be central to their hopes as Roberto Martinez attempts to finally get the best out of a golden generation.

Indian-origin entrepreneur to swim across English Channel

LONDON, JUL 1 (PTI): An Indian-origin woman entrepreneur in the UK is training to swim across the English Channel to raise funds to combat child trafficking in India.

Leah Chowdhry, who runs professional childcare service called Pop up, Party & Play, will set off from Dover on a gruelling 35 km swim to Calais in France on Wednesday to raise funds for the British Asian Trust, a charity founded by Prince Charles.

"I am honoured to be one of the first ever British Asian women to take on this challenge, with only just short of 1,500 people to ever complete the swim," said Chowdhry, who is set to battle with jelly fish, ship tankers and seasickness during a journey expected to take on average 13 hours in light and darkness.

She will have family and friends in a support boat who will be travelling alongside her but, under Channel Swimming Association rules, she is not allowed any human contact while undertaking the challenge.

She has been training hard over the last six months to help raise funds that will go towards protecting vulnerable children from trafficking and exploitation in India and provide quality education for some of the country's poorest children.

Chowdhry has already raised more than 35,000 pounds for this life-changing work.

It is estimated that around 1.2 million children in India are subjected to commercial sexual exploitation. British Asian Trust's partner organisation in India, Prerana, runs three night-care centres for children at risk, as well as



shelter homes and a residential training centre for girls rescued from the trafficking trade.

The latest project will support India's first online resource centre dedicated to the prevention of sexual offences against children and provide 80 girls and young women aged 15 plus with a rehabilitation care programme to build better futures.

The Trust is also working with The Education Alliance to transform primary education for the poorest urban communities in Delhi by bringing together best practice developed by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for whole school transformation.

Through this work, around 1,800 students from deprived communities of south Delhi are set to receive high-quality primary school education and be supported to improve their learning levels.

Back in February, Chowdhry visited both partner organisations in India to see the Trust's work in action.

"When I asked some of the children what they aspired to be, they answered: 'a footballer' or 'a doctor'; despite all their hardships, they remained so motivated and positive, which spurs me on even more with my training," she said.

Mexico show no fear as they target end to fifth-game hex

SAINT PETERSBURG, JUL 1 (AFP): Mexico do not have history on their side in their bid to dump Brazil out of the World Cup but the 2018 version of El Tri have already demonstrated a capability to surprise in Russia.

For a seventh straight World Cup Mexico have made it to the last 16, but, agonisingly, they have failed to go any further on the six previous occasions, turning the desire just to make the "quinto partido" (fifth match) an obsession.

"There's no greater memory than making history with a fifth match," said Mexico captain Andres Guardado.

"We're different players in terms of the mental aspect, but we know we'll be judged by whether we get through or not.

"What greater motivation could you need when we face off against the five-time champions? It's the perfect scene. It's the biggest game of our lives."

Mexico's last-16 misfortunes have often come down to the finest of margins. Defeat on penalties to surprise package Bulgaria in 1994 start-



ed an inauspicious run. They blew a lead against Germany four years later and against Argentina in 2006.

Conceding twice to the Netherlands in the final minutes four years ago hurt more than most defeats, with a controversial penalty awarded for a theatrical Arjen Robben tumble deep into stoppage time sending the Dutch into the last eight.

VAR (the video assistant referee) should prevent a repeat of that injustice, but Guardado has warned Italian referee Gianluca Rocchi not to be fooled by any play-acting from the world's most expensive player, Neymar.

"We all know who Neymar is, but it isn't up to me or my team to judge him, but the referees and FIFA," he said.

"Now there's VAR they need to watch his style and know how to manage it.

"We know he likes to exaggerate fouls, throw himself on the ground a lot, but that's his style of play and the person who needs to stop that is the referee, not us."

- TOUGH TASK -

A Brazil side finding their stride in Russia after a slow start are arguably the toughest challenge Mexico could have asked for as they were punished for failing to back up victories over Germany and South Korea with defeat to Sweden to finish second in Group F.

Under Colombian coach Juan Carlos Osorio, though, Mexico approach every game seeking to impose themselves rather than in fear of the opposition.

