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Summit TIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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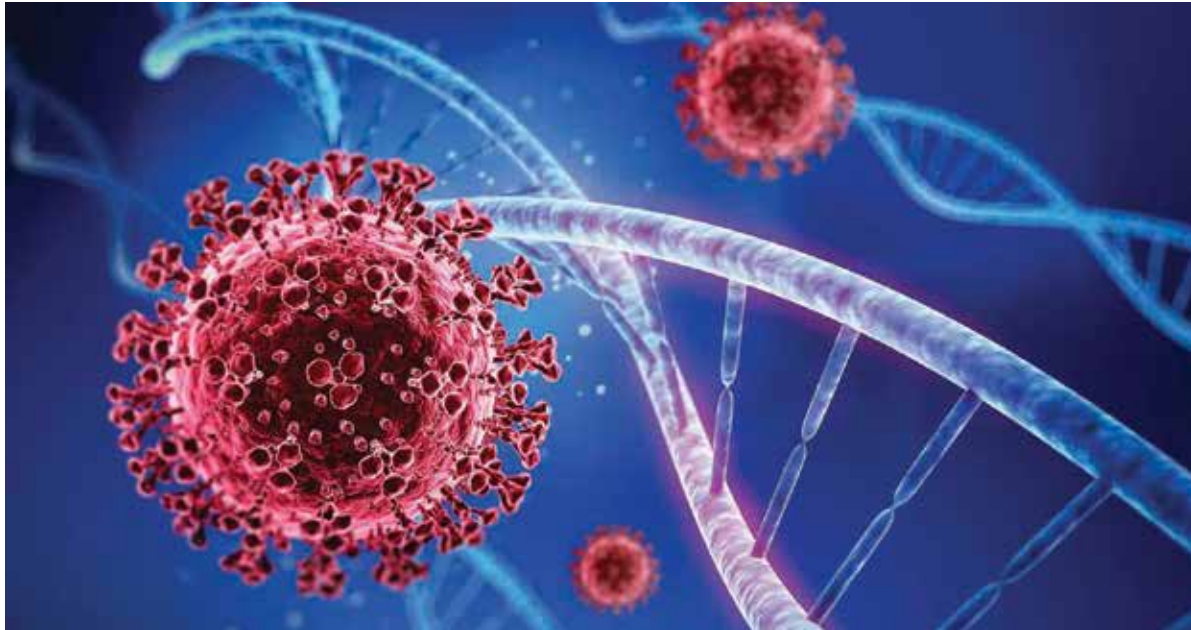
Covid claims one more life taking Sikkim's toll to 377

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:

Covid claimed one more life in Sikkim, taking the State's Covid toll to 377. This fatality was the only one recorded in the past 24 hours and was reported from Namchi District Hospital. This is the fourth COVID death reported so far this week.

In the meantime, the number of active Covid cases in Sikkim dipped some more to 847 today with 66 more COVID patients making full recoveries and getting discharged from home and facility isolation in the past 24 hours. The figure of recovered cases in the State now stands at 28,980.

As per the Daily Report of COVID-19 in Sikkim issued by the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme of



Health Department, Sikkim's tally of confirmed cases has reached 30,501 with 57 persons testing positive for COVID-19 from the testing of 547 samples on Thursday, giving Sikkim a daily test positivity rate of 10.4%.

While 28 of the new cases were detected in RT-PCR testing of 302 samples, 29 others tested positive in rapid antigen testing of 243 samples.

Of the 57 new cases, 19 were reported in East District, 15 in West District, 20 in South District

and 03 in North District.

On the vaccination front, a total of 10,888 persons received Covishield shots in the State on Thursday. Of these, while 502 people received their first dose, 10,386 others completed the vaccine schedule

with the second dose.

Sikkim has administered a total of 7,27,078 doses of Covishield thus far covering 5,12,896 persons, of whom 2,14,639 people have already completed their vaccine schedule with both shots.

Rainfall recorded in August lowest in 19 years: IMD

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT: Rainfall in August, which recorded 24 percent deficiency, was lowest in 19 years, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

Two major spells of weak monsoon prevailed over the country — from August 9-16 and August 23-27 — when north-west, central and adjoining peninsular and west coast of India had subdued rainfall activities.

"During August 2021, rainfall over the country as a whole was below Long Period Average (LPA) by minus 24 percent. It is also lowest August rainfall in last 19 years, since 2002," the IMD said.

The Southwest Monsoon season officially commences from June 1 and lasts till September 30. The month of June recorded 10 percent more rainfall, but both July and August clocked deficiency of seven and 24 percent respectively, according to the IMD data.

The country received

24 percent less than normal rainfall in August. Of the four meteorological divisions of the IMD, the central India division received 39 percent less. The division consists of a large swathe of area from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

The deficiency in the northwest India division, which comprises northern Indian states, was 30 percent.

The deficiency was 10 percent in the south peninsula whereas the east and northeast division received two percent more rainfall than the normal.

The IMD had predicted that the rainfall activity was expected to be normal during August. It has now predicted above normal precipitation in September.

The weather forecasting agency said intra-seasonal variation in terms of week by week rainfall variation over India shows that monsoon rainfall activities were largely subdued consec-

utively for three weeks — for week ending on August 11, August 18 and August 25 — when all India weekly cumulative rainfall for the country as a whole was 35 percent, 36 percent and 21 percent, respectively, below its Long Period Average (LPA).

The formation of less number of low pressure systems (PLS) and their lesser number of days compared to the climatology and absence of their longer westward movements during the month of August 2021 contributed to the large deficient rainfall in central India as well as all India, the IMD said.

It said negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) over tropical Indian Ocean, unfavourable for Indian monsoon prevailed throughout the month of the August, which also contributed to deficient rainfall over India in the month.

A negative IOD is associated with the heating of waters of the Indian Ocean. [PTI]

India-England 5th test called off due to Covid fears

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT: The fifth and final Test between India and England in Manchester has been called off due to Covid-19 fears in the Indian camp on Friday.

In a statement, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said that it was a joint decision with the ECB to cancel the fifth Test and the two boards will work together to find a window to reschedule the game in the future.

The BCCI statement read, "The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) along with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) have jointly decided to call off the 5th Test Match scheduled at Manchester in ongoing India's tour of England 2021. The BCCI and ECB held several rounds of discussion to find a way to play the Test Match, however, the outbreak of Covid-19 in the Indian team contingent forced the decision of calling off the Old Trafford Test Match. In lieu of the strong relationship between BCCI and ECB, the BCCI has offered to ECB a rescheduling of the cancelled Test match. Both the Boards will work towards finding a window to reschedule this Test match."

Earlier, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) also issued an official statement confirming the cancellation of the match. "Following ongoing conversations with the BCCI, the ECB

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STA thumbs down adhoc teachers protest, claims Govt has enough teachers in place to complete syllabus

SAGAR CHHETRI GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:

Sikkim Teachers Association [STA] president KB Bhandari today invoked "dignity" to argue that the adhoc teachers, protesting in Gangtok demanding extension of their services until the interview results were announced, withdraw their protest.

While claiming that STA has always worked in the interest of teachers, Mr Bhandari thumbed down the protest and said that the dharna was defaming the teaching fraternity. The protesting teachers should end their protest, call off the hunger strike and go for talks with the Department.

The protesting teachers, it may be recalled, have already held talks



with the department and clarified often that they were not opposed to the holding of interviews for appointment of ad hoc teachers and have demanded that since their contracts ended in June, schools in Sikkim were currently without the services of nearly 900 teachers and that this was affecting the learning of students.

Meanwhile, address-

ing a press conference here this evening, Mr Bhandari said that STA, even though it has been working in the interest of teachers of Sikkim, would be unable to help the protesting teachers if they go against the constitution of the association.

About the demand of the protesting teachers, he contended that the demand for extension

and regularization cannot proceed simultaneously so the protesting teachers need to have some patience until the government's new hiring policy comes into place.

He also stated that the protesting teachers would be solely responsible if their protest affects the government's offer to regularise services of ad hoc teachers after eight

turn to pg02

NIT Sikkim and IIT Gandhinagar sign MoU on academic cooperation

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:

National Institute of Technology Sikkim (NITS) and Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate student exchange, academic cooperation, and research collaboration among faculty members, a press release informs.

As part of this agreement, two meritorious students of NITS would get an opportunity to be part of the Summer Research Internship Programme (SRIP) at IITGN. IITGN shall also provide a stipend to these students upon successful completion of the programme. Two B.Tech students of NITS per year would get a chance to study a semester at the IITGN under the non-degree programme.

The credits earned during their semester at IITGN shall be transferred to NITS.

Not only this, the MoU would also enable up to two final year B.Tech students of NITS to be considered for admission in the Start Early PhD programme of IITGN. Once selected, the students will have the option to join the programme early in their 7th or 8th semester under the non-degree programme. Moreover, IITGN shall also provide an opportunity to two NITS faculty members per year to spend time at IITGN for research and academic collaboration with IITGN faculty members. Both institutes can also further decide other opportunities of engagement to support faculty, students, and research.

"IITGN has always believed in

effective collaborations for innovation and knowledge creation that can benefit the society. We want to mine talent from every corner of the country and give them the best opportunity for development. I am sure our partnership with NIT Sikkim will significantly benefit faculty and students of both the institutes in research and innovation," said Prof Sudhir K Jain, Director, IITGN.

"We are delighted to have this association with IITGN that would greatly benefit our students and faculty and boost their academic and research pursuits. I hope that we will be able to forge a sustainable and successful partnership, which will serve as a template for other institutions to follow," said Prof Mahesh Chandra Govil, Director, NIT Sikkim.

IT surveys on premises of newsportals in Delhi; NewsClick faces action by third agency

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT: Income Tax surveys were conducted on the premises of news portals NewsLaundry and NewsClick in Delhi on Friday, with a senior department official telling The Indian Express that the surveys were related to alleged tax evasion.

"Surveys have been carried out in the case of both NewsLaundry and NewsClick. The department's officials conducted surveys on their premises in Delhi on charges of tax evasion," the official said.

The Income Tax Act empowers officials to enter any premises of the assessee, such as residences, shops, factories or offices for a search and seizure operation. Surveys, which are conducted under Section 133A of the Income Tax Act, take place only on business premises. Surveys start during normal business hours, whereas searches can be conducted any time of the day. During surveys, IT officials look into documents such as books of accounts, bank accounts, cash, stock and non-valuable documents. Both organisations were paid a visit by IT officials on June 30 too, when notices were served to them. At the NewsClick office, state-

ments of founder and Editor-in-chief Prabir Purkayastha and Pranjal were taken at the time.

On Friday, IT officials reached the NewsLaundry office at Sarvodaya Enclave around 11.40 am and were there until evening. NewsLaundry was started by journalists Madhu Trehan and Abhinandan Sekhri, who also serves as its CEO.

Sources said around seven-eight IT officials also reached the NewsClick office at Saidulajab around the same time. Purkayastha, who was not in office at the time, was then summoned to the office.

In February, the Enforcement Directorate had raided the NewsClick office and homes of its editors.

Sources said IT officials made three trips to Purkayastha's home Friday — once to pick him up, the second time to take his phone, and the third time to pick up the hard disk of the entire email dump made during the ED raids in February.

As of 5:30 pm in the evening, the raid was still underway with several employees, including Purkayastha and Pranjal, inside the premises.

