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Summit **TIMES**

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O N T O P O F T H E N E W S

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Supporters erupt in joy as Golay completes prison term



Have emerged from jail even stronger and more committed to Sikkim: Golay

SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 10 AUG:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party president, PS Tamang [Golay], received a grand reception from leaders, workers and supporters of SKM on his release from jail after completing a one year prison sentence on a corruption conviction today.

He was released at 10:17 AM this morning from the State Central Prison at Rongneck in East Sikkim and was warmly received as he stepped out. Also present were his wife Sarda Golay and elder son, Aditya Golay.

SKM party leaders, workers and supporters started gathering outside the prison since early morning despite the rain, and slowly, a huge gathering was at hand to receive their leader. After coming out of the jail, the party supporters received

him with khadas and garlands and raising slogans.

Speaking to media persons soon after coming out of the prison, Mr Tamang thanked the people of Sikkim and party workers for their love and support.

He stated that immense love, support and blessings of the people of Sikkim and the party workers and supporters helped him complete his one year imprisonment without any difficulty.

"By sending one PS Golay to jail, thousands of PS Golays have been born in the State," he further remarked.

On the same, he thanked the party workers for their support in creating thousands of PS Golays in the State.

He further shared that he has came out stronger from the jail and with a stronger resolve to

work continuously for the people.

Without taking any names, he said, "I was put in jail, but the people know who are actually responsible for thousands of crores of corruption in the State and are still in the government."

He expressed that by honouring the order of the court, he surrendered last year to complete his sentence.

"I am only sad about not being able to raise the voice of the people of Sikkim for the last one year but I am really happy that my party workers have continuously been raising the voice of the people in my absence," he expressed.

He dedicated his remaining life to continuously serve the State and its people and for their welfare.

"I will not carry any fear and will continuously work for the

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"Went to jail alone, returned to find thousands of Golays in Sikkim"

REBYNA RANA
SINGTAM, 10 AUG:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha [SKM] president, Prem Singh Tamang [Golay], reached Singtam Bazaar at around 3.30 pm today where a large number of party supporters had gathered to welcome him.

Upon his arrival, SKM party workers felicitated Mr Tamang and SKM MLAs KN Lepcha and Sonam Lama. SKM had raised funds from party workers to purchase and gift one Scorpio vehicle to the party president, the keys of which were presented to him during the felicitation ceremony.

Addressing the huge gathering, Mr Tamang said he had surrendered himself respecting the court's decision and completed his one year jail-term.

"I went to jail carrying your blessings and love. I was not afraid and had not lost hope. I was confident that though one Golay is in jail, thousands of Golays will be born in Sikkim in my absence. Today, I can see lakhs of Golays in Sikkim. I was in jail but SKM workers took my vision and thoughts across Sikkim. I will never forget the love and support you have extended and I will

never betray your trust," he said in an emotional address.

Mr Tamang thanked SKM acting president, KN Lepcha, and chief coordinator, Sonam Lama, for leading the party in his absence.

He then offered khadas to Mr Lepcha and Mr Lama as a token of his gratitude.

The SKM president went on to allege that when the decision of the High Court was out, the Sikkim Democratic Front tried to spread a propaganda contending that he will not return to Sikkim due to fear of going to jail.

"However, their propaganda failed when I surrendered and went to jail. The corruption case against me was of 1997. I was then an SDF Minister. If I had committed a mistake, why did the SDF Government take zero action till 2008? They only initiated the charge-sheet against me when I started raising the people's voice of Parivartan against the tyranny of the SDF government in 2009. They filed the charge sheet and the decision of the lower court came in 2016. There was a big conspiracy in filing the charge sheet against me

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Four footballers killed in a vehicle mishap



WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 10 AUG;

Four footballers died on the spot when their vehicle bearing registration No. SK 01/2842 plunged around 300 feet below the road at 3rd Mile along Dikchu-Rakdong road in East Sikkim on 09 Aug.

The deceased have been identified as Satish Singh [Dikchu, New Market], Tara Chettri [Jang Basti] and Sandesh Rai & Raj Kumar Rai [Aapdara, Lower Tintek]. The

deceased Raj Kumar Rai was behind the wheel, it is informed.

Others injured in the accident are Bikash Sunam [Dikchu, New Market], Tilak Sharma [Dikchu Bazaar], and Arun Rai, Ashish Rai, Arpan Rai and Binod Tamang, all residents of Jang Basti, Lower Rakdong.

It is informed that the deceased were part of a football team and were returning from Khamdong after playing a match for Independence Day Football Tournament there. The cause of the accident is yet to be ascertained.

The exact reason of the accident is not known yet but the inclement weather conditions could have led to the accident as the area is said to be very foggy in

turn to pg02



THE SITUATION AT NAMCHI TURNED TENSE TODAY AS SKM AND SDF SUPPORTERS CAME FACE TO FACE FOR A FEW MOMENTS.

Karma Takapa's 'Ralang Road' to get screened in Melbourne

YOUGAN TAMANG
GANGTOK, 10 AUG:

Sikkimese filmmaker Karma Takapa's well acclaimed film, 'Ralang Road', is heading to the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne for its Australian premiere. The movie will be screened at HOYTS Cinemas, Forrest Hills in Melbourne on 14 Aug.

Ralang Road has been well received by critics as a pleasant dose to people

who need no more of Bollywood masala movies.

Produced by Human Trail Pictures, this 112-minute long movie, is set in Sikkim and is an attempt at understanding cultural immigration and lifestyles in a complex social setup.

The film revolves around two restless teenagers who fidget their way into an affair be-

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93.51% girls receive first dose of HPV vaccine

PHASE-1 OF HPV VACCINATION CAMPAIGN TO CONCLUDE ON 14 AUG

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 10 AUG:

The Human Papilloma Virus [HPV] Vaccination Campaign, initiated by the Department of Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare, will conclude on 14 Aug, 2018. Any girl child in the 09-14 years age group who has missed the vaccine has been requested to avail of the same from the nearest Primary Health Centre, District Hospital or Urban PHC or



STNM Hospital, Gangtok.

A press release issued by

the Health Department mentions that the department had

started the HPV Vaccination campaign for prevention of cervical cancer on 30 July this year.

The campaign is being conducted across the State covering school going girls of both private and government schools including out of school girls in the fore-mentioned age group.

Since the launch of the campaign, 23,633 girls out of an estimated 25,273 girls [93.51%] have already received the first dose of the vaccine. There have been no cases of any serious adverse event following the immunization.

The Health Department

has expressed gratitude to the print and electronic media along with HRDD, Panchayati Raj and other line departments, ASHAs, parents and school teachers for extending full support and cooperation in implementing the campaign.

Incidentally, Sikkim has now become the first State in the country where all eligible girls are being vaccinated following WHO guidelines.

The release further informs that children who have received the first dose will be given a second dose of the vaccine in a similar campaign after six months, the timings for which will be notified later.





Zionites Taekwondo Dojang bags 18 medals at Pakyong Taekwondo tourney

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 10 AUG:

Zionites Taekwondo Dojang [Zionite Warriors] of Mt Zion Kidzee School, Tadong bagged 18 medals including 3 golds, 8 silvers and 7 bronzes in its debut state level championship participation held at Pakyong last week.

The Dojang's chief

coach, Sanjay Subba informed that Smriti Chettri, Sonam Yangchen Bhutia and Ariyana Pradhan bagged gold medals in the 10th Poomsae and 20th Kheorogi State Championship held on 04-05 Aug.

He informed that out of 22 players selected for the tournament 18 bagged the medals.

"I am very happy to say that my new players gave good performances in their first state level championship and am confident that they will do better in future tournaments as well," Mr Subba said.

The silver medallists are Sushaine Shadap, Nyema Lucky Sherpa, Pradneya Bista, Sam-

up Dolkar Bhutia, Tanvi Nepal, Avinandan Sharma, Nishey Sharma and Calvin Ongden Lepcha. The bronze medallists are Bhavika Madul Sharma, Yeshe Ningpo Bhutia, Prakiti Adhikari, Mritika Sharma, Rigved Rai, Ashbin Chettri and Tseten Bhutia.