"We will try to be more offensive-minded and more driven towards winning games rather than just being happy to be there and trying to not get embarrassed or playing not to lose," said Osorio ahead of the tournament.

He was true to his word by going for Germany's jugular in an opening game shock the world champions failed to recover from, failing to get beyond the first round of a World Cup for the first time in 80 years.

Hirving Lozano scored the only goal in Moscow but Mexico could and should have had many more with cooler heads.

Despite landing in what is widely perceived as the tougher half of the draw, the team do not want for ambition.

UNESCO tag for Mumbai buildings will encourage preservation of living heritage in India: Experts

KUNAL DUTT
NEW DELHI, JUL 1 (PTI): The UNESCO recognition for Victorian Gothic and Art Deco buildings in Mumbai will set a "good precedent" and encourage other cities in India to also preserve their modern architectural legacy, according to experts.

They also opined that such old structures have largely been "overshadowed" by ancient or medieval heritage.

At the 42nd session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC), currently underway in Bahrain capital Manama, 94 buildings primarily of 19th-century Victorian Gothic revival and early 20th-century Art Deco style of architecture, were yesterday included in the World Heritage List.

Mumbai-based conservation architect Abha Narain Lambah, who had prepared the voluminous nomination dossier, said, "The most wonderful thing is that the tag has been given to a living heritage of the city, and not just one building, but a whole cluster of it."

"In India, the idea of heritage has traditionally been restricted to ancient archaeological sites or medieval-era tombs and monuments.



While we are proud of that, as a country we must also value and celebrate our living heritage. The UNESCO honour would definitely put a spotlight on our modern-era heritage," Lambah told PTI.

The Victorian buildings form part of the larger Fort precinct situated to the east of the Oval Maidan. These public buildings, include the Old Secretariat, Mumbai University Library and Convention Hall, the Bombay High Court, the Public Works Department Office, Watson's Hotel, David Sassoon Library and the Elphinstone College.

"These are all living, breathing buildings used by people everyday, and perhaps even taken for granted. These are not monuments and tombs frozen in time, but courts, libraries and cinema halls, which we interact with regularly. Hence, Mumbai's success story can be replicated in other cities," said Lambah, who was part of the Indian delegation in Manama.

The Art Deco-styled buildings to the west of the Oval Maidan were raised in the early 20th century on the newly reclaimed lands at Marine Drive and symbolised

the shift in expression to represent contemporary aspirations.

They include the first row of houses on Marine Drive, the Regal and Eros Cinemas that have earned the recognition. This is the third UNESCO site for the western metropolis after the famous Elephanta Caves and the majestic Victoria Terminus (now Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus) railway station, which earned the coveted tag in 1987 and 2004 respectively.

Mumbai-based conservationist Kamalika Bose said this achievement will set a very good precedent for other cities to follow.

"We know the condition of colonial-era buildings in most of the cities, and one of the reasons they suffer neglect is because the government or the society at large doesn't really treat them as heritage or something worthy of preservation.

"While we must continue to use them, as as a more conscious society, we must also value them as our architectural treasures of a certain period," she said.

Bose says Mumbai is basking in its glory right now but the road has "not been easy and has taken long battles" and ordinary people have

played a "very critical role" to help achieve this honour for the city.

"UNESCO tags don't come on a platter, all stakeholders have to really work in synergy. And, that is what happened in this case, as civil society initiatives like Oval-Cooperation Residents Association, Nariman Point-Churchgate Citizens Association and Kala Ghoda Association, have come together and pooled their energies. But, it can only come from pride in our heritage," she said.

Lambah, who has restored some of the most iconic buildings in Mumbai, the latest being the Royal Bombay Opera House, said it was in 2004 that she had first made a presentation on Mumbai's iconic buildings being among the finest modern architectural heritage, at a UNESCO conference in Chandigarh.

Mumbai-based conservation architect Vikas Dilawari, who had worked on the nomination dossier for Victoria Terminus, said, "The news filled me great happiness."

ies of the country to value modern, living heritage.

"Many cities and town have old heritage precincts but need proper planning and vision for upkeep. But, most importantly people must come forward for their city and impress upon the government," he said.