Sources said the mobile phones of those present inside had been

taken away during the survey. Purkayastha and Pranjal's phones were switched off when The Indian Express tried to contact them for comments.

Apart from IT and ED, NewsClick is also being probed by the Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing.

The Delhi High Court had in June directed the ED to not take any coercive action against PPK NewsClick Studio Private Limited and Purkayastha. In July, the court had granted interim protection from arrest to Purkayastha and NewsClick's Editor Pranjal in the case registered by the Delhi Police. The same month, Purkayastha had also got interim protection from arrest in the ED case.

The interim protections continue as applications of the editors seeking anticipatory bail and NewsClick's petitions seeking quashing of the cases registered by the ED and Delhi Police remain pending. In August, the court questioned the Delhi Police for opposing their anticipatory bail pleas despite the RBI's statement that PPK NewsClick had not violated any FEMA regulations. [The Indian Express]

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Veterinary Sub Centre and CSC/ Sanitary Lavatory inaugurated

GYALSHING, 10 SEPT (IPR): The Minister, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, LokNath Sharma officially inaugurated the Veterinary Sub Centre and CSC/Sanitary Lavatory within the Village Administrative Centre, GyalshingOmchung GPU today.

The Minister was accompanied by the Panchayat President, Dawa T Bhutia, Panchayats, Director (Veterinary Services), Dr Sanjay Pradhan, Additional Director AH & VS (W), DrNaradCintury, ADC Development/RDD (W), SuratGurung, Deputy Director Fisheries, LobzangTamang, Assistant Director (RDD/BAC), BB Thatal, Chairman of Management and Coordination Committee of Rangit Hydro Electric Power Project, Ram Kumar Chettri, officials, field functionaries and farmers.

The Minister congratulated



ulated the people for the newly initiated facilities of Veterinary Sub Centre. He anticipated augmentation in milk production in the peripheries and encouraged farmers towards Goattery, Piggery, Poultry and other livestock farming sectors. He elucidated the vision of the Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang to uplift

the farming community and the villagers, economically and socially, thereby making rural population self-reliant.

He touched upon provision of financial incentives under Mukhya-MantriKrishiAtmanirbharYojana and PashudhanSamridhiYojana and urged field functionaries and notified market-

ing agencies of SHGs to be well aware of the schemes/ benefits and sensitize farmers accordingly. He also informed about the newly launched online portal for fisheries farming, <https://pmmsy.sikkim.gov.in/> and further urged interested farmers to apply online through this portal.

The Minister also un-

derlined about the ongoing developmental work in his constituency and also informed about the planning of construction of Urban Housing consisting of Eighty Units in Gyalshing. He also congratulated members of Nil Kamal SHG/Middle Gyalshing for pickle production and demonstration after receiving financial assistance from the state government for value addition of Agriculture and Horticulture produce.

Earlier, Additional Director, Animal Husbandry (W), DrNaradCintury presented an overview of the newly inaugurated Veterinary Sub Centre and informed that the centre will cater services to four wards under GyalshingOmchung GPU. He also threw light on the rapid pace of developmental works in the Animal Husbandry sector in the last two years.

ASATTEA reiterate appeal to protesting ad-hoc teachers to end dharna

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:**

All Sikkim Ad-hoc Teachers & Temporary Employees Association [ASATTEA] once again appealed to protesting ad-hoc teachers to immediately call off their protest and have a dialogue with the state government. The association has said that the state government has been very serious about resolving all issues related to ad-hoc teachers of Sikkim at the earliest.

It is informed that representatives of ASATTEA had met the Chief Minister here on Wednesday evening to discuss all issues related to ad-hoc teachers of Sikkim.

Addressing a press conference this afternoon, ASATTEA executive member, Rajesh Dahal mentioned that representatives of the association met the CM and had a fruitful discussion on all issues related to ad-hoc teachers of Sikkim. He added that after listening to them the CM apprised about various policy decisions taken by the government to resolve all issues related to ad-hoc teachers.

The state government is ready with the solution

to all issues related to ad-hoc teachers and works are going on to notify it officially at the earliest, he added.

"Ad-hoc teachers have struggled a lot and now the present government has come up with policy decisions to address issues related to ad-hoc teachers and ultimately to abolish the ad-hoc system from the State," Mr Dahal said.

He stated that ASATTEA is neither in favour of the government nor is it against the protesting ad-hoc teachers but the association has been working as a bridge between the two, to resolve the issue. He appealed to the protesting teachers to call off the dharna and prepare for walk-in-interview.

ASATTEA advisor, Ashish Lepcha, stated that the government has the best interests of ad-hoc teachers in mind so the protesting teachers should have faith in the announcement of the government. He stated that the CM has already made an announcement in the interest of ad-hoc teachers and official notification will definitely come although official works take some time.

While speaking about the discussion of the association with the CM yesterday, he mentioned that the government has assured not to conduct the written examination in this pandemic period and only viva-voce will be held for teacher recruitment. The CM has also assured to give weightage to candidates on the basis of their experience, he added.

The government has decided to conduct walk-in-interview to provide equal opportunity to new aspirants along with these 860 ad-hoc teachers, he said.

"The government has opened doors to streamline the system so everyone needs to support it in order to abolish the ad-hoc system from the State," he said.

Mr Lepcha reiterated that dharna is not the solution and the protesting teachers need to place their demands in a "humble way" to the government. He further added that during the meeting it was discussed that the protesting teachers cannot be adamant on their demand for service extension but should first call off the dharna and then place their demand.

Namchi's Le Bonkers to reopen with new flair

**BIKASH CHETTRI
NAMCHI, 10 SEPT:**

Le Bonkers restaurant in Namchi reopened today after a long gap sporting a new look and boasting a new menu.

The owner of Le Bonkers, SaratChettri, who also owns Crumbs and Whipsafe, has redone Le Bonkers' menu with fusion foods, neo oriental-tandoor and cocktail bar.

For the first three days, the restaurant is giving 20% discount on all food and 10% discount on all drinks.

With four American diner seats, three couple seats and a corner seat for eight persons, the place is ideal for family and folks of all ages. Exclusive arena for karaoke lovers and an acoustic

live gig arena are there for anyone who loves to perform.

In-house bands will perform from time to time, and every Wednesday will be stand-up comedy evening in the restaurant.

The concept of oriental-tandoor was conceptualized with the chefs of famous Michelin Star restaurants like Yauatcha (of London), and Magato (of Japan), which are famous for their new fusion dumplings.

The owner of Le Bonkers has been awarded by Swadeshi Movement group of India for Crumbs&Whipsafe for continuing its services during the first wave of the pandemic in 2020.

Samdup Lepcha interacts with residents and officials at Lachen



**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
LACHEN, 10 SEPT:**

Lachen-Mangan MLA, Roads & Bridges Minister Samdup Lepcha, sat in an "open-air" discussion with the Pipons, residents and personnel stationed at Lachen Police Station here today. This was the fourth such interaction of the MLA as part of his constituency visit.

At Lachen monastery,

he met with the Pipons, monks and public and heard out their grievances.

At Nyane Lhakhang, he interacted with the nuns who placed demands which the Minister has assured to address.

The Minister also met with the officers and staff of Lachen Police Station and heard out their grievances as well.

SICA takes 'Cricket at your doorstep' tour to North Sikkim



**SUMMIT REPORT
MANGAN, 08 SEPT:**

Sikkim Cricket Association [SICA] conducted grass root outreach program under the theme 'Cricket at your doorstep' for North Sikkim, a press release from SICA informs.

"The program covered four hubs of North Sikkim where there are signs of growth in cricket activity for the past year. This growth is a direct result of the various other programs initiated by SICA such as the Cricket Mela, District wise Cricket Camps, Talent Hunt, etc," the press release states.

The team led by president

SICA and executive members along with North District Cricket Committee President, executives and officials travelled to Chungthang, Lachung, Lachen and Naga.

The tour was geared towards reaching out to the remote regions of the state, with the intention of setting up cricket facilities like nets along with concrete pitches, hearing out the various issues and problems faced by them as well as offering kits bags along with brand new bat, cricket gear and equipment which SICA hopes will serve as encourage-

ment to the active players and members in the aforementioned areas.

During the tour, SICA officials met with Chairman of Welfare State Commission, NimTshering Lepcha, Chungthang GPU Panchayat members Tshering Lepcha, Sonam Wangyal, Blomit Lepcha, PaponLachung, PemaWangyalLachungpa, cex-zilla member, Diki Lepcha, NDCC Scrutiny incharge and Chungthang sports committee members, who were appreciative of the such steps taken by SICA and were forthcoming in extending all necessary assistance from their end.

SKM coordination meet at Melli

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:**

On the direction of Chief Minister and party president, PS Tamang, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha held a Constituency Level Executive co-ordination meeting at Melli Constituency this morning, a press release informs.

The meeting was attended by Transport Minister, SanjeetKharel, Advisor/Incharge South District, Satish Chandra Rai, vice president/Incharge South District, Kala Subba, Constituency Incharge (Melli), TilakBasnet, CLC president, DilKumariChettri amongst others.



Minister SanjeetKharel has highlighted different works that are being implemented by the Government.

He also informed that very soon there will be 'Chairman' of ChalakMor-

cha and budget will also be allocated to ChalakMorcha in coming days.

Newly appointed member of the Women's Commission, Nomit Lepcha was felicitated by Minister, SanjeetKharel

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India-England...

can confirm that the fifth LV= Insurance Test between England and India Men due to start today at Emirates Old Trafford, will be cancelled.

Due to fears of a further increase in the number of COVID cases inside the camp, India are regrettably unable to field a team. We send our sincere apologies to fans and partners for this news, which we know will cause immense disappointment and inconvenience to many. Further information will be shared in due course," the ECB said in the statement.

Even on the Friday morning, the Indian players remained in dark about the Covid-19 impacted game at Manchester. With a few hours to go before their scheduled departure to the ground, the Indian cricketers were isolated in their hotel rooms wondering if they would be asked to play the crucial Test which would decide the outcomes of the series. With the England and India board in talks till late on Thursday night, the players were keenly awaiting for any update on the team Whatsapp group.

STA thumbs down...

years. Hints that the government will drop the new hiring and regularization policy if the protest continues have already been made.

STA publicity secretary, Bhim Khanal, referred to the protesting adhoc teachers as "former" teachers as their services had already ended on 30 June earlier this year.

Batting for the State Government, he said that the state government has initiated steps to end the extension system and establish a system to regularize the service of adhoc teachers by conducting fresh walk-in-interviews.

He informed that STA had met with representatives of protesting adhoc teachers on 08 September to work as a bridge to resolve the ongoing issue and discussed their demands. The association, however, is not convinced about

the earnestness of their demands.

"If they were really serious with the future of students then they should be able to give voluntary service to students as the department has already clarified that the extension of the service was not possible as the new policy is to remove this extension system," Mr Khanal said.

Likewise, STA East District president, TP Sharma stressed that it was not proper for teachers to sit on a dharna and linked it to doubt their moral right to teach since their behaviour was sending the wrong signal to students.

He also claimed that schools have enough regular teachers and other adhoc teachers in service to complete the syllabus of students so the protesting teachers should end their protest.