Mr. Subba was accompanied by Sandeep Dhungel as Asst. Coach.

"Went to jail alone, returned to find thousands of Golays..."

contd from pg01

after I revolted. Before that I was given a party ticket at every election. The case was made just to end my political career," he alleged.

While expressing confidence of forming an SKM Government in 2019, Mr Tamang said, "Golay does not have buildings, hotels or big plots of land in Gangtok. People are aware of people who own such luxuries. Golay only has blessings, love and support of the people. I will take forward the Parivartan mission. This is my responsibility now and SKM will form the government in 2019 which will be Garib Ko Sarkar."

Mr Tamang further accused SDF of spreading rumours that he will not be eligible to contest election till 2024 or hold the Chief Minister's chair till then.

"But the people of Sikkim have rejected such propaganda and the massive turnout of people today is a stinging reply to SDF. I say that the concern is not whether Golay can or cannot contest elections, the question is whether SDF can form the government in 2019 or not. Golay has not come to become the CM but to liberate people of Sikkim from the dictatorship of SDF. The Election Commission of India will decide whether I can contest for the elections or not," he said.

After his speech, the SKM president and party workers headed towards Singling, near Soreng in West Sikkim where it is informed that Mr Tamang will be meeting his parents and take their blessings. It is further informed that SKM will resume its party activities from 16 Aug.

Have emerged from jail even stronger...

contd from pg01

people dedicatedly. Now with the decision of the party and the people of Sikkim, we will emerge stronger," he said.

Mr Tamang stated that SKM wants to make a Sikkim as per the dreams and aspirations of the Sikkimese people, contending that Sikkim has been suffering because it has been forced to pursue the dream of a single person.

He added that SKM was completely ready for 2019 elections which it would approach without relying on the influence of money or putting pressure on the people. Responding to media queries, he asserted that it was not important whether he could contest the elections or not, but it

was more important that to consider whether SDF can win in 2019.

"Thousands of Krantikari youths like PS Golay are ready now, so SKM party will definitely win the 2019 elections whether PS Golay comes out as the captain or as the coach," he shared.

Then a motorcade rally moved from Rongneck Check Post, Ganesh Tok, Tashi View Point, Burtuk, Zero Point, Hospital Dara, Tibet Road, Nam Nang, Deorali, Tadong, Ranipool and finally gathered at Singtam where the SKM president received a warm reception by party supporters throughout the route.



Aakraman FC secures berth in semis

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 AUG:

Sikkim Aakraman Football Club has also secured a berth in the semi-final round of the ongoing Independence Day Football Tournament for Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup 2018 here at Paljor Stadium. In the third quarter-final match played today, a hattrick by Bigendra Rai helped Sikkim Aakraman FC thrash Kumar Sporting Club, Rongneck, 9-0.

Likewise, Tenzing Tshapel, Zigdel Bhutia, Nima Tamang, Kushen Mangar, Ashwin Rai and Phurba contributed one goal each in the team's victory.

The last quarter-final match of the tournament will be played between Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club and Army XI, Lucknow, on 11 Aug at 2:30 PM.

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I apologise if I have said something wrong, says Dalai Lama

BENGALURU, AUG 10 (PTI): Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama today apologised for his statement that India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was "self-centred."

On Wednesday, he had said Nehru had a "self-centred attitude" to become India's first prime minister even though Mahatma Gandhi was in favour of Muhammad Ali Jinnah taking the top post at that time.

He had also claimed India's partition would not have happened if Mahatma Gandhi's wish of Jinnah becoming the prime minister had materialised.

"My statement has created a controversy. I apologise if I have said something wrong," said the Dalai Lama, when he was asked by reporters to comment on what he meant by calling Nehru self-centred.

"I felt pity when I heard that Mahatma Gandhi was opposed to partition... There are more Muslims in India than in Pakistan, but past is past," the Dalai Lama said.

Addressing an event at the Goa Institute of Management in Sankhalim town on Wednesday,



he said, "I think it was a little bit self-centred attitude of Pandit Nehru that he should be the prime minister... Mahatma Gandhi's thinking, if it had materialised, then India, Pakistan would have been united," he said.

"So Pandit Nehru, I know very well, (was a) very experienced person, very wise but sometimes mistake also happens," he said.

Addressing a gathering at an event called 'Thank You Karnataka' to commemorate 60 years of Tibetan government in exile here today, the 83-year-old monk said Nehru fully supported creation of

a Tibetan settlement.

Nehru insisted that they should have separate Tibetan school for preserving the Tibetan issue, he said.

"Immediately he set up a committee headed by the union education minister... at that time, we wrote to different states for the allocation of some land. The best sort of response came from the Mysore state. One major factor was late Nijalingappa, who extraordinarily showed concern for the Tibetan cause. He promised me he will support the Tibetan cause," the Dalai Lama said.

Rangpo I-Day Football Tourney



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 10 AUG:

In the third quarter final match of the 72nd In-

dependence Day Celebration Open Football Tournament played at Rangpo Bazaar playground in

East Sikkim, Himalayan FC, Gangtok thrashed Jaiswal Brothers, Rangpo 3-0. Temi FC will take on

ASC Bangalore in the final quarter final match of the tourney on 11 Aug, a press release informs.

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

informed, inquisitive, relevant

**Gangtok on
Saturday,
11 Aug**

Temp: 26°C/18°C
Forecast: Considerable cloudiness, a couple of thundershowers.
Sunrise: 05:04 AM
Sunset: 6:17 PM

SMTWA extends gratitude to CM for initiating Start-Up Scheme

YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 10 AUG:

Singtam Motors Transport Workers Association [SMTWA] held a co-ordination meeting today at the SMTWA office in Singtam, East Sikkim in the presence of its president, Tinku Adhikari, accompanied by SMTWA executive members and local youth.

The association extended gratitude to the State Government for initiating the Start-Up Scheme that will benefit the educated unemployed youth of the State.

"Fifteen educated unemployed candidates from Singtam have enrolled for the scheme. I, on behalf of all the educated unemployed youths, would like to convey sincere thanks to Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and the State Government for providing the facility," said Mr Adhikari.

Devika Gurung in COWE list of 100 Women Faces of India 2018

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 10 AUG:**

Sikkim's Devika Gurung has been short-listed as one of the 100 women faces 2018 of India [womenovator] by Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs - India [COWE]. She is recognized as one of the faces to motivate and develop women entrepreneurs in India by COWE in association with University of Chicago.

Devika Gurung has been selected by a panel of jury comprising of prominent faces of India namely Babul Supriyo [Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise], Avijit Dutt [Actor], Naina Lal Kidwai [Chairperson, India Advisory Board of Advent International Private Equity], Suresh Raina [Indian Cricketer], Paresh Rawal [Indian



film actor], Shereen Bhan [Indian journalist and news anchor], Blossom Kochhar [founder, Aroma Magic], Arunachalam Muruganantham [founder/CEO, Jayashree Industries] and Sonam Wangchuk [founding-director, Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh].

Devika grew up in Sikkim with an aim to be a doctor or an engineer that was set in her mind by the society when her

real calling was creativity. After completing 12th in Science stream, she decided to pursue photography in Kolkata. She also joined a BPO to earn a living. However, dissatisfied with the job, she quit Kolkata and returned to Gangtok in 2011 without any degree or a job.

Her love for writing luckily found her a job in one of the local media houses in Gangtok. In 2015, she started her

social entrepreneurship project, Fidgety Fingers.

Her initiative aims to aid underprivileged women to become financially and socially empowered. She trains women to knit and crochet as a means to earn a living.

Currently, a total of 12 women have been employed by Fidgety Fingers. It is a self-funded project being promoted by North East Rural Livelihood Project [NERLP] in South Sikkim. With a total of 47 women trained through NERLP in rural areas of South Sikkim, the project is growing rapidly.

Presently, she is training women inmates at the State prison in Rongyek, East Sikkim. The month-long training is being conducted in association with Sikkim State Women's Council.