Delhi-based conservation architect Aishwarya Tipnis says Mumbai's drive and energy for preserving heritage is worthy of emulation for other cities like Kolkata, Bengaluru, Lucknow, Patna, all of which are endowed with amazing living heritage.

"Mumbai's success story is an inspiration that common citizens can come together and convince the governments --local, state and central-- that when people care about heritage they can make a difference," she said.

Last year, Ahmedabad was declared as a World Heritage City, the first city in India to have earned that tag.

"I think the back-to-back wins of Ahmedabad and Mumbai will inspire other cities to pick their own battles. Trees will grow but we must sow the seeds first," Bose said.

Thousands protests across US against Trump's immigration policies

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, JUL 1 (PTI): Tens of thousands of people, including Indian Americans, took to streets in several US cities to protest against controversial immigration policies of President Donald Trump which has resulted in separation of children of illegal immigrants.

The Trump administration's controversial "zero tolerance" policy of separating immigrant parents and their children on the US border has resulted in the separation of nearly 2,000 children from their parents and guardians, sparking a public outcry.

Hundreds of people braved scorching sun at a park near the White House here to protest immigration policies of President Trump.

Similar protests were held in cities and towns across the country mostly led by Democratic party leaders and rights activists yesterday demanded that Trump's immigration policies be humane and under no circumstances separate kids from their parents who cross the border illegally.

Trump, however, insisted that there should be zero tolerance for those crossing the border illegally and they need to be deported.

"When people come into our Country illegally, we must IMMEDIATELY escort them back out without going through years of legal maneuvering. Our laws are the dumbest anywhere in the world," Trump tweeted as large number of people came out on streets and in public places including outside the White House against his immigration policies.



tion policies.

"Republicans want Strong Borders and no Crime. Dems want Open Borders and are weak on Crime!" alleged the US president.

"We're here to say to Trump: End this zero-tolerance policy," Indian American Congresswoman Pramila said at the Washington rally organised by a coalition of organisations formed American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, National Domestic Workers Alliance and Move On.

So far more than 2,300 children have been separated from their parents after being arrested by the US law enforcement agencies after they illegally crossed the border.

"Get these kids out of cages and re-

unite them with their parents," Jayapal said at the rally christened 'Families Belong Together,' which among others was joined by a number of celebrities, including Grammy award-winning singer and songwriter Alicia Keys, Diane Guerrero, a star on Netflix's 'Orange is the New Black,' and 'Hamilton' creator Lin-Manuel Miranda.

In Atlanta, the legendary civil rights leaders and Congressman John Lewis, 78, slammed Trump for his immigration policies. "There is no such thing as an illegal human being. We are all humans," he said.

The Democratic National Committee chairman Tom Perez told the CNN that this is a moral crisis for the nation. "We're fighting for our democracy. This is one of those where were ya' mo-

ments," he said.

"Today, people are coming together all across the country to say that we can't be locking up children and separating families," Senator Mazie Hirono said.

"Donald Trump created this crisis through his own actions, blamed others for what's happening, and used the ensuing chaos to demand a legislative solution that harms even more people. It's up to each of us, and to the millions of Americans outraged by his actions to stand up, fight back, and demand action," she said.

In New York, thousands of people rallied and marched in support of immigrant families and to condemn the Trump administration's 'zero-tolerance' policy.

"By forcibly ripping families apart at the border, the Trump administration showed the world how morally bankrupt it truly is," said Steven Choi from the New York Immigration Coalition.

Donna Lieberman, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union alleged that the Trump regime is doing everything it can to divide immigrant families and drive them away.

"The current crisis will not end until every child that has been separated is reunited with their parents, every family is treated with dignity and due process, and our immigration policies reflect our values," Lieberman said.

The public outcry in the wake of images and stories of the children caught in the middle of Trump's immigration policy has sparked a fierce debate in the US.

Focus on Russia summit could have led US to postpone 2+2 dialogue with India: Experts

NEW YORK, JUL 1 (PTI):

Contentious trade issues between India and the US are unlikely to have led to the postponement of the first 2+2 dialogue between them and the Trump administration's focus on the July 16 summit with Russia and a possible meeting with North Korean officials could have prompted the deferment of the talks, according to leading India-US experts.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman were to travel to Washington to take part in the meeting with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defence James Mattis on July 6.