RASHTRIYA AYURVEDA VIDYAPEETH
(NATIONAL ACADEMY OF AYURVEDA)
(An autonomous organization under Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India)
Dhanwantari Bhawan, Road No.66, Punjabi Bagh (West), New Delhi-110026
Phone Nos.: 011- 25228548 & 25229753 Email: gsp-ravdl@gov.in

ADMISSION NOTICE 2021-22

Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth, New Delhi (RAV) is holding a **Written Test on 03rd October, 2021 (Sunday)** at New Delhi, Pune, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Varanasi and Thrissur for the admission in One year "Certificate Course of Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth (CRAV)" for the eligible Ayurvedic doctors, having qualified BAMS (Ayurvedacharya)/M.D. (Ay.)/M.S. (Ay.) from any University/College, recognized under IMCC Act-1970. Interested candidates may visit the Vidyapeeth's website www.ravdelhi.nic.in for details of eligibility, subjects, prescribed format of application, prospectus, other information etc. and they must send their duly filled in application **only through e-mail on above mail on or before 26th September, 2021.**

Director, Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth

davp 17212/11/0002/2122

EduDept celebrates International Literacy Day

GANGTOK, 10 SEPT [EDUCATION DEPARTMENT]: The Education Department Government of Sikkim celebrated the "International Literacy Day" on 8th September 2021 in the conference hall of Education Department. The celebration was chaired by G.P Upadhyaya, (IAS) Addl. Chief Secretary Education. All the senior officers of the Department participated in the said programme. While delivering his welcome address, the Nodal Officer Mr. H.P Dhakal-mentioned about the historical background of the 8th September and how it was proclaimed as "International Literacy Day".

Dr. Shanti Ram Sharma, Joint Director SCERT made a PowerPoint presentation on Adult Literacy effectively highlighting the concept of adult literacy.

He elaborated on the concept, reasons behind Adult Literacy taking back seat, NLM (National Literacy Mission) and major recommendation of NEP 2020 about Adult Education and NIPUN Bharat programme for foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN).

In the open session various innovation perspectives and their objectives were taken into an account. Sikkim has achieved 96.24% literacy but it requires continuity. Therefore, the reading, writing habit of the learners must be givers continuity.

Chairperson of the programme, on his remarks, highlighted the value of Education, the attitude impact of reading and the way are thinks. The way a person behavior reflects how educated is the person.

He was quoted "Vidwan Sarvartra Pujyatey" Director School Education Mrs. Hondala Gyeltsen thanked the Chairperson of the programme and all the dignitaries present in the meeting and the organizing team on her vote of thanks address.

Centre, Assam jointly working towards building Jorhat-Majuli bridge in four years: Sonowal

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT: Both the Centre and the Assam government are committed to complete a bridge over the Brahmaputra river, connecting Majuli and Jorhat, within four years and are jointly working towards it, Union minister Sarbanand-Sonowal said on Friday.

The statement of Sonowal, who was a former chief minister of Assam, came two days after a boat headed to Majuli sank in the river after hitting a ferry steamer near Nimati Ghat in Jorhat district, in which one person died and two others went missing.

"We all want a bridge on the Brahmaputra and both the state and central government have taken necessary steps in this direction so that it is well constructed with the latest technology," Sonowal told media persons here.

Consumer awareness street play by Sikkim Film Cooperative Society



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:

Sikkim Film Co-Operative Society Ltd, Deorali, Gangtok in association with the State Legal Metrology Unit and CP Cell, Food & Civil Supplies & Consumer Affair Department, Government of Sikkim concluded the final show of Nukkad Natak (Street Play) "Upbhokta Ko Adhikar" at M.G Marg, Gangtok on 09 Sept.

A press release informs that the play was staged at various places like Pakyong, Rongli, Namchi, Ravangla, Gyalshing, Soreng, Duntam, Yuksom, Mangan,

Chungthang and Lal Bazaar, Gangtok.

The street play was based on Consumer Disputes & Redressal Mechanism under the latest Consumer Protection Act, 2019 and benefits available under National Food Security Act, 2013. Local artists were involved in the play and the public was also engaged in learning more about the rights and benefits of the Act.

Sikkim Film Co-operative Society, Gangtok, was established in November 2019 as a co-operative body, and has been formed for the welfare of film-makers and

artists.

The society aims to work towards the development of the regional film industry and uplift local talents from the state. In just over two years Sikkim Film Co-operative Society has been able to work with the vision of becoming a full-fledged body, equipped to handle all film, media and printing and designing and awareness projects, the release mentions.

Global Cinema Festival Sikkim 2020 held in Feb/March 2020 was the maiden project of Sikkim Film Co-Operative Society Ltd.

West Sikkim trio run for addiction-free society



RUDRA KAUSHIK

GYALSHING, 09 SEPT:

To promote positivity in society, three youths from Lingchom, West Sikkim, started a marathon from Kyongsa Playground, Gyalshing, towards Bhaichung Stadium, Namchi in South Sikkim. The trio started the run this morning with the message of addiction-free society and physical well-being of all.

The runners Su-

hang Lombu, Iksha Hang Limbu and Oth Hang Limbu are students of Lingchom Senior Secondary School. They said that the initiative has been taken to guide the younger generation towards the right direction and keep them away from substance abuse.

The marathon was flagged off by OSD, SP Mangyung, Sikkim Limbu Cultural Board in the

presence of Member of SKM Youth Wing, NB Gurung, general secretary, SKM CLC, Yangthang Constituency, KBLimbu.

The three youths have already completed a short marathon covering 25 kilometers from Lingchom to Uttarey, West Sikkim. Today's run covered the route from Kyongsa via Legship, Jorethang and ended at Bhaichung Stadium, Namchi.

AIR Gangtok begins Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav programmes

GANGTOK, 09 SEPT (PIB): The Regional News Unit of All India Radio, Gangtok has initiated a series of programmes to mark Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which celebrates 75 years of India's independence.

Under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav series, a 10-minute talk is being broadcast every first and last Monday of each month at 19:05hrs. The programme covers various facets of the freedom struggle including events, personalities and locations in

this journey as well as reflects India@75, the country's achievements, milestones and future aspirations. The programmes are broadcast on All India Radio, Gangtok's FM Kanchengjunga (103MHz) and primary channel (MW213.67 m/1404kHz). They can also be accessed through the Newsonair app. The series is also being uploaded on the Regional News Unit, All India Radio Gangtok YouTube channel.

Besides, the Regional News Unit initiated "Aza-

di Ka Amrit Mahotsav Quiz with AIR News" in association with Sikkim Culture Department from 12 Aug, 2021. The quiz involves questions on traditions, landmarks, history and culture of Sikkim and is organized through regional bulletins in Nepali at 1840hrs, followed by Lepcha and Bhutia bulletins, every Monday and Thursday. Winners are declared in the same bulletins on the next day and are presented e-certificates by Sikkim Culture Department.

The Regional News Unit of All India Radio, Gangtok is also sharing a daily five-minute programme called "Azadi Ka Safar with AIR News" taken from national bulletins with Sikkim Information and Public Relations Department for further dissemination through various means, primarily social media.

Besides, all events under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav organized across Sikkim are covered in daily regional bulletins and other special programmes.

SRM offers scholarships to 300 students from Perambalur constituency

SUMMIT REPORT

KATTANKULATHUR, 10 SEPT:

SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur is offering scholarships to 300 students from the Perambalur constituency. This was announced by SRMIST's Founder Chancellor and Perambalur Constituency Member of Parliament, Dr TR Paarivendhar.

Speaking at the press conference held at the Institute's premises he said, "This is part of my promise to the people of Perambalur constituency. For the last two years, SRMIST had given free education to 600 students. This year too I will keep up my election promise and provide free education to 300 students from my constituency."

Students from the Perambalur Lok Sabha segment, who wish to pursue Engineering & Technology, Science & Humanities, Agricultural Sciences, Management, Health Sciences, Hotel Management, etc. can apply. Applicants from economically weaker sections will be selected based on their performance in their respective board examinations.

These 300 students from economically weaker sections in the Perambalur constituency would be given free education at his SRM group of institutions. This scheme



will only cover full tuition fees and be renewed on basis of academic performance. In view of COVID-19 pandemic, hostel facilities will not be provided.

Dr Paarivendhar said that the SRM group would strive to make education at private universities beneficial to those from the economically weaker sections. He said, "Students should utilize this opportunity to pursue higher studies." He assured that deserving students would get suitable placements. "The selection process for this scholarship will be done based on merit and the student's economic background."

Explaining why he came up with this initiative, Dr Paarivendhar said, "My constituency consists of many people from economically weak backgrounds. Most of them are farmers and their children

don't have access to good education and job opportunities."

"Apart from providing good, quality education to the people in my Constituency, I also want to provide them with better infrastructure facilities," he concluded.

Present for the press meet were SRMIST's Vice Chancellor, Dr C Muthamizhchelvan, Registrar Dr S Ponnusamy, Director (Admissions) Dr KS Lakshmi and Director (Communications), R Nandakumar.

Those eligible in his constituency need to submit the applications on or before 18 Sept, 2021. Applications for the same can be sent to Director (Admissions), SRM Nagar, Potheri, Chengalpattu District - 603203. Application forms can be downloaded from <https://admissions.srmist.edu.in/srmistonline/Perambalur>.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT

National Bamboo Mission
KRISHI BHAWAN, TADONG

Memo No. 53/NBM/Hort.

Dated: 08/09/2021

OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS

The Horticulture Department, Government of Sikkim with a view to provide entrepreneurship opportunities in bamboo sector invites Expression of Interest for Project Proposals with back ended 60% (50% plus additional 10% for NE states) subsidies through banks from individual entrepreneurs/ registered NGOs / SHGs / Private Organizations for the year 2021-22 for setting up following bamboo-based Micro/Medium/ Big enterprises under the Restructured National Bamboo Mission in the State of Sikkim.

Sl.No.	Activities	Subsidy	Phy.Target (Nos.)
1.	Establishment of Carbonization Plant	Rs.30 lac or 50% of project cost whichever is less	1 (Pvt Sector)
2.	Establishment of Livelihood Business Incubators	Rs.100 lac or 100% of project cost whichever is less	1 (Govt. Sector)
3.	Bamboo Furniture making	Rs.25 lac or 60% of project cost whichever is less	3 (Pvt Sector)
4.	Fabric / Jewellery making	Rs.15 lac or 60% of project cost whichever is less	1 (Pvt Sector)
5.	Incense Stick Making	Rs.25 lac or 60% of project cost whichever is less	2 (Pvt Sector)
6.	Handicrafts & Cottage Industry	Rs.15 lac or 60% of project cost whichever is less	5 (Pvt Sector)
7.	Common Facility Centre	Rs.25 lac or 100% of project cost whichever is less	1 (Govt Sector)
8.	Rural Haat	Rs.20 lac or 100% of project cost whichever is less	1 (Govt Sector)

The proposals after scrutiny of all relevant documents and ascertaining feasibility by a committee headed by Mission Director, National Bamboo Mission will be forwarded to Banks for granting loans. Priority will be given to those individuals / organizations having past experience on bamboo handicrafts, marketing, and industrial production etc. Also the detail estimate submitted may include cost for construction of work shed / machinery certified by civil/ Mechanical Engineer with proper seal and signature alongwith the application and should the application and should reach the office of the Mission Director, NBM within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice.