IEC programme held on menstrual hygiene & decentralized composting

GANGTOK, 10 AUG [IPR]: Office of Additional District Collector [Development], Rural Management & Development Department, Gangtok conducted District level Information, Education & Communication [IEC] programme on Menstrual Hygiene Management and Decentralized Composting at the East District Zilla Panchayat Hall in Gangtok on 09 Aug.

The programme was chaired by Adhakshya [East], Shamsher Bokhim, as chief guest.

Mr Bokhim, while addressing the function, spoke on social taboos and its impact on societ-



ies, women's emotional state, mentality and lifestyle and most importantly health. He added that there is a need to follow strategic approach in combating these issues and menstruation is the natural process of the reproductive cycle which every individual should be aware of.

He stated that awareness can help tackle social taboos associated with menstruation in order to improve the reproductive health of ado-

lescent girls and women. Community based health education campaigns in schools and rural/urban areas should take place frequently, he added.

Earlier, the programme also had a Power Point Presentation on Menstrual Hygiene Management presented by Dr Chungden Lepcha from STNM Hospital wherein she elaborated on the early menstrual process and hygiene management.

Dr Lepcha urged parents and teachers to

make girls comfortable about it and talk about it with their daughters and students. The presentation's focus was on menstrual hygiene by representatives from ESS India.

Sub-Inspector, Mangang Nagar Panchayat, Sonam Palden Bhutia, also gave a brief presentation on decentralized composting. He talked about various decomposing processes which can help keep the environment clean.

GBT Entertainment presents

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SFA condoles death of 4 footballers in car accident

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 10 AUG:**

Two-minute silence was observed before the start of the 3rd quarter final match of Independence Day Football Tournament for Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup, being held at Paljor Stadium today as a mark of

respect to the departed soul of four footballers who lost their lives in a car mishap at Dikchu on 09 Aug.

An SFA press release informs that the four budding footballers identified as Tara Chettri [Jung Basti], Satish Singh [Dikchu] and Sandesh Rai &

Raj Kumar Rai [Lower Tintek] were returning home in a Mahindra Bolero Plus vehicle after playing a match in the Independence Day Cup at Khamdong. Six other players who were in the accident as well have been admitted at Central Referral Hospital and STNM Hospital.

Adampool I-Day Volleyball Tourney

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 10 AUG:**

Young Start, Rumtek, won against the Adampool team at the ongoing 72nd Independence Day Open Men's Volleyball Tournament being held at the Adampool Junior High School playground in East Sikkim today.

Also, on 09 Aug, doctors and staff from Sang PHC and Rumtek PHSC carried out Human Papilloma Virus [HPV] vaccination campaign at Adampool JHS for girls aged between 09-14 years. Eligible girl students of Winsley Academy and Vidya Sagar Academy were also administered the vaccine during the programme.



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD
GANGTOK - 737101**

NO: 11/SSTRB DATED: 07/08/2018

NOTICE

In continuation to Notice No. 09/SSTRB, dated: 30/07/2018, the following dates have been fixed by the Board for the written examination of Graduate Teacher (Math).

PAPER - I	General Knowledge & General English	10:00 A.M - 12:00 Noon	19 th August 2018
PAPER - II	Mathematics	01:00 P.M - 04:00 P.M.	
PAPER - III	Physics	10:00 A.M. - 01.00 P.M	20 th August 2018

The venue for the examination remains the same as notified earlier.

Sd/-
SECRETARY

SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD.

R.O. No. 259/ipr/pub/classi./18-19 dated 09.08.18

Karma Takapa's 'Ralang Road' to get screened...



contd from pg01

between a local woman and a non-Sikkimese teacher at the school they study in.

The movie goes on to chronicle the rising tension between locals and outsiders, with a narrative packed with unexpected twists and turns.

National Award winning sound artist, Christopher Burchell, hailing from the Film and Technology Institute of India [FTII] has provided the background score for Ralang Road.

Ralang Road had its world premiere at 52nd

Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. It was also screened at the 15th Pacific Meridian International Film Festival, Vladivostok and received its Asian premiere at 19th MAMI Mumbai Film Festival.

It was also screened at 14 Sept, 2017 at the IFF Pacific Meridian Vladivostok as part of the competition. The main casts in the movie are from Sikkim [Borong and Ravangla] namely Sonam Wangyal Ladimpa, Domber Mani Pradhan and Sudan Gurung and Subham from Mumbai.

Four footballers killed in a vehicle mishap

contd from pg01

the evenings.

The injured persons have been rescued by local people and police personnel from Dikchu Outpost, battling through the steep cliff with the help of a rope. The rescue team managed to evacu-

ate the injured persons by 2 a.m. this morning who were rushed to STNM Hospital and CRH Tadong in Gangtok.

The dead bodies were recovered at around 4 a.m. after the disaster team from Gangtok arrived on the spot.

**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT**

No: 29/ETENDER/BHD/2018 Dated: 04/08/2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Chief Engineer, Buildings & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim invites percentage rate tenders' from qualified Class I A contractors, within the State, enlisted with the SPWD in two cover system through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in for the work as listed below:

SL. NO.	NAME OF WORKS	BID SECURITY 2.5% OF THE BID VALUE (RS. IN LAKHS)	BID VALUE (RS. IN LAKHS)	COST OF TENDER / BID FORM (RS. IN LAKHS)	COMPLETION PERIOD.
1.	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Construction of Underground parking space at Namchi, South Sikkim	25.7435	1029.74	1.00	36 months.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

i)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	:	6 th August, 2018
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	:	6 th August, 2018
iii)	Document download/Sale start date and time.	:	7 th August, 2018 11:00 am onwards
iv)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	:	16 th August, 2018 upto 1500 Hrs.
v)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids	:	10 th September, 2018 upto 1600 Hrs.
vi)	Date of opening of Tender bids	:	11 th September, 2018 at 1200 Hrs.

For all details on the bid visit www.sikkimtender.gov.in

Sd/- **CHIEF ENGINEER**

**BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM.**

R.O. No. 258/ipr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 09.08.18

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Government by Discussion

Side-step consultations, and there will only be disinterest, diktats and protests

"Democracy is not just about ballots and votes, but also about public deliberation and reasoning, what - to use an old phrase - is often called 'government by discussion,'" writes Amartya Sen in "Identity and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny".

The book is now twelve years old, but even when it came out, this was not really a paradigm-shifting revelation, but with the act of stating the obvious, the Nobel laureate made a strong statement. By devoting an entire chapter to fleshing out this point, he holds up the mirror to the country forcing us to admit that the world's largest democracy appears to have forgotten what democracy is all about. Democracy has meant politics in India for far too long, leading to the aberration of politicians and political commentators wearing their ignorance on their sleeves, and without the slightest hint of embarrassment, holding forth on important issues and claiming to speak for the people of the country without having made any genuine attempt at consultations. The effortlessness with which false narratives are foisted and incomplete information circulated to influence public opinion is worrying. Also worrying is when important decisions are taken without the counsel of experts or consultations with interested and affected parties. These should have been standard practices, but have become abandoned courtesies which have reduced democracy to elections. It should hence not surprise that politics itself has been reduced to the segregated equation of those in power and those in the Opposition.

And when politics becomes about being in office and waiting in the wings, debates stop being about ideology and get established by positions. Those in office do what suits their interests and the Opposition protests everything. With vote-banks already identified and appropriated, the focus is only on keeping these secure. A sorry state of affairs... When a writer who also presented a case for the 'Argumentative Indian' reminds the same Indians of the need for public deliberations and reasoning, the message should become clear – the nation needs to relearn many things. Amartya Sen's "The Argumentative Indian" was the highest selling book in India in 2005-06. His next, quoted above, should also have been read more widely, and then, maybe, the nation would have invested in some introspection and that might have saved us from the chagrin of watching the political rhetoric of people's representatives mouthing empty platitudes on issues which concern the entire nation and its future. Instead of genuine concern, one is being subjected to pompous self-righteousness and embarrassing self-praise.