However, Pompeo spoke over phone with Swaraj on June 27 and conveyed to her "his regret at the postponement" of the 2+2 dialogue due to "unavoidable reasons". They agreed to reschedule the dialogue as "soon as possible".

Former US Ambassador to India Frank Wisner told PTI that he has

"no reason" to doubt the "official line" that the US asked for the delay because of "unavoidable reasons".

"While there are a number of contentious trade issues to sort out, none rise singly or collectively to constitute a crisis or anything like one. The strategic logic of the relationship remains strong, Wisner said in an email response when asked to comment on the reasons for the postponement of the 2+2 dialogue and how it augurs for India-US ties. Wisner said he expects new dates for the talks to be announced soon.

In a similar vein, Senior Adviser and Wadhvani Chair in US-India Policy Studies at Washington-based The Center for Strategic and International Studies Richard Rossow said the postponement was not due to the negative barrage of trade issues but instead could be because of the upcoming Russia summit and perhaps another meeting with North Korean officials.

Indian soccer fan killed in car crash in Russia

MOSCOW, JUL 1 (PTI):

An Indian soccer fan, who was in Russia for the World Cup, has been killed in a car crash near the tournament host city Sochi, an Indian official said on Sunday, the first reported death of a FIFA visitor in the country.

The accident took place on Saturday when Portugal was trounced by Uruguay in one of the first games of the knockout stages of the tournament.

An Indian citizen was killed in the accident in the Kuban region, an Indian Embassy official told news agency PTI over phone.

The official said that the Embassy is in touch with the victim's family. The mission is also helping the family to transport the body to India.

The passenger car and a bus collided on the Adler-Krasnaya Polyana route around 6:50 am yesterday. The Russian driver and one of the passengers of the car, a citizen of India, died, Russian news agency RIA Novosti reported.

It identified the Indian victim as Aditya Ranjan.

The body will be sent to India after completing all formalities, including an autopsy tomorrow, the report added.

The condition of another Indian who was injured in the accident is stable.



THAI BOYS SPEND EIGHTH NIGHT IN FLOODED CAVE: Twelve Thai boys and their assistant football coach spent their eighth night trapped in a flooded cave, as a round-the-clock search was aided by better weather on Sunday. Rescue teams attempted to reach deeper into the chambers of Tham Luang cave in the hope of locating the children, aged 11 to 16, and the coach more than a week after they ventured in and were blocked by heavy rains. Despite the tireless effort and international assistance, there has been no contact with the group since they were reported missing, and monsoon rains have complicated the rescue by blocking passageways. But an ease in the rough seasonal weather near Thailand's borders with Myanmar and Laos has buoyed hopes that divers will be able to reach deeper into the recesses of Tham Luang's 10-kilometre-long (six-mile) passageway.

Rajapaksa dismisses allegations of Chinese funding in polls

COLOMBO, JUL 1 (PTI): Sri Lanka's former president Mahinda Rajapaksa today dismissed a media report that claimed China had funded his unsuccessful 2015 presidential re-run.

"No contribution was made by China to my 2015 presidential election campaign," Rajapaksa said, breaking his silence on the issue.

"While claiming that my 'affiliates' and 'campaign aides' had got the money and that volunteers' had delivered the cheques to Temple Trees, the writer has been intentionally vague about who had given this money and who had received it," the former president said in a statement.

"This seems to be a way of carrying out a smear campaign without incurring any liability," he added.

A New York Times report last week claimed that USD 7.6 million was dispensed from a Chinese firm for his campaign.

Rajapaksa also dismissed the NYT claim that India was apprehensive about his Chinese connections and India was concerned about any Chinese attempt to use the Hambantota port for military purposes.



He said former Indian National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon had written in his 2016 book that India was comfortable with the security assurances made by his brother Gotabhaya Rajapaksa as the defence secretary.

He said India had been given assurances about the nature of Sri Lanka's relations with China. "Such assurances given by Sri Lanka to the then Congress Party government were respected throughout," Rajapaksa added.