After the final scrutiny of the submitted details Project Report by the committee, agreement copy to be signed between the department official (NBM) and party willing to undertake the project. For Govt Sector, minimum 10 years experience in Bamboo related activities like product designing, Value Addition of Bamboo and past experiences for setting up units or related activities in any other state to be submitted with details project report alongwith the application and should reach the office of the Mission Director, NBM within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice. For further enquiries, interested individuals/organizations may contact Mission Director, NBM – 8145695154/ 7001411965 email: nbmssikkim@gmail.com. The detailed guidelines are available at www.nbm.nic.in.

R.O. No. 190/IPR/Pub/Class./21-22
Date: 10.9.2021

MISSION DIRECTOR, NBM]
HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT
File No: 142SBD/HCDD.



STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD SIKKIM FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
DEORALI, GANGTOK – 737102

F.No. 351/SPCB/3181

Dated: 8.9.2021

NOTICE

As per the provisions of Section 25 of water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 21 of Air (Prevention & Control of pollution) Act, 1981, no person/s can establish or operate any enterprise, industrial units without obtaining prior Consent to Establish or Operate which are liable for causing environment pollution. The units include any type of enterprises/establishments e.g. Health care Establishment (Hospital, Clinics, Clinical labs, blood bank etc), Pharmaceutical units, Fabrication units, factories, Vehicle cleaning facility (car spa), Automobile workshop/ Garages, Hydro-electric project and industrial units, Hotels, Resorts, restaurants, Hot mix plant, DG Sets, Mobile tower, petrol pumps, photo studios, Dairy, Bakery, Laundry and jewellery shops, poultry farms (5000 birds & above) etc.

Therefore, notice is hereby given to all units to apply for Consent to Establish/Operate online at www.skocmms.nic.in without fail. Failure to obtain Consent may result in legal action in exercise of power vested under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Section 33 A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 & under section 31 A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 by the State Pollution Control Board Sikkim for contravention of the relevant provisions of the Acts.

For further enquiry please contact the office of the State Pollution Control Board, Sikkim Deorali Gangtok, East Sikkim.

Email: spcbsikkim@gmail.com

Member Secretary
State Pollution Control Board, Sikkim
Department of Forest & Environment,
Government of Sikkim
Deorali, East Sikkim.

R.O. No. 192/IPR/Pub/Class./21-22
Date: 10.9.2021

Divided in Suspicion

Anyone can deal in whispers, it takes leaders to deliver coherence

It is worrying how discussions on communalism and/ or factionalism continue to remain in circulation and of how often different sections and groups keep crying wolf, painting monsters only they see and hyperventilating over threats only they perceive. After all, into how many slivers can a population of barely 7 lakh people be divided? Of course, with some sections, the divisions are a simple two-way process of “us” and “them”, and that is a disturbing condition to suffer because that reduces every disagreement into an attack, every counter argument into an attempt to deny or subvert.

To begin with, let us not deny that divisions exist within the Sikkimese society. That much is natural, but what has also been exceptionally reassuring about the State is that the privately held prejudices have not been allowed by the people to pour out in public displays of communal posturing; at least not a scale that causes any more damage than hurt feelings. The State, despite some close calls, has never suffered a communal clash. Its politics and several politicians have often succumbed to communalism, but the people have performed much better. The politics of social engineering, of stitching together winning vote-bank combinations have also been tried, and have, thankfully failed as well in Sikkim.

But, if people are resistant to communal confrontations, why is the bogey raised so often in Sikkim? Perhaps because it is an easy divide to hack away at and experience elsewhere has shown that the people's defenses eventually crumble in the face of persistent communal scare-mongering. Given that everyone belongs to some community or the other, it is an accepted fact that people are also inherently communal, at least in as much as having a soft corner, if not hate, is concerned. Also, because we are social animals, this inherent communal streak seldom develops into paranoia or gets directed against other communities because in a small place like Sikkim everyone needs everyone else. This conditioning of social grooming, however, gets stressed when the leader of a pack smells blood – the possibility of making an issue emotive and convincing a people that they are threatened. Few things move off the counter faster than a fabricated conspiracy theory. The more dramatic the fabrication, the more looming is the threat perception. Years of shepherding a disinterested public has honed the skills of these leaders and they are only aided by the blunted perspicacity of the people. People share the blame of allowing space for such voices which keep growing in belligerence because no one holds them to account.

One must realise that India has perhaps the best, most detailed Constitution at hand for the protection of its minorities. Ironically, the minorities still feel perpetually threatened in our country. It is unlikely that any minority was ever threatened as a state policy in the past; it was the majority they feared. As time passed, this suspicion fermented into animosity and now teeters on the brink of hatred. When one weighs in the current environment where hate crimes result often from the not so subtle nudging from the new powers in Delhi, one shudders to think what madness still awaits the country. In that light, one is almost relieved that the ultra-nationalist brigade has rediscovered an enemy in Pakistan because that just might keep their paws off the victims back home. But, like always, we digress here. One needs to ask who allowed such hate and such suspicions to get so normal? Surely not the people, because they are too preoccupied with aam-aadmi concerns. It's the leaders who failed us. This deduction holds as true for Sikkim as it does for the nation.

Those claiming to represent communities started becoming instigators instead of counselors. These leaders forget that democracy offers people the right to self-determination, the right to negotiate, the right to harmonise. Instead, they allowed their supporters only the options of complaint, bickering and suspicion. Someone who speaks for a community should bridge the communication gap between communities. Anyone can deal in whispers, but it takes a leader to represent a cause and mediate.

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



What is KYC-VS, the new update on CoWIN to check vaccination status

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
THE INDIAN EXPRESS

With the economy gradually re-opening, the government has come out with a way for people to check the Covid vaccination status of their employers, clients or service providers.

The Health Ministry on Friday introduced an update on the CoWIN IT platform, where beneficiaries book Covid-19 vaccination appointments and download the digital vaccination certificates. The new update is called the Know Your Customer's/ Client's Vaccination Status (KYC-VS).

What is the KYC-VS?

KYC-VS is a new application programming interface (API) launched on the CoWIN platform. The new feature will enable entities to check an individual's status of vaccination through CoWIN.

Why has the new feature been added to CoWIN?

The health ministry said that it has been developed for purposes where an entity does not need to see the vaccination certificate in full, and would just need to know whether an individual has been vaccinated or not.

“As socio-economic activities are being gradually revived while maintaining everyone's safety, there is a need for a way to digitally convey the status of individuals' vaccination to entities with whom they may be engaging with for any or all reasons, as employees, passengers, residents,” the health ministry said.

Where can this feature be commonly accessed?

The government has specifically cited common instances where the new feature will be helpful.

First, when an enterprise or employer may like to know the vaccination status of its employees to resume functions in offices, workplaces.

Second, when the railways may want to get the status of vaccination of the passengers booking seats on trains.

Third, when airlines may want to get the status of vaccination of passengers buying tickets, and/ or airports may want to allow only vaccinated passengers to pass through.

Fourth, it can be used by hotels, when they want to know the vaccination status of the residents at the time they are checking into the hotel, or at the time of making online bookings.

How will KYC-VS work?

It will be an Adhaar-like authentication service through CoWIN. To use this function, the beneficiary needs to enter her mobile number and name. Thereafter, they will get an OTP which they have to enter.

In return, CoWIN will send a response to the verifying entity on the individual's status of vaccination, which will be as follows: 0 – Person is not vaccinated; 1 – Person is partially vaccinated; 2 – Person is fully vaccinated.

This response will be digitally signed and can be shared instantly with the verifying entity, the health ministry said.

Has the new API addressed issues related privacy?

Yes. The health ministry said that the new feature is both consent-based and privacy-preserving. “A real-life example could be when at the time of booking a railway ticket, an individual will input the necessary details for buying the ticket and if required, the concerned entity will also get the vaccination status in the same transaction, with the due consent of the individual,” the health ministry said.



An Indian Muslim's lament for his homeland

ABDUL KHALIQ
The Indian Express

India runs through my veins. It is the core of my being, my home, indelible and irreplaceable. Far from being a mere geographical space, it evokes a sense of belonging and emotional bonding that encompasses family, friends, custom and tradition. It is the precious locus of good and bad times, where my fondest memories and hopes reside. It is where I have found community and brotherhood in a many-splendoured, multicultural ethos. But of late, it makes my heart ache.

I am an Indian but the fact that I am a Muslim threatens to undermine my claim to equal citizenship. A narrative built around cultural symbolism, abrasive religious differences, historical injustices, ethnocentrism has become a potent rallying point for demonising and stigmatising an entire community. The contestation of what constitutes Indianness has peaked in the last few years and by the looks of it, the idea of India as homogenous, exclusive and Hindu, where minorities live on sufferance as second-class citizens is here. What terrifies me is that rampant systemic discrimination against Muslims has taken root and will not easily go away.

The Supreme Court has recently emphasised the critical democratic need for speaking truth to power. Chief Justice N V Ramana underscored the importance of the independence of the judiciary, stating that it “cannot be controlled, directly or indirectly by legislature or executive, or else rule of law would become

illusory”. Mighty words indeed. However, when confronted with the first real test of its determination to uphold democratic norms, the topmost judicial body chose expediency over justice.

As the SC collegium pats itself on the back for the appointment of nine judges to the SC in one go and for digging in its heels on 12 names for high courts, its ignoring of the legitimate claims of a Muslim candidate has gone largely unnoticed.

Chief Justice of Tripura, Akil Kureshi, is ranked second in the all-India list of seniority for judges of high courts. His ostensible crime is that as a judge in the Gujarat High Court, he gave two judicial verdicts that incensed the powers that be, but also enhanced his reputation as a fiercely independent judge. By ignoring his legitimate claims, the Supreme Court has reinforced the belief that majoritarian sentiment holds sway in the institutions of governance.

In the US, the most brazen example of a racist system is the mass incarceration of blacks who are sent to prison at more than five times the rate of whites. The main worry for those concerned with criminal justice reform is that many individuals are punished not solely because of their crime but because of the colour of their skin. Our criminal justice system too is heavily skewed against the Muslim. The latest NCRB data shows that Muslims, who make up 14.2 per cent of the population, comprise 16.6 per cent convicts, 18.7 per cent undertrials and 35.8 per cent detenues. But, of course, say the baiters, Muslims are more prone to crime than

others. Sadly, this kind of unattested prejudice is what the Muslim faces today.

So, let's get to the specifics. The communal riots in Northeast Delhi in February 2020 were the most awful expression of man's inhumanity to man. By all accounts, including that of a team of three former Supreme Court judges, Muslims bore the brunt of the mayhem. Official figures bear this out — 53 dead, of whom 40 were Muslims, and 85 per cent of property damaged belonging to Muslims.

It is the surreal distortions and manifest bias of the police investigations that are deeply troubling to the minority community. Even as the investigations were underway, the Special Commissioner of Police, in an order to officers heading the probe teams, stated that arrests of some Hindu youth had caused “a degree of resentment among the Hindu community”. The order further named two Muslim youth, stating that there is resentment among the Hindu community at alleged police inaction “against the two”. Shorn of bureaucratise, the CP's letter was a call to go easy on Hindus and to fix Muslims.

The subsequent criminal case filed against the CP was decided in his favour on the grounds that 535 Hindus and 513 Muslims had been charge-sheeted and hence it could not be construed that his order fanned prejudice. Although Muslims were disproportionately targeted, the chargesheets were evenly handed out between the two communities, an inversion of justice that is par for the course in today's India.