Let's reflect on Sikkim. Has anyone heard of public deliberations here? No, claims, denials and rejections do not constitute public deliberation since they are dictated by political positions, not built on informed opinion. And that is why in Sikkim there is rarely consensus, only diktats and protests. It is unfortunate that a people who at one time were so enamoured by the idea of democracy that they took on a 300 year old monarchy and even gave up their individuality as a nation state just so that they could have democracy, have, since then, pulled away from public participation in the public domain. Public deliberation does not mean that the people start debating at formal seminars; it is enough for them to become more involved in the process of democracy and its implementation. With their involvement, they will secure accountability – first at the local body level and from there upwards and across to the executive. Their involvement will force the elected representatives to make the right noises at the right places and times and motivate them to get more involved in the decision-making process themselves.

WRITE US: Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper.

Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence. Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

HOUSSEM BEN LAZREG
theconversation.com

The sudden and unexpected diplomatic crisis between Canada and Saudi Arabia has raised questions about their levels of bilateral economic relations, the \$12 billion arms sale signed by the two countries in 2014 and the fate of thousands of Saudi students pursuing higher education at Canadian universities.

This spat was ignited when the Saudi government ordered the expulsion of Canada's ambassador to the kingdom and announced a halt to "all new business and investment transactions with Canada". This was in response to tweets from Canada's foreign affairs minister, Chrystia Freeland, and her ministry's Twitter account criticizing the arrest of human rights activist Samar Badawi.

But before delving into the repercussions of this crisis, an overall assessment of Canadian-Saudi relations is needed.

SUBSTANTIAL TRADE

According to a fact sheet published on the Canadian government's website, Saudi Arabia is Canada's largest trade partner in the Middle East and North Africa. The overall trade value between the two nations fluctuated between C\$3-4 billion between 2011 and 2017, with Canadian exports of about \$1 billion and imports of \$2-3 billion.

While not negligible, these numbers don't compare to Canada's two-way trade with the United States, which amounted to US\$673.9 billion in 2017. Nonetheless, Riyadh's move to freeze all business with Ottawa could deprive Canada of tremendous opportunities for collaboration and investment in Saudi Arabia.

With the new Vision 2030 launched by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom is becoming increasingly open to foreign direct investment. It's diversifying its infrastructure projects and planning a shift to a green economy that is less



dependent on fossil fuels. All of these sectors present commercial opportunities for Canadian industries, but Ottawa seems on its way to missing out on them.

There is also a \$15 billion deal to sell light armoured vehicles (LAVs) to Saudi Arabia that is now in jeopardy. The deal, if scrapped, could be a blow to Canada's defence industry, which employs 65,000 people and contributes \$6 billion annually to Canada's GDP.

David Perry, a senior analyst and fellow with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, argues that foreign arms' sales ...

"... allow Canadian firms to keep plants operating, workforces employed, supply chains intact and engineers busy researching and developing new technology. The Saudi deal will keep the thousands of unionized shop-floor workers and engineers at the GDLS-C plant in London, Ont., employed for years."

Another area of co-operation that cannot be overlooked is educational exchange and its remarkable contribution to the Canadian economy. There are approximately 7,000 Saudi students on government scholarships studying in Canada. Statistics from the Canadian Bureau for International Education reveal that students from Saudi Arabia made up two per cent of Canada's 494,525 international students in 2017.

Unfortunately, the fate of these thousands of students remains un-

determined as the kingdom decided to withdraw them and relocate them to other countries in retaliation of Canada's criticism of its human rights record. This will have a negative impact on their academic standings and studies.

WHY THE SPAT?

Canada has made the promotion of human rights, including women's rights and the rights of religious minorities, a top priority of its foreign policy and diplomatic initiatives.

It's therefore appropriate to demand Saudi Arabia release political prisoners and abide by human rights standards. As has been widely documented, the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia is abysmal, and the kingdom has been accused of committing war crimes in Yemen.

But Ottawa has fallen into the trap of "double standards" when dealing with the issue of human rights. When human rights violations are linked to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, Canada turns a blind eye and refrains from condemning the killings and imprisonments of Palestinian children and young people, the confiscation of Palestinian lands and the establishment of illegal settlements.

A consistent and fair approach would see Ottawa either condemning both Israel and Saudi Arabia, or turning a blind eye to both of them.

THE SAUDI REACTION

The Saudi reaction to Canada's criticism has been portrayed as "reckless, impulsive, and aggressive" by

Sultan Barakat, director of the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies at the Doha Institute. Similarly, Lloyd Axworthy, a former Canadian foreign affairs minister, likens it to a Donald Trump-esque fit of pique marked by intimidation and saber-rattling.

Despite unanimous agreement among political commentators and analysts that the Saudi reaction is exaggerated, Saudi leadership could exploit this crisis to garner domestic support and to thwart all attempts to criticize the kingdom's draconian crack-

down on political dissidents.

Foreign relations and foreign policy are often meant to address national interests. So what did Canadian foreign policy makers want to achieve by going after Saudi Arabia publicly?

If the aim was to alleviate the circumstances of Samar Badawi and her imprisoned brother, Raif, to influence the broader direction of the Saudi leadership or to rally other like-minded countries to speak up against the human rights violations in the kingdom, then the results were disastrous.

Canadian foreign policy makers could have adopted a more professional approach to address the issues of human rights in the kingdom while maintaining strong strategic and economic ties. In other words, it's about finding a way to calibrate what Thomas Juneau, professor at the University of Ottawa, calls the costs of tactical disagreements and the benefits of strategic alignment.

Canada's relationship with Saudi Arabia is actually advantageous on several fronts. There's no doubt navigating the relationship was tricky at times, but the alternative will be seriously detrimental to Canada if Saudi Arabia intensifies its aggressive measures against us.

[the writer is PhD Candidate and Teaching Assistant, University of Alberta]

How ancient cultures explained comets and meteors

EVE MACDONALD
theconversation.com

Comets and meteors have fascinated the human race since they were first spotted in the night sky. But without science and space exploration to aid understanding of what these chunks of rock and ice are, ancient cultures often turned to myth and legend to explain them.

The Greeks and Romans believed that the appearance of comets, meteors and meteor showers were portentous. They were signs that something good or bad had happened or was about to happen. The arrival of a comet could herald the birth of a great figure, and some people have even argued that the star in the sky which the Persian Magi followed to Bethlehem to see the newborn Jesus was actually a comet.

In the spring of 44BC, a comet that appeared was interpreted as a sign of the deification of Julius Caesar, following his murder: Caesar's adopted son Octavian (soon to be the Emperor Augustus) made much of the comet, which burned in the sky during the funeral games held for Caesar. This portentous event was frequently celebrated in the ancient sources. In his epic poem, the Aeneid, Virgil describes how "a star appeared in the daytime, and Augustus persuaded people to believe it was

Caesar".

Augustus celebrated the comet and the deification of his father on coins (it did help to be the son of a god when trying to rule the Roman Empire), and many examples survive today.

METEOR SHOWERS

The Roman historian Cassius Dio referred to "comet stars" occurring in August 30BC. These are mentioned as among the portents witnessed after the death of the Egyptian queen Cleopatra. Experts are not entirely sure what it means when Dio uses the plural term "comet stars", but some have connected this recorded event to the annual Perseid meteor shower.

Though it retains an ancient Greek name, we now know that the arrival of the Perseid meteor shower every August is actually the Earth's orbit passing through debris from the Swift-Tuttle comet.

The meteor shower is named for the Perseidai (Περσεΐδαι), who were the sons of the ancient Greek hero Perseus. Perseus was a legendary figure with a fine family pedigree – he was the mythical son of Zeus and Argive princess Danaë (she of the golden rain). Perseus earned himself a constellation after a number of epic adventures across the Mediterranean and Near East that included the frequently illustrated murder of the Gorgon sister, Medusa.



Another of Perseus's celebrated acts was the rescue of the princess Andromeda. Abandoned by her parents to placate a sea monster, the princess was found by Perseus on a rock by the ocean. He married her and they went on to have seven sons and two daughters. Sky watchers believed that the constellation Perseus, located just beside Andromeda in the night sky, was the origin of the shooting stars they could see every summer, and so the name Perseid stuck.