Meanwhile, the Sunday Times today said that the police's Financial Crimes Investigation Division (FCID) has asked the police chief's sanction to investigate the NYT claim.

The Chinese embassy in Colombo in a statement while stopping short of denying the story said the NYT article was "full of political prejudice and completely inconsistent with the fact".

China will continue to "promote the pragmatic cooperation under the framework of the Belt and Road initiatives" for the betterment of the two countries, it said.

The ruling United National Party, the dominant partner in the national unity government, last week called for setting up of a presidential commission to probe the NYT claim.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP) said that the veracity of the story must be verified and details bared.

Rajapaksa's son earlier said that the report had many inaccuracies. Several of Rajapaksa loyalists have termed the story as fake.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

LOST: I, Shri Bal Hang Limboo son of Sancha Raj Limboo resident of Rimbik ward no 03 under 11 Darap Nambu GPU, West Sikkim have lost my Certificate of Identification (COI) and Tribal certificate in original on 30.7.2013. If found please contact: **7719319098**.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Required Sales Boys & Girls for IT store. Experience in IT knowledge both in software and hardware required. Interested candidates contact: **Ramolla Cellular: 7001204591, 9733015218**.

Kutse Tshegu



The Kutse Tshegu (49 days) of **Late Mrs. Urmila Gurung** who left for her heavenly abode will take place on **4th July 2018** at **PRAURMILA COTTAGE, MAJHIGO-AN JORETHANG**. We

request all friends, relatives and well wishers and family to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul on the said day.

We also like to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us at the time of our bereavement.

family members:

- 94340 57367/96098 95767 - Tika Gurung
- 7872209474- Jigme Tshering Bhutia
- 9733670372- Pravat Gurung
- 8145620806- Anula Gurung

Anthyeshi Kriya



On 25th of June, 2018, **Mr. Rajen Karkidholi**, son of late Arjun Karkidholi left for heavenly abode. We the family members would like to thank everyone who was part of his story. We believe that he responsibly

concluded his role as a husband, father, brother, friend and a public servant. While we reminisce about him, we request everyone who cared and wished him well to join us in offering prayers and to bid him a final farewell. The ceremony will be held at our residence at **Maneydara, Lingding, below Indira Bypass (SDF Bhawan), Gangtok on 7th July, 2018 [Saturday]**.

Munna Karkidholi [mother], Sonam Yangchen Bhutia [wife], Ravi Karkidholi [brother], Aruna Karkidholi [sister], Anamika Karkidholi [daughter], Menka Karkidholi [sister].
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ARIANA GRANDE GETS A TATTOO DEDICATED TO PETE DAVIDSON'S DAD WHO DIED ON 9/11: Singer Ariana Grande has honoured fiancé Pete Davidson's father, Scott Davidson, who was killed on 9/11, with the help of a tattoo. The 25-year-old singer sported a new tattoo on her foot of the numbers "8418," which is the badge number worn by the late New York City firefighter who died in 2001 during the Twin Tower attacks. Davidson, 24, has the same tribute to his father, sporting an 8418 tattoo on his left arm.

Stop self-doubting ladies, we have enough people doing that to us, says Priyanka

LOS ANGELES, JUL 1 (PTI): Priyanka Chopra says women have "always been treated as second-class citizens" and unlike men, they are forced to adhere to certain standards of beauty.

The 35-year-old star believes rather than submitting to the societal norms, women should focus on loving themselves and being confident in their own skin.

"We've always been told that only one of us can win and only the best one will get the cutest boy and only the best one will get the job, that we spent so much time elbowing each other out of the way, pulling each other down.

"Can we, for a second, love ourselves and say, 'I do not need all of these magazines to tell me how to lose the weight or how should I starve because I wanna



please a man?" Priyanka said in an interview with Allure magazine.

The actor said people have always doubted women's capability, so they should stop berating their own selves.

"So the next time you see yourself doubting yourself or you look at a picture of your-

self and you say, 'Oh my God,' or you wake up in the morning and you say, 'Wow, why do I look like that?...' Whatever that instant might be, the next time you do that for yourself, recognize it," she said.

"Start with just recognizing what you're doing. That's called self-hate, self-doubt,

you're berating yourself. I mean, we have enough people doing that to us anyway. Why do we need to do it to ourselves?"