The Tablighi Jamaat case is another scandalous communal witch-hunt, aided and abetted by the entire executive. A year on, the courts are still unravelling the iniquities in these investigations.

The past ghosts of our history are being resuscitated to intensify the alienation of the Muslim. Partition Horrors Remembrance Day is endorsed as a fitting commemoration of the suffering of Hindus and Sikhs at the time of Partition. The comparable suffering of Muslims is sought to be erased. To equate Partition with the Holocaust, where six million innocent Jews were victims of the Nazi horror, is a degenerate correlation. But then, as George Orwell points out, “every nationalist is haunted by the belief that the past can be altered... material facts are suppressed... events which ought not to have happened are left unmentioned and ultimately denied.”

A leading social scientist has lamented the plight of Muslims who “have been subjected to the untold misery of being excluded from the idea of the public”. There is hardly any public outrage at their wretched situation. Even allegedly secular political parties are averse to giving them overt support and solace. Segregated, they live in a mind-numbing environment of prejudice and hostility, victims of everyday cruelty. At a time when parallels are being drawn between the horrors of Partition and the Holocaust, the Muslim is left dreading the thought that his beloved homeland is becoming like the Heimat of Germany in the 1930s.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
NAMCHI, SOUTH SIKKIM

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT NO:- 01 /EDN/NAMCHI/SD /2021-2022

DATED:- 06/09/2021

Sealed tenders in percentage basis are invited on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim for the works mentioned below from the Appropriate classes of registered Contractors enlisted under Sikkim Public Works Department, Vide Notification No. 515/R&B/PWD/Secy; Dated 12/06/2018, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of respective Gram Panchayat /Urban local bodies where the work is to be executed to reach the office of the Assistant Engineer, Education Department, Namchi. The work details are tabulated below;

S.No.	Name of Work	Contitu-ency	Gram Pan-chayat Unit	Value put to tender(in Rupees)	Earnest-mone-y @ 2.5% for issue of tender form(in Rupees)	Bank Receipt for cost of tender docu-ments (in Rupees.)	Comple-tion time
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Construction of Four roomed School building at Sorok-Manpur Primary School.	Poklok Kamrang	Sorok -Shyam-pani	5704467.00	142612.00	5000.00	12 months
2	Construction of Four roomed School building at Dhargaon Primary School	Poklok Kamrang	Salghari	5691667.00	142292.00	5000.00	12 months
3	Construction of Four roomed School building at Chiyadara Primary School	Poklok Kamrang	Damthang	5731933.00	143298.00	5000.00	12 months
4	Construction of Four roomed School build-ing at Barbotey Primary School	Poklok Kamrang	Tinik -Chiso-pani	5704639.00	142616.00	5000.00	12 months
5	Construction of Four roomed School building at Nandugaon-Suntaley Primary School	Poklok Kamrang	Poklok- Denc-hung	5709583.00	142740.00	5000.00	12 months
6	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Sal-ghari .	Poklok Kamrang	Salghari	5752408.00	143810.00	5000.00	12 months
7	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Nam-chi New Sec-ondary School Council.	Namchi Singithang	Ward Council Lower Ghur-pisey	5731328.00	143283.00	5000.00	12 months
8	Construction of Four roomed primary School building at Namchi Girls Senior Second-ary School.	Namchi Singithang	Ward coun-cil Purano Namchi	5704748.00	142619.00	5000.00	12 months
9	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Kabrey Second-ary School.	Namthang Rateypani	Nagi- Karek	5801562.00	145039.00	5000.00	12 months
10	Construction of Four roomed School building at Kaizaley Ju-nior High School.	Namthang Rateypani	Nagi Karek	7201499.00	180037.00	5000.00	12 months
11	Construction of Four roomed School building at Kateng-Mag-erjung Primary School Pam-phok.	Namthang Rateypani	Kateng- Pam-phok	7166947.00	179174.00	5000.00	12 months
12	Construction of Four roomed School Building at Turung Sec-ondary School.	Namthang Rateypani	Mamring	7066504.00	176663.00	5000.00	12 months
13	Construction of Four roomed School building at Rolu-Manpur Primary School.	Melli	Sumbuk- Kar-tikey	6700265.00	167507.00	5000.00	12 months
14	Construction of Four roomed School building at Rokdara Pri-mary School.	Melli	Sadam- Sun-taley	5428359.00	135709.00	5000.00	12 months
15	Construction of Four roomed School building at Suntaley Ju-nior High School.	Melli	Sadam- Sun-taley	5436302.00	135908.00	5000.00	12 months
16	Construction of Four roomed School building at Maypong Ju-nior High School.	Ralang Barfung	Borong-Phamtham	5704624.00	142616.00	5000.00	12 months
17	Construction of Four roomed School building at Paksom Ju-nior High School.	Ralang Barfung	Borong-Phamtham	5705083.00	142627.00	5000.00	12 months

18	Construction of Four roomed School building at Lingding Sec-ondary School.	Ralang Barfung	Ralang- Nam-lung	5704165.00	142604.00	5000.00	12 months
19	Construction of Four roomed School building at Lamaten Pri-mary School.	Ralang Barfung	Kewzing-Bakhim	5704165.00	142604.00	5000.00	12 months
20	Construction of Four roomed School building at Bbanday Pri-mary School.	Rangyang Yangang	Niya -Mangz-ing	5700524.00	142513.00	5000.00	12 months
21	Construction of Four roomed School building at Gangla Pri-mary School.	Rangyang Yangang	Rabong Sang-moo	5692322.00	142308.00	5000.00	12 months
22	Construction of Four roomed School building at Upper Togdey Primary School.	Rangyang Yangang	Kolthang- Tok-dey	5704624.00	142616.00	5000.00	12 months
23	Construction of Four roomed School Building at Rikyap Pri-mary School.	Temi Nam-phing	Namphing	5704624.00	142616.00	5000.00	12 months
24	Construction of Four roomed School building at Ben Senior Secondary School.	Temi Nam-phing	Ben -Namprick	5704624.00	142616.00	5000.00	12 months
25	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Lower Chalamthang Ju-nior High School Namphing.	Temi Nam-phing	Namphing	5404128.00	135103.00	5000.00	12 months
26	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Nam-phing Secondary School.	Temi Nam-phing	Namphing	5432128.00	135803.00	5000.00	12 months
27	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Sok-pay Junior High School.	Tumin Lingee	Lingee- Sok-pay	5188879.00	129722.00	5000.00	12 months

TIME SCHEDULE

i)	Date for submission of application with bank receipt, for issue of Tender docu-ments	13/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no 1 to 09) 14/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no10 to 19) 15/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no.20 to 27) (Timing 10:30hrs to 15:00 hrs)
ii)	Date of issue of Tender form/ Tender documents	16/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no 1 to 09) 17/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no10 to 19) 21/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no.20 to 27) (Timing 10:30hrs to 15:00 hrs)
iii)	Date and time for submission of Tender	22/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no 1 to 09) 23/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no10 to 19) 24/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no.20 to 27) (Timing 10:30hrs to 13:30 hrs)
iv)	Date and time of opening of Tender	22/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no 1 to 09) 23/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no10 to 19) 24/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no.20 to 27) (Timing 14:30 hrs to 16:30 hrs)

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:-

- Tender is open only to the eligible contractors of appropriate class/Area.
- The intending tenderer/contractor should apply in writing for issue of tender form for/tender documents. The application should invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. Tender documents will not be issued to any person other than the intending tenderer. The application shall be submitted for the work listed above with all the required documents.
- The applicants should enclose attested copies of the (a) GST Registration certificate (b) Income tax clearance certificate (c) Professional tax certificate (d) Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along with the application during sale/issue of Tender Documents for verification.
- Earnest Money (EM) 2.5% duly deposited in the State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of T.D.R. in favor of Sr. Accounts Officer, Education Department, Government of Sikkim Gangtok. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of the T.D.R., as prescribed to those contractors or firms who have obtained the Tender Documents.
- The prescribed Non- Transferable Tender Documents (Excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified in as above from the **office of the Assistant Engineer, Education Department, Namchi Sub-Division**, on the production of requisite Bank receipt/challan of the State Bank of Sikkim towards the tender document (Non- refundable) under the receipt head 0202-01-101-03 other receipts .
- The Tender Documents, including the tender form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of tenderer and the name of work superscripted on it. Supporting documents listed at Sl. No. :- 3(a) (b) (c) and (d) should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed Tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the **office of the Assistant Engineer (Education) Namchi** in his/ her presence, on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Tenders will be opened by a tender opening committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and condition of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST and all other levied taxes. Incomplete/Conditional tender shall be rejected forth with.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rates as per approved schedule of rate will be taken as correct. For items outside of SOR, the rate shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis.
- The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directive of the Department.
- The Department reserves the right to hold payments to the contractor unless material/quality test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
- Avoidable damages due to the negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any) i/c accidents to laborer at site, damage to any structural components due to negligence of workmanship.
- The work should commence within 15 days from the date of issue of work order. If the contractor fails to take up the work within a period of 3 months the contract will be rescinded and the TDR shall be forfeited by the Department.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be a part of the Agreement to be entered with the contractor.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The recoveries of Goods and Service Tax and Royalties on the forest product shall be as per the rates notified by Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment.
- Subletting of contractor work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- In case the man powers employed by the contractor are from outside the State or neighboring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant labour laws.

R.O No. 185/IPR/Pub/Classi./21-22
Dated: 08.09.21

Sd/-
Assistant Engineer (South)
Education Department
Government of Sikkim

SAmerican players who missed WC qualifiers set for EPL duty

LONDON (AP): Newcastle manager Steve Bruce has indicated the players in the English Premier League under threat of a five-day ban from FIFA for missing World Cup qualifiers in South America have been cleared to play in games this weekend.

Brazil triggered a FIFA regulation in a bid to prevent eight of its players from competing for their respective clubs in England's top flight. They were called up for World Cup qualifiers but didn't travel after Premier League teams objected to their players going to South American nations which are red-listed by the British government because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other South American national teams missing England-based players included Uruguay (Edinson Cavani), Chile (Francisco Sierralta) and Paraguay (Miguel Almiron).

The five-day window would cover the period immediately after the current international window, which for South America ended on Thursday.

However, Almiron is available to play against Manchester United on Saturday, according to Bruce.

"It's a difficult one for the players because the ultimate is to play for your country. They've been drawn into a difficult situation," Bruce said. "However, a bit of common sense has prevailed and he's available for selection so we're extremely pleased."

Among the Brazilian Premier League players under threat are Alisson, Fabinho and Roberto Firmino at Liverpool; Ederison and Gabriel Jesus at Manchester City; Thiago Silva at Chelsea; and Fred at Manchester United.

The Premier League teams had said that if players went, they then would have to spend 10 days in hotel quarantine upon their return and have little chance of training.

Verdicts due in Swiss forgery trial of Olympic official

GENEVA (AP): Verdicts are due in a Geneva court on Friday in the trial of Olympic power broker Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahad al-Sabah for alleged forgery linked to implicating political rivals in Kuwait in a coup plot.

The public prosecutor has asked the panel of three judges to sentence Sheikh Ahmad to six months' jail time with a further two years suspended.

He has been publicly sidelined from his Olympic leadership roles since he was indicted in November 2018.