TEARS AND OTHER TRADITIONS

In Christian tradition the Perseid meteor shower has long been connected to the martyrdom of St Lawrence. Laurentius was a deacon in the early church at Rome, martyred in the year 258AD, during the persecutions of the Emperor Valerian. The martyrdom supposedly took place on August 10, when the meteor shower was at its height, and so the shooting stars are equated to the saint's tears.

Detailed records of astronomical events and sky watching can be found in historical texts from the Far East too. Ancient and medieval records from China, Korea and Japan have all been found to contain detailed accounts of meteor showers. Sometimes these different sources can be correlated, which has allowed astronomers to track, for example, the impact of Halley's comet on ancient societies both east and west. These sources have also been used to find the first recorded observation of the Perseid meteor shower as a specific event, in Han Chinese records of 36AD.

Though the myths and legends may make one think that ancient civilisations had little scientific understanding of what meteors, comets and asteroids could be, this couldn't be farther from the truth. The early astronomers of the Near East, those who created the Babylonian and Egyptian calendars, and astronomical data were – by far – the most advanced in antiquity. And a recent study of ancient cuneiform texts has proven that the Babylonian ability to track comets, planetary movements and sky events as far back as the first millennium BC involved a much more complex geometry than had been previously believed.

[the writer is Lecturer in Ancient History, Cardiff University]

Rape case registered against MoS Gohain

GUWAHATI, AUG 10 (PTI): Assam Police have registered a case against Minister of State for Railways Rajen Gohain for allegedly raping and threatening a 24-year old woman in Nagaon district, a senior officer said today.

Nagaon Deputy Superintendent of Police (headquarter) Sabita Das said the case was registered against Gohain on August 2 after receiving a complaint at Nagaon police station.

"We have registered



the case. The investigation has already begun and we will proceed as per law," she told PTI.

Das, however, refused to share any detail about the case.

A senior official of

Nagaon Police Station said that the case was registered last week bearing the number 2592/18.

"The FIR was registered under IPC sections 417 (cheating), 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation). We are investigating and have already noted the lady's statement," he said adding the woman has refused medical examination.

"The complaint says that the alleged incident took place seven to eight

months ago. Both Gohain and the woman knew each other for a long time and the Union minister used to visit her home," the official said.

Gohain had committed the crime at the woman's home when her husband and other family members were not present, he said.

Asked if Gohain's arrest is imminent, the police official said, "We are probing now. If required, arrest will happen only after the probe is complete."

Number of excluded people will change in NRC in Assam: Sarma

AGARTALA, AUG 10 (PTI): Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has said the number of people excluded from the draft National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state will "drastically" change at the end of the process of claims and objections.

The final draft of the NRC in the state is not a major issue as it is not the final one, he told reporters here yesterday.

"It is not proper to come to a conclusion regarding the NRC in Assam. It is just a draft. In our NRC, names of many people are not there. This number will drastically change after claims and objections are taken into consideration," said Sarma, who is also the convenor of the North-East Democratic Alliance, formed by the BJP along with regional political parties.

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, who was present during the interaction with reporters, said he was un-



aware of any demand for updating NRC in the state.

The NRC revision has rocked Assam since the publication of its final draft on July 30. Names of over 40 lakh people have been excluded from the draft of the NRC.

Sarma suggested that other states could replicate the Assam model of NRC after the process was complete.

"Let Assam produce a correct and perfect NRC. Then people should try to replicate it," he said.

On NDA ally Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura's demand of NRC revision in Tripura, Sarma said there was no

"huge requirement" for such a decision.

"Going by the demography of Tripura, I don't think there is a huge requirement. Assam's demography has changed. NRC revision is being done in Assam as per the Assam Accord. But in Tripura, there is no accord, no cut-off date, neither in any way to generate any legacy document," he said.

Another regional party, the Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura, too had demanded an NRC revision and deportation of foreigners who had illegally migrated to Tripura from neighbouring Bangladesh.

Mountain Echoes Lit Fest releases second list of speakers

NEW DELHI, AUG 10 (PTI): This year's Mountain Echoes literary festival in Bhutan's capital Thimphu promises to be an interesting affair with the guest list including the likes of Indian classical dancer Sonal Mansingh, political activist-writer Ajay Bose, and Bhutanese musician Dawa Drakpa among others.

The ninth edition of Mountain Echoes, scheduled to be held from August 23 to August 25, will celebrate the "untouched beauty, unexplored ideas and unstoppable voices from the heart of the happiest country in the world".

Announcing the second set of speakers participating in the literary event this year, festival co-director Pramod Kumar KG said, "With a stellar line-up of speakers and authors from different parts of the globe, the ninth edition promises to present audiences with interesting insights and an unmatched storytelling platform."



The versatile line-up of speakers unveiled today includes names from Bhutan, India and around the world, including martial artist, storyteller, and musician Aditya Roy, author Charu Singh Bhutanese actor and filmmaker Chenchu Dorji, Bhutanese singer Chimi Wangmo,

writer George van Driem, Danish medical doctor Bjorn Melgaard, and Bhutanese musician Kinley Phyntso among others.

The festival will see over 75 eminent names from the fields of writing, film and theatre, come together to discuss a range of global topics such as

environment and wildlife, spirituality and philosophy, theatre, and poetry.

An initiative of the India-Bhutan Foundation and Indian literary agency, Siyahi, the three-day-festival will also celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan.

Foreign tourists taking keen interest to travel to Bengal during Durga Pujas

KOLKATA, AUG 10 (PTI): A good number of tourists from Europe and parts of Far East are taking keen interest in travelling to West Bengal during the Durga Pujas, which is being promoted by the state as the "largest festival in the world".

Karan Anand, head-relationships of a top of the line tour operator, today said that the festival has been raising interest among travellers from these countries in visiting Kolkata during the five-day Durga Pujas.

"People showing interest are largely from Europe and some parts of Far East," Anand told newsmen here.

He said travellers from Europe come in small groups or are backpackers who try to coincide their visit to the eastern India during the Pujas.

Among those visiting from the Far East come

on medical trips and try to come during Pujas.

West Bengal Tourism department is also promoting the Durga Pujas in a big way.

"Durga Puja is the largest festival in the world and we are promoting the mega event in a large way in different foreign countries," West Bengal Tourism minister Gautam Deb told PTI.

Deb said that the government is expecting thousands of in-bound tourists from various countries.

"People get information from the net as also from friends and develop interest in travelling to exotic destinations and participate in big community festivals," Anand, head-relationship of Cox and Kings, said.

He said that young people and couples exhibit more interest in visiting Kolkata during the pujas.



'Digital North East Vision 2022' to be released Saturday

GUWAHATI, AUG 10 (PTI): The Union Information Technology (IT) Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad will release the 'Digital North East Vision 2022' here tomorrow.

According to an official release, the 'Vision Document' emphasises leveraging digital technologies to transform lives of people of the North East and enhance the ease of living.

"The document identifies eight digital thrust areas namely, digital infrastructure, digital services, digital empowerment, promotion of electronics manufacturing, promotion of IT and ITes including BPOs, digital payments, innovation & startups, and cyber security," the release said.

The 'Vision Document' aims to empower the people of the North Eastern region and state-wise roadmaps for implementing digital initiatives have been developed, it added.

The ambitious document will be released in the presence of chief ministers and IT ministers of all North Eastern states along with senior officials government officials.

"Three parallel sessions have also been planned tomorrow preceding the event for the release of the Vision 2022. These comprise a networking workshop on hub-and-spoke model for the BPOs, a session on expanding the role and reach of Common services centre and another session on government e-market place," the statement informed.

These sessions are to expose the participants to the implementation and the role of these initiatives in providing employment opportunities, delivery of various services digitally to rural population and enhancing efficiency of governance, it added.

ANCSU holds dharna

KOHIMA, AUG 10 (PTI): The All Nagaland College Students' Union (ANCSU) today held dharna here and in all district headquarters of the state

Addressing a gathering here, ANCSU president Katho P



Awomi said as a concerned students organisations, ANCSU has submitted several memoran-

for proper land survey in order to retain the land belonging to

dums and representation to the state government demanding evacuation of the land encroachers from the government science college in Kohima.