"Love yourself, ladies. You're your best friend," she added

The former Miss World believes "beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder", and added that "everyone doesn't look the same way, so the world needs to be trained to see beauty differently".

"You see so many women, different sizes, modelling, acting, taking their strength, but it's the mindset that needs to change, of society, of men, of people, that view where a woman in a plus size should not be a check in the box. Or a woman of colour should not be a check in the box. Or a woman shouldn't be a check in the box.

BLAKE SHELTON CHANGED MY LIFE: GWEN STEFANI

LOS ANGELES, JUL 1 (PTI): Singer Gwen Stefani has gushed over her boyfriend Blake Shelton calling him her "inspiration".

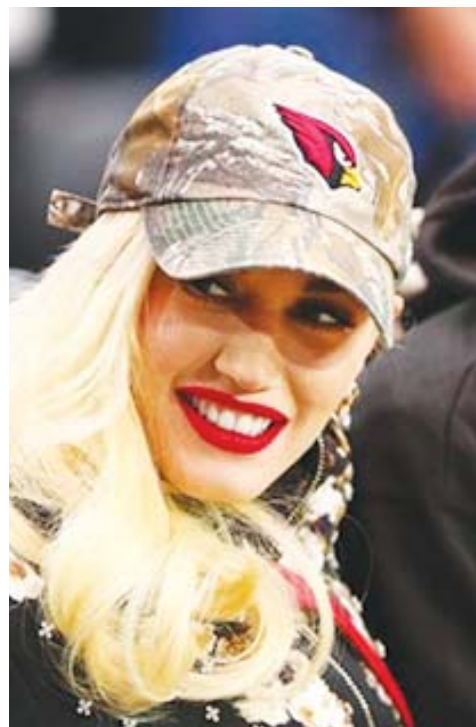
She and Shelton, 42, have been together for more than two and a half years and the singer says the country star has changed her life.

"He's my homeboy. He's my homey. He's just really an amazing all-around human so I feel so grateful for that.

"I celebrate him in the show, He's inspired me so much. He's changed my life. I was like, 'You changed my show, you changed my life.' Such an inspiration," Stefani said during an appearance on ABC News' Good Morning America.

The 48-year-old singer is currently on her Just a Girl tour and performed her first concert at the Zappos Theatre at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino last week.

The residency marks her first concert series since she ended her This Is What the Truth Feels Like tour in October 2016.



'Important to experiment for longer, respectable career'

JUSTIN RAO

MUMBAI, JUL 1 (PTI): Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan believes sticking to one's comfort zone could be tempting, but it is important for an actor to experiment to have a longer and respectable career.

Saif found his groove with 2001's "Dil Chahta Hai", a decade after being in the industry, and reinvented himself with "Omkaara".

He has now become one of India's first mainstream stars to venture into the digital space, with Netflix Original series "Sacred Games".

In an interview with PTI, Saif says, "If you've been successful at one type of thing, it could be tempting not to change that. But if you look at people who have slightly longer, wider and respected careers, they are the ones who have done different kinds of works."

The actor says the country has "quite a mature film industry", where different types of movies are made and not only "commercial".

"There are people here who do different things, like Varun Dhawan doing 'Badlapur' which I saw recently. That's an interesting choice. It adds to the respect I have for that actor which I assume is the same for everybody," he says.

The 47-year-old actor believes good work cannot be done in isolation.

"Watching the work of others is a good way of knowing what's happening around. The way to understand actors is to watch their work. Their work should speak for themselves," he says.

For now, the actor is geared up for "Sacred Games". Set in modern-day Mumbai, the series revolves around a policeman and a criminal overlord.

Saif plays Sartaj Singh, a seasoned and cynical Bombay Police officer, who is summoned by an anonymous tip that promises him an opportunity to capture the powerful Ganesh Gaitonde (Nawazuddin



Siddiqui), the criminal overlord of the G-Company.

As the stakes mount, Sartaj and Gaitonde realise that they are a part of a much larger scenario, which goes beyond the city.

For the actor, the opportunity to be part of the original show came knocking and he could not say no.