The sheikh and four other men are accused of staging a sham arbitration case in Geneva seeking to authenticate video footage of a possible coup in the oil-rich kingdom.

Sheikh Ahmad was questioned over five hours during a six-day trial conducted in French, Arabic and English at the Tribunal Correctionnel in the upscale Swiss city.

All five men denied wrongdoing and their lawyers asked for acquittals. Appeals are likely if any are convicted.

WHO IS SHEIKH AHMAD?

One of the most influential Olympic officials of the past decade known as the "kingmaker" of international sports elections.

Since 1991 he's led the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) created by his father. One year later he joined the International Olympic Committee whose members elect host cities.

Sheikh Ahmad's influence grew in 2012 when he was



elected president of ANOC, the global group of 206 national Olympic committees. He also chaired an IOC panel that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars to Olympic athletes and teams.

He was a strong supporter in the 2013 election of current IOC president Thomas Bach.

The sheikh stepped aside — "temporarily self-suspended" in the Olympic phrase — from the IOC and ANOC after being indicted by Geneva prosecutors in November 2018. He continues to lead the OCA.

He was also an executive

committee member at FIFA from 2015-17.

As a member of Kuwait's ruling family, the 58-year-old sheikh has been a government minister and in 2005 was secretary general of the OPEC cartel of oil-producing nations.

WHAT WAS THE CASE ABOUT?

Allegations of a coup implicating a rival faction in Kuwait's ruling al-Sabah family.

In 2013 Sheikh Ahmad presented video footage to Kuwaiti authorities that alleged to show a former prime minister, Sheikh Nasser al-

Mohammed al-Sabah, and a former speaker in parliament, Jassim al-Kharafi, discussing a coup. The two men could have faced the death penalty for treason.

Lawyers for Sheikh Nasser al-Mohammed and the al-Kharafi family filed a criminal complaint in 2015 in Geneva, which is a world hub for commercial arbitration.

The forgery charges center on a 2014 arbitration case in Geneva, later presented to the High Court in London, that sought to verify the videos.

Prosecutors allege the five defendants took part in a

sham legal dispute involving backdated documents and a shell company in Delaware they controlled that led to a staged arbitration case.

The case was "the scenario of a thriller," a lawyer for Sheikh Nasser al-Mohammed, Jean-Pierre Jacquemoud, said in court.

Prosecutor Stéphane Grodecki said the case should focus on the alleged faked arbitration process, not the authenticity of video footage.

WHO WAS CHARGED?

Sheikh Ahmad, a Kuwaiti who prosecutors say was a trusted aide, and three law-

yers based in Geneva in 2014.

English lawyer Matthew Parish, who is being tried in his absence, faces the longest sentence of four years' jail time. The prosecutor asked the court to sentence aide Hamad al-Haroun to three years, with 18 months to be served and 18 months suspended. He lives in London after being granted asylum since 2014.

The arbitrator who was allegedly paid 10,000 Swiss francs (\$10,900) to sign the judgment and another lawyer alleged to have worked with Parish face suspended sentences.

THE DEFENSE

Sheikh Ahmad was questioned in court on Aug. 31. He said he trusted his lawyers and signed the documents presented to him.

The sheikh — referred to often in court by his lawyer as Mr. al-Sabah — said he believed the videos were genuine. He apologized on Kuwait television in 2015.

Long-time IOC legal advisor François Carrard was due in court last week to give a statement in support of Sheikh Ahmad. A medical issue was cited for his late cancellation. Lawyers acting separately for the two Kuwaiti defendants have shifted the focus to Parish.

Al-Haroun's lawyer said his client was motivated by trying to protect the state of Kuwait, that he did not have qualifications and experience for an arbitration process, and had relied on Parish.

Emma Raducanumakes tennis history. Watch the "Point That Changed Her Life"



Emma Raducanu made history by becoming the first ever qualifier to reach a women's singles Grand Slam final.

Emma Raducanu made history by becoming the first ever qualifier to reach the women's singles final at a Grand Slam. The British teen defeated 17th seeded Maria Sakkari of Greece 6-1, 6-4 in the semi-finals at the US Open on Thursday (local time) to also become the youngest Grand Slam finalist in 17 years. A 17-year-old Maria Sharapova had won the Wimbledon title in 2004. Raducanu, who is ranked

150th in the world, will take on another teen Leylah Fernandez, 19, of Canada in the women's singles US Open final.

US Open's Twitter handle shared a video of the final point that sent Raducanu into the final. The Briton was visibly shocked, holding her head in disbelief at what she had just achieved.

First time in over two decades, two teens will battle it for the top honours in a Grand Slam final. At the 1999 US open, a 17-year-old Serena Williams took on and beat Martina Hingis, 18.

This is just the eighth

instance that an all-teen Grand Slam final will be witnessed in the Open era (since 1968).

"I'm in the final and I can't actually believe it," Raducanu said.

"Is there any expectation?" Raducanu said. "I'm a qualifier so technically on paper there's no pressure on me."

Raducanu will be up against Leylah Fernandez, who beat second seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 7-6 (7/3), 4-6, 6-4 to reach the final.

"Now I can say I've done a pretty good job of achieving my dreams," Fernandez said.

IPL 2021: Delhi Capitals Capable Of Performing Even Better In Second Half, Says Steve Smith

IPL 2021: Delhi Capitals will resume their campaign against SunRisers Hyderabad on September 22

Australia star batsman Steve Smith, who has joined the Delhi Capitals camp in Dubai, feels that the team can do even better in the second half of the IPL 2021. The Delhi Capitals are currently at the top of the table with 12 points, registering six wins in eight matches. "We have to pick up from where we left off. We were playing some really good cricket, getting the results we were after. And I think we can do even better so we should be playing our best cricket in the back end of the tournament. You have to play well enough to get to the final, but hopefully, we can play our best cricket in the final," said Smith in a Delhi Capitals release.

The Australian added that the team will certainly have to build itself again for the remainder of the IPL.

"It's been a few months since we have played together so we have to

build again. We have a great squad and we have Shreyas Iyer back in the side as well, which adds a lot more to us. He's a quality player and good to see him back out in the park," said Smith.

While speaking about the unfortunate situation around the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Smith said that he's fortunate to be playing in the IPL during a tumultuous time.

"It's been a very unique time in the world in the last 18 months. We've all had to work together to try and get through this and we have to continue to get through the situation," said Smith.

"I am really fortunate to have a chance to come back for the second half of the tournament. I am looking forward to it. Delhi is sitting at a great spot on the table so hope that we can keep playing some great cricket and be there at the business end of the tournament," he added.

Delhi Capitals will take on the SunRisers Hyderabad on September 22 when the IPL 2021 season resumes.

Lionel Messibreaks Pele's record with hat-trick against Bolivia

Lionel Messi scored a hat-trick to overtake Pele as the top international goalscorer in South American football history on Thursday as Argentina cruised to a 3-0 victory over Bolivia in their 2022 World Cup qualifier.

Lionel Messi scored a hat-trick to overtake Pele as the top international goalscorer in South American football history on Thursday as Argentina cruised to a 3-0 victory over Bolivia in their 2022 World Cup qualifier. Messi pounced for his 77th, 78th and 79th international goals to keep Argentina firmly on course for a place at next year's finals in Qatar against a Bolivia team languishing near the foot of the table. The 34-year-old Paris Saint-Germain forward, making his 153rd appearance for Argentina, drew level with Pele's longstanding mark of 77 goals in the 14th minute, nutmegging a defender and then curl-

ing a sublime shot past Bolivia goalkeeper Carlos Lampe.

The Argentina captain then moved one clear of Pele in the 64th minute with his second of the night, surging into the Bolivian box and playing a one-two with Lautaro Martinez before tucking away a finish from close range.

Messi completed the seventh international hat-trick of his career two minutes from time, burying a rebound from close range after a shot from the edge of the area was only parried by Lampe.

The former Barcelona star's great rival Cristiano Ronaldo holds the outright record for goals scored in international football with 111 from 180 games

The victory came just four days after Argentina were embroiled in controversy with regional rivals Brazil in Sao Paulo, with the two teams' qualifier on Sunday abandoned after seven minutes due to a COVID-19 controversy.

Brazilian authorities stopped the game after protesting at the involvement of England-based players Giovanni Lo Celso and Cristian Romero of Tottenham, and Aston Villa's Emiliano Martinez and Emiliano Buendia.

All four players, who were accused by Brazil of falsifying entry records to the country, played no part in Thursday's game in Buenos Aires after being released from the squad by the Argentina Football Association.

There was no sign of a hangover from the controversy amongst Argentina's players on Thursday, as Messi quickly took centre stage to surpass Brazilian great Pele's record in style.

With Messi in typically impish form, Argentina might have had more goals.

Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez, who also had a first-half goal ruled out

for offside should have scored after being set up by Messi with a glorious chance on 39 minutes, dragging his shot wide from close range.

Messi also might have had a second goal in the first half, linking cleverly with PSG team-mate Angel Di Maria before flashing a curling shot just wide.

However the goals finally came for Messi in the second half as Argentina cruised home.

The win leaves the two-time World Cup winners second in South America's overall qualifying standings with 18 points from eight games.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com

"No Question of forfeiting" 5th Test: BCCI Vice President Rajeev Shukla

The BCCI Vice President Rajeev Shukla on Friday said negotiations with England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) are underway to resolve the issues "amicably" following the cancellation of the Manchester Test.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Vice President Rajeev Shukla on Friday said negotiations with England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) are underway to resolve the issues "amicably" following the cancellation of the Manchester Test. "After wide consultations between BCCI President, BCCI Secretary, Treasurer, me and Joint Secretary, along with ECB Chairman and CEO and in consultations with players, captain,

senior players it was decided to call off this Test match which was slated in Manchester," Shukla told ANI.

"And other things you know, other negotiations with ECB will continue in order to resolve the whole issue amicably. There is no question of forfeiting the match, it has been only called off," he added.

When asked whether the match will be played at a later date, Shukla said: "Those negotiations are taking place."

The fifth and final Test between India and England has been cancelled due to "fears of a further increase in the number of COVID cases" inside the Indian camp.

"Following ongoing conversa-

tions with the BCCI, the ECB can confirm that the fifth LV= Insurance Test between England and India Men due to start today at Emirates Old Trafford, will be cancelled," ECB said in a statement.

Ahead of the fifth and final Test against England, physio Yogesh Parmar tested positive for COVID-19 in Manchester. This had led to Team India's training session for Thursday afternoon being cancelled.

However, there were no COVID-19 related worries in the England camp and Jos Buttler had said everything is fine and the hosts were looking forward to the game before the match was cancelled on Friday.

CONTACT

SUMMITTIMES
REPORTERS
SINGTAM
8170070813

MANGAN/ DIKCHU
9832612485/
9434011213

GANGTOK
9800571148
8116388176
9832424750
8016270440

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Citing high shot rates, Danes end COVID-19 restriction

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK (AP): After 548 days with restrictions to limit the spread of COVID-19, Denmark's high vaccination rate has enabled the Scandinavian country to become one of the first European Union nations to lift all domestic restrictions.

The return to normality has been gradual, but as of Friday, the digital pass — a proof of having been vaccinated — is no longer required when entering night clubs, making it the last virus safeguard to fall.

More than 80% of people above the age of 12 have had the two shots.