The ANCSU demanded that all land encroachment issues in the district colleges and polytechnic institutions must be immediately recommended

the institutes at any cost.

The ANCSU also demanded the need of setting up a separate nodal cell for implementing all scholarship schemes so as to facilitate efficient implementation and disbursing of scholarships

The main demands of the ANCSU include the Kohima Science College, Jotsoma land encroachment case, separate nodal cell for scholarships and settlement of all dispute land encroachment of government polytechnic institutes.

Meghalaya rights panel orders probe into death of 5 workers

SHILLONG, AUG 10 (PTI): The Meghalaya Human Rights Commission (MHRC) today directed Chief Secretary Y Tsering to institute a high-level inquiry into the electrocution of five men at North Garo Hills district, an official statement said.

Five labourers were killed last month when a cememnt-mixing machine at a road construction site came in touch with a low-lying high-tension wire at Miapara village of the district.

Taking a suo moto cognisance of the

case, the commission asked the chief secretary to carry out an investigation into the July 25 incident, the statement said.

"A high-level inquiry needs to be conducted to unearth the actual truth about the incident. The investigation should be conducted by an officer not lower than the rank of secretary," commission secretary Aldous Mawlong said in its order, adding that the probe report should be submitted to MHRC in 45 days.




GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
SECRETARIAT ANNEXE-I, SONAM TSHERING MARG
GANGTOK, SIKKIM-737101


NOTICE

This is for general information that Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department is entering into second phase in introducing e-PoS device at Namchi, South Sikkim for releasing, sale and purchase of PDS items in all the registered Fair Price Shops under South District w.e.f. 13th August, 2018 with an aim to improve and bring transparency in the function of Fair Price Shops in the State. The installation of e-PoS machine has been completed in North District and Government has planned to install PoS devices in the remaining districts of West and East phase wise.

Sd/-
UNDER SECRETARY
FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES & C.A. DEPARTMENT
R.O. No.: 262/IPR/PUB/Classi/2018-19 Date: 19/08/2018



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NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT,
SOKEYTHANG, EAST SIKKIM-737102
E-Procurement Notice
BID ID No: - NHP- 01/Online Tender-01 OF 2018-19
Date: 10/08/2018
CANCELLATION OF TENDER

The tender for the Construction of State Water Resources Information Data Centre under National Hydrology Project at Sokeythang, Tadong, which has already been published in www.sikkimtenders.gov.in in bearing the above Bid Id STANDS CANCELLED DUE TO SOME TECHNICAL ISSUES AS OF NOW.

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SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES & RIVER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK.
R.O. No.: 263/IPR/PUB/Classi/2018-19 Date: 19/08/2018

Chelsea ready to kick-start Sarri era after frantic deadline

HUDDERSFIELD (UK), AUG 10 (AFP): A frantic 48 hours in the transfer market provided Chelsea with a timely lift after last weekend's Community Shield defeat to Manchester City.

The 2-0 loss left new Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri to rue the difference between the two teams, with Pep Guardiola's champions looking sharper and fitter than the Italian's side.

Sarri has been in post for less than four weeks and the last thing he needed was to go into the first game of the new season at Huddersfield on Saturday against the back-drop of a protracted stand-off between the club and keeper Thibaut Courtois.

Courtois's decision to stay away from the club this week



in a bid to force a move to Real Madrid could have had a negative impact at Stamford Bridge, reviving memories of the dispute with Diego Costa 12 months earlier.

But Chelsea moved quickly to sign Kepa Arrizabalaga

from Athletic Bilbao for £71.6 million - a world record for a keeper - on a seven-year contract, triggering Courtois's exit to Real.

As part of the deal for the Belgian, Croatia midfielder Mateo Kovacic moved in the

opposite direction on a season-long loan.

For a club desperate to progress after a fractious campaign that was marred by a rift between coach Antonio Conte and the club and ended with a disappointing

fifth placed finish, it was good business all round.

Now, Sarri must do all he can to prevent Eden Hazard following his international team-mate to Madrid, although the current signs are the Belgium star has been convinced to stay.

Courtois, though, did little to restore his already damaged reputation at his former club when he expressed his hope Hazard would join him when he was presented at the Bernabeu Stadium.

"Eden congratulated me," he said. "He knows it is a dream for me to be here. I would like to be always by his side.

"He is a great player and if he could come here, it would be fantastic." Sarri, the former Napoli coach, can continue his efforts to introduce the 4-3-3

system he used so successfully in Serie A after two seasons of 3-4-3 under Conte.

The Wembley clash against City confirmed there is plenty of work to do and it may be some time before Sarri finally settles on his two central defenders.

David Luiz and Antonio Rudiger appear to be his first choice right now, but Luiz in particular looked shaky against City.

And in midfield, Kovacic is likely to join Jorginho and N'Golo Kante to strengthen an area that was overrun by the champions.

This weekend, though, the main focus will be on Arrizabalaga if, as expected, the 23-year-old takes his first steps in English football.

Kepa's compatriot Da-

vid De Gea took time to settle when he first arrived at Manchester United and the former Bilbao man acknowledges he will need to adapt.

"This is a great challenge for me and it means a lot for my career and also in my personal life," he said.

"It is a great step forward for my career. It is also very brave for the club to take me in.

"In terms of the price, me being the most expensive goalkeeper in the world, it is something I just don't think about. "I am just going to be myself, the same I have always been and try to give my best for the club."

The speed with which Kepa settles in will be just one of the factors that determine how Chelsea progress under Sarri's new regime.



Neeraj named India's flag-bearer for Asian Games opening ceremony

NEW DELHI, AUG 10 (PTI): Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was today named the Indian contingent's flag-bearer for the Asian Games opening ceremony to be held on August 18 in Jakarta.

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president Narinder Batra made the announcement today during the send-off ceremony organised for the contingent.

The Games will be held from August 18 to September 2 in the Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Palembang.

The 20-year-old Neeraj is the reigning Commonwealth Games champion and junior world record holder in javelin. He is one of the bright gold medal prospects in this edition of the Asian Games.

"I am thrilled to be chosen as flag bearer of the Asian Games. It is a huge honour to be lead-

ing the Indian contingent in such a big event," Neeraj told PTI from his training base in Finland.

"I did not know this as I was not told earlier about this. This is going to be my first (to be a flag bearer) and it's happening in the Asian Games," he added.

Former Hockey captain Sardar Singh was India's flag-bearer at the 2014 Asian Games.

Neeraj had won a gold medal in the Asian Athletic championships in 2017 with a throw of 85.23 meters. He had also bagged a gold in the 2016 IAAF World U-20 Championships in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

The reigning Asian champion will, however, have to change his earlier plan of reaching Jakarta a few days before the start of his event on August 27. But he is happy to be on time for the opening ceremony.

"My javelin final is on August 27 but now I have to be there in Jakarta before August 18 when the opening ceremony is being held. But it is not an issue and I am happy," he said.

Athletics Federation of India Secretary C K Valson said Neeraj will reach Jakarta on August 17.

"He will be in Jakarta on August 17 for the opening ceremony next day. After him, the first Indian athletics contingent will land in Jakarta on August 21," Valson said.

Track and field events start on August 25 in the Asian Games.

India had won 57 medals, comprising 11 gold, 10 silver and 36 bronze medals in the previous edition at Incheon, South Korea.

The IOA has named a contingent of 572 athletes for the Asian Games this time.

Greek chic: Tsitsipas stuns Djokovic in Toronto

TORONTO, AUG 10 (AFP): Stefanos Tsitsipas defeated his second seed in as many days at the Toronto Masters, stunning Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3 to reach the quarter-finals.

The Greek teenager, who turns 20 on Sunday, followed up his defeat of seventh seed Dominic Thiem, beating four-time champion Djokovic, seeded ninth, in a first-time meeting.

"This was the best match of my career," Tsitsipas said. "I knew I was playing pretty good today.

"Losing the second set, it was tough to deal with - I had my opportunities and didn't use them.

"But I remained calm, I tried few things that I didn't try before. (The early break in the third set) was everything. It gave me the win at the end."