"I had heard Netflix was doing something in India and I thought as Illuminati films (his production house), we should do something in that space. I thought it would be great to do a mafia show, more than a love story or a comedy.

"It should be a show about cops and the mafia but, of course, presented in a new way. So when I was of-

fered the show, I thought I would've done exactly the same thing but was offered it as an actor, so I jumped at it," he says.

"Sacred Games" has been directed by Anurag Kashyap, who helms portions of Nawazuddin, and Vikramaditya Motwane, who has shot with Saif.

Motwane had said he chose to cast Saif because the actor has a sense of vulnerability in him. Saif says he is comfortable with his emotional side on screen.

"I've always been quite self-deprecating and easy. That's the environment I grew up in. Lot of people are a bit more defensive, macho. But I am comfortable being in touch (with my vulnerability)... That's the normal way of how one should be.

"Some people want to come across as very cool, strong, not say the wrong things, there is a lot of eminence front being put up. It's not interesting to me. I find people like these very plastic. As long as directors think this is interesting, I hope they keep finding it so," he says.

The Original series, based on the bestselling novel of the same name by Vikram Chandra, will be available on the streaming platform in all territories from July 6.

ARIES: This period is full of difficulties and you will tend to question yourself, especially today. You will start thinking about your personality. Your ego risks bruising, and you will have the greatest difficulty turning your intention into real action. Your sensitivity prevents you from materializing your ideas.

TAURUS: It would be fair to say that you love being recognized, Taurus. Today will enable you to show off your leadership skills. You will organize the day. You will accept your responsibilities and your smarts will help you welcome the day's challenges. But stay humble and keep your actions simple, especially after intense emotions.

GEMINI: You have a dynamic

personality, Gemini. With today's celestial energy, you should try to avoid expending your energy on pointless conversations. Try to be a little more pragmatic. Consider any possible compromises very carefully. If you stand strong, you will reach your objectives much more quickly.

CANCER: Today you could learn a lot from other people who are similar to you, Cancer. They have the ability to get involved easily and go straight to the heart of any problem. The world is in constant flux. You have to question yourself if you want to attain your objectives. Try to be open-minded, adapt to the situation, and act before it's too late.

LEO: The stars will compel you

to clarify your position within the collective, Leo. You have a lot of power when you're part of a group, but you're sometimes clumsy about communication. You can't always succeed. The planets' positions will have a beneficial impact, and you will tend to put your life under the microscope.

VIRGO: You've always wanted to change the world, and you'd like to share your dreams with your friends, Virgo. But today you don't have enough enthusiasm to fulfill these dreams. You will question your personal strategies. You shouldn't try to convince others all the time. Your friends appreciate you just the way you are.

LIBRA: You have the tendency to

plan everything, Libra. You need to feel in charge of things. Today you should try to listen to others around you. Let yourself go for a while, even though you aren't used to it. Furthermore, you need to develop your personality. You can do this by opening up to others.

SCORPIO: You're attracted to eccentric individuals with very strong personalities. But realize that behind this attraction lies a very strong need for freedom, Scorpio. In your life, freedom is more fantasy than reality. The time has come for you to do some soul searching. Try not to hide from the realities of your life.

SAGITTARIUS: Today will destabilize you, Sagittarius. You're

trying to rebuild your life on new foundations. Perhaps should you try to change your point of view. Also, you need to preserve your perception, because it will allow you to adapt to all situations. You need to be fully alert and prepared at all times. Try not to become discouraged.

CAPRICORN: You have a tendency to get very involved in your projects, Capricorn. Today the stars will compel you to clarify your situation. It's already clear that you aren't afraid to work long hours to ensure that your projects end in success. But your endeavour will probably have difficulties keeping up with you. You're too full of energy.

AQUARIUS: Today the stars advise you to get back into the swing of things, Aquarius. You will forget your past frame of mind and be able to prepare for a new adventure. Your vitality will be as strong as it has ever been. You will probably meet someone who has a beneficial influence in the days to come.

PISCES: There's a certain quality in your personal relationships that motivates you in life, Pisces. This is one of the reasons why your emotions play an important role in the scheme of things. You're guided by your emotions. Today you will be in the best disposition to meet a lot of people who will give new impetus.