"I wouldn't say it is too early. We have opened the door but we have also said that we can close it if needed," Soeren Riis Paludan, a professor of virology with the Aarhus University in Denmark's second largest city, told The Associated Press.

As of midnight, the Danish government no longer considers COVID-19 "a socially critical disease." Health Minister Magnus Heunicke said Aug. 27 that "the epidemic is under control" but warned: "we are not out of the epidemic" and the government will act as needed if necessary.

Jens Lundgren, a professor of viral diseases at the Copenhagen University Hospital said the government would be "quite willing" to reintroduce restrictions if infections spike again. He pointed at night clubs being the last thing to open because "it is the activity associated with the highest risk of transmission."

"The world is in the middle of a pandemic and none of us can claim that we are beyond the pandemic," said Lundgren



who described Denmark as being "an isolated island" where the vaccine rollout has worked. "Nobody should have the illusion that we are over this."

The tipping point in Denmark to start easing restrictions came when a majority in the age group of 50+ had the two shots, Riis Paludan said.

Since Aug. 14, a face mask on public transportation is no longer mandatory. On Sept. 1, night clubs reopened, limits on public gatherings were removed and it was no longer mandatory to show the pass when one wanted to be seated inside restaurants, or go to soccer games, fitness centers or hairdresser.

However, the face mask or shield are still mandatory at airports and people are advised to wear one when at the doctor's, test centers or hospitals. Distancing is still recommended and strict entry

restrictions still apply for non Danes at the borders. The outbreak is still considered "an ordinary dangerous illness."

"The ghost of corona sits in the back of our head," said Frank Oestergaard, a patron in a downtown Copenhagen restaurant.

After more than a year, several European countries are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel, but with caveats. Some have lifted restrictions but will introduce a vaccination passport. Others expect to do so soon. And in some places, there are few restrictions and they are not respected.

On July 19, the British government lifted remaining legal restrictions for England, though it still plans to introduce a vaccination passport for entry into nightclubs and other crowded venues at the end of September.

In Denmark's neighbor

Sweden, which has stood out among European nations for its comparatively hands-off response to the pandemic, the government said earlier this month that most restrictions, including the ceiling for private and public gatherings and the advice to work from home, will be removed as of Sept. 29.

The Scandinavian country has not gone into lockdowns or closed businesses, relying instead on citizens' sense of civic duty to control infection. According to official figures, 70% of people over the age of 15 have gotten both shots and nearly 82 % have received the first shot.

And despite a surge, most of the Balkan countries practically have no restrictions, and those which are in place are not respected.

In late May, the Danish government presented the passport app featuring a QR code and a green bar if the person

has been vaccinated twice or recently tested negative. A paper version also was available. People either had to scan the code or flash it before entering an airport, a harbor, a train station, a hairdresser or an eatery.

While in many European countries there were pockets of resistance such as passes, people used it all the time in Denmark because people trust authorities, Riis Paludan said.

Armed with their pass, people were able to get a haircut, have a drink with friends or attend a cultural event. "It was getting one's freedom back instead of having to sit at home in isolation," laughed Oestergaard.

"I think it's very good, so hopefully we can get back to a normal day in the restaurant business without checking people and just no restrictions whatsoever. That's nice," said cafe owner Ralph Marker.

Palestinian teen describes brutal attack by Israeli settlers

SILAT AL-DHAHR, West Bank (AP): More than two weeks after the attack, Tareq Zubeidi still spends most of his time in bed, too scared to leave home even if the wounds on his feet allowed him to walk normally.

The 15-year-old is haunted by the memory of what he describes as a brutal attack by Israeli settlers, who he says beat him with clubs, tied him to a tree and burned the soles of his feet.

"When I sit by myself I start thinking about all of them, and then I start sweating and my heart rate starts to increase," Zubeidi said.

While there were no witnesses to corroborate Zubeidi's account, the Aug. 17 incident took place in an area that sees frequent violence between hard-line Jewish settlers and local Palestinians.

B'Tselem, an Israeli human rights group that monitors settler violence, said it was not able to verify all the details of Tareq's account but that "it is clear that the boy was physically and mentally abused."

The group documented at least seven settler attacks on Palestinians and their property in the area around Zubeidi's village in the last two years. It says that when the Israeli military intervenes, it often sides with the settlers. The Palestinians claim the West Bank, captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war, as the main part of a future independent state.

The Israeli military says troops were dispatched to Homesh, a nearby settlement that was forcefully evacuated in 2005, after reports of Palestinians throwing rocks. When the soldiers arrived they found settlers chasing a Palestinian teenager who was later returned to his family, the military said in a statement. Settler groups

with links to Homesh declined to comment or said they were unaware of the incident. Zubeidi said he and some friends took some snacks up to the hill-top where the settlement once stood and found a place to relax. At around 9:30 a.m. they heard people shouting in Hebrew and looked up to see a small group of settlers coming toward them.

He denied he or his friends threw rocks, saying "I don't know anything about that."

Instead, he said, they fearfully ran down the hill toward their village of Silat al-Dhahr. Zubeidi said an earlier knee injury slowed him down, allowing another group of settlers in a car to catch up with him and knock him over as he descended the gravelly street that connects Homesh with the main road.

"Four settlers got out of the car and there were two others who were traveling by foot," he said. "One of them had a gun."

The settlers beat him with wooden clubs before blindfolding him and tying him to the hood of the car, he said. They drove for about five minutes, back up the hill, before the car came to a sudden halt, sending him tumbling to the ground. "Then they started to hit me, spit on me and swear at me," he said.

He said the settlers tied him to a tree and whipped him with a belt. Then they took him down, cut his legs with a knife and burned the soles of his feet with a car cigarette lighter. In the end, they hit him over the head with a club, knocking him unconscious, he said.

When he came to, he was in an army jeep with an Israeli soldier who he says immediately began threatening him. "He told me that if anything happens in the settlement we will arrest you, and if there is any stone-throwing, you will take full responsibility," Zubeidi said.

China, Hong Kong, Macao banks to offer regional investments



HONG KONG (AP): Banks in Hong Kong, Macao and China's neighboring Guangdong province are preparing to launch regional investment products soon, Hong Kong's Monetary Authority said Friday.

The investment options, dubbed the Wealth Management Connect program, are part of a plan to allow residents to invest privately between cities in the Greater Bay Area, which encompasses those areas.

The Greater Bay Area plan is part of a broader move to integrate the Chinese mainland more closely with Hong Kong and Macao. It will have a quota of 300 billion yuan (\$47 billion) in combined fund flows.

Individuals can invest up to 1 million yuan (\$155,000) each in the scheme, which was first announced by China's central bank on Thursday.

The Greater Bay Re-

gion has a population of over 70 million and a gross domestic product of nearly \$1.7 billion, comparable to South Korea's economy.

"Realistically speaking, we're expecting banks to launch their products under the wealth management connect scheme in a month or two," Edmond Lau, deputy chief executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority said in a news conference Friday.

The announcement comes days after Beijing announced plans to include Qianhai, a special co-operation zone in Guangdong's Shenzhen, and Hengqin, an island in the southern city of Zhuhai, as part of the Greater Bay Area's long-term development.

The Chinese government launched the Greater Bay Area development plan in 2017, aiming to create a global economic, innovation and technology hub.

Jorge Sampaio, former president of Portugal, dies at 81

LISBON, PORTUGAL (AP): Jorge Sampaio, a former two-term president of Portugal and one of the most prominent political figures of his generation, has died. He was 81.

The current Portuguese president, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, announced Sampaio's death on Friday. He did not give a cause of death, though Sampaio had been in delicate health for several years and had been in hospital for the past two weeks.

Sampaio "prepared himself to be a fighter, and the banners of his fight were freedom and equality," Rebelo de Sousa said in a televised statement.

He said Sampaio was like "a red-haired hurricane" in the 1960s when as a young lawyer he stood up to Portugal's then-dictatorship.

But over his six-decade political career in Portugal as a center-left Socialist and later as a diplomat for the United Nations, Sampaio earned praise for his low-key, down-to-earth manner. He once said he had always wanted to become an orchestra conductor.

At home, Sampaio was perhaps best remembered for controversially bringing down a center-right government in 2004, when he was head of state.

That was when Social Democratic Party leader José Manuel Barroso quit as prime minister to become president of the European Commission. He was replaced by his party's vice president, Pedro Santana Lopes.

After several months of government in-fighting, public gaffes and contradictions, Sampaio called early elections to end what he



called "a grave crisis of credibility and instability."

The subsequent election delivered a landslide victory to the center-left Socialist Party, which Sampaio had once headed.

Sampaio began his political career while studying law at Lisbon University in the late 1950s, rising through the ranks of underground student movements which opposed the then dictatorship of António Salazar.

After graduating, he defended prisoners tried by special courts that dealt exclusively with political cases. He associated with extreme leftist movements after the 1974 Carnation Revolution toppled the dictatorship and introduced democracy.

He took up his first government post, as secretary of state for foreign cooperation, in 1975. He was fluent in English, having lived for a year in the United States when he was eight as his father, a renowned Portuguese doctor, went to study at Johns Hopkins University in Bal-

timore, Pa..

Sampaio, whose mother was an English teacher, also spent time in England as a youngster.

He switched his allegiance to the mainstream Socialist Party in 1978 and from the following year was returned five times to parliament as a Socialist lawmaker.

Sampaio ran successfully for mayor of Lisbon, the capital, in 1979, and 10 years later became leader of the Socialist Party.

His two-term stint as mayor of the Portuguese capital provided a stage for his election as president in 1996 and his re-election in 2006, winning both elections by comfortable margins.

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed Sampaio as his special envoy on tuberculosis in 2006. The following year, Annan's successor Ban Ki-moon made him the U.N. High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations.

Sampaio is survived by his wife, a daughter and a son.

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS & SAFETY TIPS

DON'T LOWER THE GUARD

LOCKDOWN HAS BEEN LIFTED. BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THE THREAT OF COVID-19 HAS NOT YET SUBSIDED.

As we adapt to the new normal, here is a reminder of the precautions you must take:

WEAR A MASK

Always wear a mask to prevent droplets from going outside

GET A FLU VACCINATION

Get your flu shot to develop an immune response before flu season begins, particularly if you have comorbidities

WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands often, for about 20 seconds each, with soap & carry a sanitizer

MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING

Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms length) from other people

GET TESTED

Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19. Stay at home until you get the result.

COVER YOUR MOUTH & NOSE WHILE SNEEZING, OR COUGHING

Before stepping outside, make sure to carry a handkerchief or a pocket of tissues.

FOLLOW PRECAUTIONS BEFORE STEPPING OUT

Carry your sanitizer, water bottle and, most importantly, avoid crowded areas.

CHECK YOUR TEMPERATURE

Monitor your temperature on regular basis



NIGHT OUT! Actress Sofia Vergara sported a sultry outfit for an evening at E-Baldi restaurant in Beverly Hills.

Arlo Parks wins Mercury Prize for 'Collapsed in Sunbeams'



LONDON (AP): Soulful British singer-songwriter Arlo Parks has won the prestigious Mercury Prize for her debut album "Collapsed in Sunbeams."

The 21-year-old Londoner beat acts including singer Celeste, rapper Ghetts and bands Wolf Alice and Mogwai to the 25,000-pound (\$30,000) prize, which recognizes the outstanding British or Irish album of the year.