Tsitsipas, ranked 27, spent just over two hours in advancing to the first Masters 1000 quarter-final of his career.

The 19-year-old forced the former world number one Djokovic onto the back foot in the first set but was unable to



wrap up a straight-sets win as the 13-time Grand Slam champion claimed the tiebreak with the Greek firing long having saved two set points.

In the third set, the teenager showed great composure to break for a 2-0 lead and then saved a break point for a 3-0 margin.

He rounded off his afternoon with back-to-back winners to send Djokovic, the winner of 30 Masters titles, out on a first match point.

He played very well and deserved to win without a doubt," Djokovic said. "I just played not that great.

"I didn't return well. It wasn't that great of a match."

Upset scenarios were not in the plan of holder Alexander Zverev, who rolled over Russian Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 6-2 in just 52 minutes while never facing a break point.

Bulgarian fifth seed Grigor Dimitrov required almost two and a half hours to subdue Fran-

ces Tiafoe of the United States 7-6 (7/1), 3-6, 7-6 (7/4).

He next faces Wimbledon runner-up and fourth seed Kevin Anderson who defeated Ilya Ivashka of Belarus 7-5, 6-3 to also make the last-eight.

"It's great, I haven't competed in about four and a half weeks. And to come out and just play, I mean, that's all I wanted," said ATP World Tour Finals champion Dimitrov.

"I was really not focusing on winning or losing, just on starting to play good tennis and start building the right habits."

Dimitrov, who last reached a quarter-final in April, added: "Clearly I'm not playing my best tennis, but I'm finding a way and managing to go through those matches."

"I think I'm improving. With each game, with each point that I play, I feel more confident, more stable on the court, and everything falls into its place."

Sixth seed Marin Cilic continued his quiet progress, beating Argentine 11th seed Diego Schwartzman 6-3, 6-2.

Rowers Bhonkanal, Sawarn gear up to make a big splash at Asiad

MUMBAI, AUG 10 (PTI):

Their preparations going well in Pune, rowers Dattu Baban Bhonkanal and Sawarn Singh sound upbeat about their medal chances in the upcoming Asian Games.

"The preparation is going well (for the Asian Games).

There is a lot of difference in the practise, between what I used to do earlier and now.

"We are going this year with the preparation to bag a medal and we have to bring a gold



(medal),"rower Bhonkanal told PTI.

The Asian Games are starting on August 18 in Indonesia and will be

hosted by two cities - Jakarta and Palembang. Bhonkanal and other

oarsmen are training at the Army Rowing Node at the College of Engineering, Pune.

He had clinched a silver medal at the 2015 Asian Championships and also participated in

the Rio Olympics one year later, finishing in the 13th place.

Bhonkanal stresses that there has been improvement in his timing since the 2014 Asian Games held at Incheon, South Korea.

"There is a difference in the timing between 2014 (Asian Games) and now. The timing has improved at every event by 7/8/9 seconds. Since I got a lot of time, I have been able to develop my body," added Bhonkanal. Asked which countries

could pose a challenge to India, the rower said "China, Japan, Iran are there."

"But our coach (Ismail Baig) is getting constant information about the timings given (set) by the players of these countries and in which weather conditions. The coach says there is no problem in bagging the gold," he added.

The Indian rowing contingent - comprising 27 men, seven women, five coaches, a manager and a physio - is expected to depart for Indonesia on August 13 or 14.

Rathore asks athletes and officials to behave responsibly during Asian Games

NEW DELHI, AUG 10 (PTI): Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore today asked the Indian athletes and officials, who are part of the Asian Games contingent, to behave responsibly on and off the field during the mega sporting event starting next week in Indonesia.

India is sending a 800-plus contingent, including 572 athletes, to the Asian Games, to be held from August 18 to September 2 in the Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Palembang.

"It is a matter of great pride you (athletes) are representing the country in the Games and you have earned this privilege. When you take part in the Games and when you stay in the Games Village, you will lose your individual identity and your identity there is just one name that is 'India'," Rathore said at the send-off ceremony of the Indian contingent organised by the Indian Olympic Association here.

"It is a big responsibility for you. Whatever you do on the field



and off the field, please remember one thing that you are representing a billion strong nation. You have to act with responsibility. Whether it is the athletes or officials, everybody should remember this all the time," he added.

IOA president Narinder Batra, Secretary General Rajeev Mehta, Indian contingent's Chef de Mission Brij Bhushan Singh Sharan were present at the ceremony.

A few of the country's top athletes, including hockey stalwart Sardar Singh, turned up at the ceremony. The four deputy Chfs

de Mission, including R K Sacheti, were also introduced to the gathering.

Rathore said he hoped India would win more medals than the previous edition but urged the participating athletes not to think too much about the results.

"You have been preparing for years now and must be having dreams (to win medals). Now you are approaching nearer to your event. I would advice you to remain confident that those thousands of hours of your training and hard work will help you. Please

don't worry about the results too much and you should remain confident of your abilities. The results will come running after you," he said.

"I have seen the courage and the confidence of Indian athletes has made a sea change as compared to the 1990s, whether it is a 15-year-old or a 40-year-old. I congratulate the IOA, the NSFs for preparing these athletes. We have to work collectively, nobody can work alone. Ultimately, it is for the good of Indian sports."

He also thanked the IOA for giving visibility to the Sports Ministry and the Sports Authority of India in the send-off ceremony.

Later, speaking to reporters, Rathore said selection of the athletes for the Asian Games was the prerogative of the IOA and the NSFs, and the ministry would not want to interfere in it unless there were major discrepancies.

"Regarding the selection process of the Asian Games contingent, we will leave it to the IOA

and NSFs. It is best not to have too many cooks involved in the process. So, the responsibility of selection (of athletes) lies with the IOA, but of course if major issues or discrepancies are brought up to us we will look into it," said Rathore, himself an Olympic silver medalist shooter.

"We will pay due respect to what the IOA has recommended," he added.

He said he was all for a system where sportspersons are given the highest priority.

"When I was an active sportsperson, I often heard that there is no money in the sports ministry. That is no longer the case. For the elite athletes, for those who are competing at the continental and world level, there will not be lack of money for funding."

A few days back, Rathore had said that a games period will be made mandatory in schools after reducing the syllabus by 50 percent by next year.

Asked about that, he said, "HRD

Yemen in shock after Saudi-led strike on bus kills 29 children

DAHYAN, AUG 10 (AFP): The remains of victims and children's clothing were strewn across a market in northern Yemen today, as the US and UN called for an investigation into an air strike the previous day by a Saudi-led coalition that killed 29 children on a bus.

Yesterday's strike on a bus filled with children at the Dahyan market in the Huthi rebel stronghold of Saada injured at least 48 others, including 30 children, according to the International Committee for the Red Cross.

An AFP photographer at the scene said the bus carrying the children had been turned into a mass of twisted metal, and that the remains of victims and their personal items were scattered across the ground.

"There are remains everywhere, we are still trying to confirm identities," Yahya Shayem, a health official in Saada, told AFP.

He could not confirm when funerals for the victims would take place.

The coalition that has been fighting Yemen's rebels since 2015 acknowledged responsibility for the strike, but claimed the bus was carrying "Huthi combatants".

It said the coalition had carried out a "legitimate military action",



targeting a bus in response to a deadly missile attack on Saudi Arabia on Wednesday by Huthi rebels.

Yesterday's heavy toll sparked calls from both United Nations chief and the US State Department for the strike to be investigated.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged an "independent and prompt" probe, while State Department spokeswoman Heath-

er Nauert said Washington was "calling the Saudi led coalition to conduct a thorough and transparent investigation into the incident".

"We call on the parties to take appropriate measures to protect civilians," Nauert said.

A spokesman for the Red Cross in Sanaa told AFP the toll was not final as casualties from the attack were taken to several hospitals.

"We need blood," said Jameel al-Fareh, an emergency room doctor at Saada's Al-Jumhuri hospital, calling on local people to donate blood to treat the wounded.

Ahmed al-Mansouri, the hospital's director, condemned what he called the "massacre of children".