Parks, who won the best new artist award at this year's Brit Awards, cites an eclectic array of musical inspirations, including Harry Styles, Frank Ocean, Solange and Massive Attack.

The judging panel said the album "cap-

tured the spirit of the year" and addressed "such complex issues as mental health and sexuality with real empathy, displaying a lyrical wisdom that belied her 21 years."

Accepting the award late Thursday, Parks said "it took a lot of sacrifice and hard work to get here and there were moments where I wasn't sure whether I would make it through — but I am here today so thank you very much."

Established in 1992 and open to acts from Britain and Ireland, the Mercury Prize often favors the eclectic and the innovative over better-known performers. Previous winners include Michael Kiwanuka, Skepta, James Blake and Arctic Monkeys.

stand the root cause. So, do some research on the metaphysical aspects of the pain you're experiencing on a physical level. Your inner awareness will help you begin the process of healing the old traumas.

Tip: Turn your gaze inwards. It's time to start a dialogue with your body, beautiful.

Cancer: Like the Twins, you're being encouraged to turn your gaze inwards. Your body has been giving you certain signs for a while, Cancer. It's time to understand what these signs mean for you. If you feel called to work with a healer or therapist, do so without delay, beautiful. As such, you are being encouraged to focus on health and wellness right now. Go for that morning jog, if you haven't in a while or consider hopping onto the treadmill. Trust that the rush of happy hormones will chase the dark clouds of sadness out of the window.

Tip: Get your daily adrenaline fix.

Leo: Your body has been giving you signs for a while now, Leo. The real question is: are you willing to listen to what's going on? There are certain foods that are causing disturbances in your system and therefore your mind. It's best to eliminate them without delay. Given that we're in Virgo season, you are thinking

LaQuan Smith throws a fashion party at Empire State Building

NEW YORK (AP): Where the party girls at? On Thursday night, some were on top of the Empire State Building walking LaQuan Smith's New York Fashion Week runway in slinky blue and white sequin minis, barely there one pieces and shiny body hugging pants.

In his first see now, buy now show, the designer hosted about 200 guests on the landmark's famous Observation Deck with sweeping cityscape views as the wind tried to make away with one of his model's huge black hats.

"This building is a true representation of New York City dreams," Smith told The Associated Press before his evening show. "Me being a New York native, I have vivid memories of coming here as a kid. It's a full circle moment."

And he meant that literally, sending his models all around the deck to an explicit soundtrack that screamed it's time to party.

"I'm really excited to reinforce what it means to be unapologetically sexy. I'm ready to start getting people out there again," Smith said.

Kylie Jenner was out there. She showed up in her first public appearance since revealing her pregnancy with baby No. 2 in a custom Smith catsuit that put her growing belly on display under lace from neck to ankle.

On the runway, his models — including standout Winnie Harlow — were dressed to let loose. Two walked in bright white with large matching pool-dies. Others carried mini Champagne

bottles. One slightly cold-looking model showed off a bedazzled blue bikini. Smith allowed her a white open robe.

Before making their way to the top, the designer hosted a cocktail party in the landmark's lobby.



At 33, Smith has been building his sultry, luxe brand after launching in 2013, drawing some major celebrity fans who include Beyoncé, Lady Gaga and Rihanna. Hailey Bieber (accompanied by hubby Justin) wore Smith's wool halter dress while meeting French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife, Brigitte Macron, in June.

His heart remains in New York City, where fashion is everywhere and everything.

"It's in the subway, it's in the streets, it's in the bars, the nightlife," Smith said. "New York in itself is a fashion moment. It's a fashion movie, from the high end to

the low tier." For this collection, fashion came in electric blues, sequined whites and fishnet stockings worn with itty bitty bottoms and tiny tops. Necklines plunged. Cutaways were strategically placed at the hip and belly, and feathery

jackets blew in the breeze.

Smith carried an edgy black-and-white print into a grouping of looks that included a slit skirt below the knee with a matching bra top. He put a hood on a slinky sequined long-sleeve mini that exposed a matching bra. Other models seemed ready for bed, or at least ready to hit the sack. One wore a ruffly, lacy lingerie look in a soft blue.

On the 20th anniversary of 9/11, Smith shared that his mother had worked for an insurance company at the World Trade Center. She was on maternity leave after his younger brother was born when the towers fell.

Puppies, giraffes and bears — Oh My! — onMoschino runway

NEW YORK (AP): It was a soggy, gray day in Manhattan, but Moschino had the antidote: a burst of color and whimsy filling a runway in midtown's Bryant Park.

Jeremy Scott, the fertile mind behind the Italian luxury label, filled his New York Fashion Week collection with bright baby blues, pastel pinks and greens and purples, and brilliant yellows — fitting for a show inspired by children's toys and cartoon animals.

Also fitting: supermodel Gigi Hadid, a new mom herself, toting along an oversized baby bottle as she closed Thursday's show in a one-armed gown featuring a pink elephant's trunk running down from her shoulder.

It was a much-buzzed about showing for Moschino at New York Fashion Week; the label usually shows in Milan, though Scott has long presented his own namesake label in New York. His Moschino creations are often the most buzzed-about outfits at the Met Gala, which this year comes at the end of Fashion Week — think Katy Perry as a cheeseburger.

Hadid, a longtime Scott collaborator, opened the show with a baby blue three-piece suit — miniskirt, bustier and jacket — adorned with a motif of pink elephants and other whimsical animals, with a chunky necklace around her neck bearing letters that spelled "MOSCHINO."

The dozens of outfits to come hewed to the same concept — women in baby-themed dresses and suits, adorned with safety-pin earrings or teething rings, with whimsical matching handbags and gloves. There were glasses with heart-shaped lenses and slouchy belts that looked like giant little-girl charm bracelets. There was even a baby mobile, as headaddress.

A neon yellow shift dress was festooned with blue teddy bears and yellow daisies. There were playful plaids, all in shades that would be perfect in a nursery. Prints included giraffes and puppies and kitties and little lambs. One skirt was emblazoned with a huge duck. There also was, it seemed, a spotted kangaroo.

There were long gowns, too — one featuring a huge bunny rabbit with giant ears growing out of the bodice. Perhaps most spectacular was Hadid's, with that long elephant trunk, and her bottle accessory, which she seemed to bite playfully as she strutted.

"The colors were really popping," noted celebrity guest Megan Fox, who was seated in the front row, as was Taraji P. Henson.

Of all the accessories, perhaps the sweetest was a small child's beach pail serving as a handbag — and harking back to the fast-fading summer, which seemed even more distant amid all the soggy umbrellas in Bryant Park.

Petersen and Fox brush off rust for 'CSI: Vegas' reunion

LOS ANGELES (AP): William Petersen and Jorja Fox are reunited and, yes, it feels so good. The actors who first starred together on "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" in the early aughts are back together for "CSI: Vegas," premiering Oct. 6 on CBS.

"It is at once just this sort of familiar thing in my mind and also brand new," Fox told a virtual Television Critics gathering on Thursday. "The world, weirdly enough, is even more topsy-turvy than it was in 2000, so there's so much new happening and yet it was sort of great to be grounded with William Petersen."

Like the original, the new show is set in Las Vegas. Wallace Langham and Paul Guilfoyle return in their roles, too. But there's new characters joining Petersen as Gil Grissom and Fox as Sara Sidle and updated technology to solve crimes.

"I was a little rusty on all the science," Fox said. Petersen said he had trouble keeping his hand steady using a lab tool that transports liquid. "Billy and I used to be really good at that stuff," Fox said, laughing. Petersen added, "Age caught up with me."

Petersen left the original show as a regular in 2010; Fox had departed three years earlier. Both made return guest appearances. "It was unexpected to be asked to start a new version of this," said Petersen, who again serves as an executive producer. "It's a different world than it was 20 years ago."

Aries: This is it, Aries! The big shift that you have been hoping and praying for. Pay attention to the doors that are opening for you. They are leading you in the right direction, wild one. Yes, your fears and inhibitions will convince you that you are not enough and that you must prepare before you take the next big step. Embrace the opportunity to level up nonetheless with the inner knowing that Spirit has got your back! Tip: Carpe diem, beautiful.

Taurus: Friday sees you connecting with your inner child and doing the things that bring you joy. So, make macramé art, beautiful, or try your hand at pottery. While you're at it, take a walk down memory lane by watching the kind of television that once brought a smile to your face. If you have little ones of your own or are surrounded by children at home, colour outside the lines with them as you teach them the importance of creative rebellion.

Tip: It's time to connect with your inner child.

Gemini: The mind, body, and soul are connected, Gemini. In other words, one is not separate from the other. While Western medicine attempts to treat the symptoms, the holistic methods dig deeper and aim to under-

stand the root cause. So, do some research on the metaphysical aspects of the pain you're experiencing on a physical level. Your inner awareness will help you begin the process of healing the old traumas.

Tip: Pay attention to what your body is telling you.

Virgo: The only affirmation you need to repeat to yourself as you go about your day: "I am enough." That's right! You "are" enough, beautiful, and you are prepared for the changes you are being confronted with at the moment. So, take that next step as you release every ounce of fear. While you're at it, free yourself from the need for external validation too. You do not need anybody to tell you that you are on the right track.

Tip: You are enough. That's all.

Libra: You make shedding the old look so easy, Libra. But, only you know the pain of surviving a million little deaths and walking through the dark night of the soul. What Spirit wants you to know today: you are more courageous than you give yourself credit for. So, trust the process of transformation, baby! Trust the process of letting the old go. If the signs are anything to go by, the light will enter through where you have been bruised the most.

Tip: This is a time of inner transformation.

Scorpio: Work those manifestation muscles, baby! The Universe is on your side, helping realise your hopes and dreams. But, that doesn't mean you should get complacent about your goals. Put in the work, Scorpio, and slay every single day. It is by mastering your craft that you will be able to unlock the next level.

Tip: Now is not the time to get complacent about goals.

Sagittarius: Sagittarius, you've been feeling like every time you move closer to the destination, the destination moves further and further away from you. But, don't mistake this as some form of punishment. The Universe isn't keeping you from what's yours. The Universe is merely preparing you for something bigger. So, trust the process and keep putting in the work. Something tells us that Christmas miracle is just around the corner.

Tip: The Universe is preparing you for something bigger.

Capricorn: This is the grand unfolding, Capricorn. The big moment you have been hoping and praying for. So, pay attention to the doors that are opening for you. They're leading you towards the future you have always envisioned for yourself, beautiful. Some of you may find

yourself questioning your skill set, given that your role and responsibility is about to change too. What you need to keep in mind when self-doubt gets the better of you: the Universe never gives you anything you are unprepared for.

Tip: This is the grand unfolding.

Aquarius: What if we said that the Universe is designed to support your dream-weaving process? That the fruition of your desires is essential to the harmony of the Divine Matrix? Trust that you are being supported every day and in every way as you surrender "the how" and "the why" to the forces. The secret to making a paradigm shift: seeing yourself as the co-creator rather than the "doer" in this process.

Tip: Easy does it.

Pisces: You don't have to be anybody you don't want to be. We repeat: you don't have to be anybody you don't want to be. Yes, the world will try to change you every day and in every way. Yes, the world will hand you a rulebook and weigh you down with unrealistic expectations. Dare to be a wildflower in a world of lilies and tulips nonetheless. What if we said living your truth is essential to the harmony of the divine matrix? Tip: You were born to be a wildflower, baby!