The coalition, which also includes the United Arab Emirates, intervened in 2015 to try to restore

the internationally recognised government after the rebels drove it out of the capital Sanaa.

Coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki told AFP that claims by aid organisations that children were inside the bus were "misleading", and that "the elements inside the bus were Huthi combatants".

He said the rebels have "ballistic missiles threatening our national security, Saudi cities and villages on the border. The attack today was a follow-up process to neutralise that threat." Earlier, Maliki accused the Huthis of "recruiting child soldiers, throwing them in battlefields and using them as tools".

Saudi Arabia shot down a missile fired by the Huthis on Wednesday, with debris killing a Yemeni man and wounding 11 others, the coalition said.

The missile was fired from the rebel-held Yemeni province of Amran towards the Saudi city of Jizan, the coalition said.

The Huthis have in recent months ramped up missile attacks against Saudi Arabia, which Riyadh usually says it intercepts.

Wednesday's attack brings the tally to 167 rebel missiles launched since 2015, according to the coalition.

On August 2, attacks on a hos-

pital and a fish market in the strategic rebel-held port city of Hodeida killed at least 55 civilians and wounded 170, according to the ICRC.

The coalition denied responsibility for those attacks.

Aid agency CARE International noted that yesterday's strike came a week after the Hodeida bombardment.

"This latest air strike, only a week after the attacks on Hodeida city, demonstrates a continued disregard for human life and suffering," said Johan Mooij, the agency's country director in Yemen.

"It is beyond cruel; innocent children's lives have been lost." The war in impoverished Yemen has left nearly 10,000 people dead and unleashed what the UN describes as the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The United Nations envoy to Yemen, Martin Griffiths, last week told the Security Council "a political solution" to Yemen's war was "available" and that the warring sides would be invited to talks on September 6 in Geneva.

UN-brokered negotiations on Yemen broke down in 2016 amid demands for a rebel withdrawal from key cities and power-sharing with the Saudi-backed government.



Malaysia ex-PM Najib to face corruption trial in February

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 10 (AFP): Former Malaysian prime minister Najib Razak's trial on corruption charges related to a massive financial scandal that led to his shock election defeat will start in February, a court said today.

Najib, 65, will stand trial for criminal breach of trust, money laundering and power abuse linked to billions of dollars allegedly looted from sovereign wealth fund 1MDB.

The former leader, who is free on bail, has been hit with seven charges so far, including three for money laundering lodged on Wednesday over claims he pocketed 42 million ringgit (USD 10.3 million) from a former unit of 1MDB.

These are in addition to the charges he faced last month after he was first arrested -- three for criminal breach of trust and a separate count that he abused his position to take the money.

Najib has denied all the charges.

Malaysia's new government, under Najib's 93-year-old former mentor Mahathir Mohamad, is probing the corruption allegations involving 1MDB -- which was set up and overseen by Najib -- in an audacious fraud that spanned the globe.

High Court Judge Mohamad Nazlan Mohamad Ghazali set the trial dates from February 12-28 and from March 4-29.

State prosecutors said they expect to call around 50 witnesses.

Najib is facing a long time behind bars if found guilty -- the money-laundering charges carry maximum jail terms of 15 years each, while the other four charges car-

ry sentences of 20 years each.

The money-laundering charges allege 42 million ringgit stemming from illegal activities was transferred to Najib's bank accounts between December 2014 and February 2015.

All the charges relate to fund transfers from SRC International, an energy company that was originally a subsidiary of 1MDB.

The sums involved are just a fraction of the USD 681 million that was mysteriously transferred to Najib's personal bank accounts several years ago, sparking uproar in Malaysia.

Najib, who has consistently denied any wrongdoing, and his allies are accused of using the plundered money to buy everything from US real estate to artworks and a luxury yacht that was recently handed over to Malaysia.

Najib's lawyer Muhammad Shafee Abdullah said Wednesday that the toppled leader believed the case was driven by politics.

"I am confident of a fair trial for my client, but my client thinks this is a political prosecution," Muhammad Shafee told reporters.

The US Department of Justice, which is seeking to recover items allegedly bought with stolen 1MDB cash in America, estimates that 4.5 billion in total was looted from the fund.

Following Najib's election loss in May, police seized a vast trove of items -- including expensive handbags and jewellery -- from properties linked to him with an estimated value of up to USD 273 million.

Imran Khan submits written apology, affidavit in election code violation case

ISLAMABAD, AUG 10 (PTI): Pakistan Prime Minister-in-waiting Imran Khan today submitted a written apology and an affidavit to the election commission for violating the electoral code of conduct while casting his vote in the general election on July 25, media reports said.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has reserved its verdict in the case, Geo News reported.

The ECP had sought a signed apology from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairperson Khan for violating the electoral code of conduct by casting his vote publicly in-



stead of going behind the voting screen.

The written reply and the affidavit were submitted by Khan during the hearing held by a four-member bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sardar Muhammad Raza, the report said.

The commission yesterday rejected the re-

sponse submitted by his counsel Babar Awan who had stated that his client did not intentionally stamp his ballot publicly.

He had sought an end to the case and requested the ECP to issue the notification for Khan's victo-

ry from NA-53 Islamabad constituency.

The suo motu case against Khan was heard after the ECP took notice of him publicly stamping the ballot paper in NA-53 Islamabad constituency, instead of going behind the voting screen to cast his vote in secrecy.

According to the reply by Khan's counsel, photos of Khan's ballot were taken without his permission and the curtain, used around the ballot for secrecy, had fallen due to the crowd inside the polling booth.

Imran won NA-53 seat by defeating former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, bagging 92,891 votes in contrast to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader's 44,314 votes.

The electoral body has withheld the notification of his success from the constituency in view of the pending case.

According to the election act, a person can be given a six-month jail sentence and/or fine of Rs 1,000 for not casting his/her vote in secrecy.

On July 30, the ECP

had sought a written reply from Khan, who has been nominated by the PTI as the next Prime Minister after the party emerged as the largest in the National Assembly in the election.

The 65-year-old PTI leader had contested from five constituencies and had won from all of them. But the ECP has only granted him temporary permission to take oath as a Member of the National Assembly, pending the outcome of the case of violation of electoral code of conduct.



Lanka parliament speaker rejects plea to recognise Rajapaksa-backed group as main Opposition

COLOMBO, AUG 10 (PTI): Sri Lankan parliament Speaker Karu Jayasuriya today rejected a plea by the loyalists of former president Mahinda Rajapaksa to recognise their group as the main Opposition, replacing the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) led by R Sampanthan.

In a written request to the Speaker, eight members of parliament of the Rajapaksha-backed "Joint Opposition" sought recognition of their group as the largest single opposition in parliament and appoint MP Dinesh Gunawardena as the Leader of the Opposition.

The Rajapaksa loyalists argued that they have the support of 70 MPs as opposed to TNA, which has only 16 legislators.

However, the Speaker countered the argument saying that Rajapaksa and his group had been elected to parliament as members of the (UPFA). The UPFA, whose leader is President Maithripala Sirisena, also acts as part of the unity government

in the island nation.

I have to inform the House that in terms of the constitution and standing orders I have no power to change the leader of the opposition, Jayasuriya said.

He further said there was no ground for the Joint Opposition to claim the leader of the opposition position while remaining in a party that was a constituent on the government.

The Rajapaksa group charged that Jayasuriya was denying their group the due democratic recognition.

The 2015 parliamentary elections saw UPFA undergo a split with loyalists of the Sirisena faction, Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), forming a coalition government with the United National Party (UNP).

The coalition led to a great degree of discontent amongst many SLFP members who went on to form the Joint Opposition alongside other parties from the UPFA.

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

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

ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM

LOKTA BOOKS
Imphal - Shillong
loktabooks@gmail.com
+91 901 060 0200; +91 900 200 0763



HEAD TURNER! Kylie Jenner wows in magenta cut-out dress as she debuts platinum blonde tresses to join famous family at her fashion forward 21st birthday bash.

DADDY YANKEE ROBBED OF MORE THAN \$2 MILLION IN JEWELRY IN HOTEL HEIST IN SPAIN

A Spain hotel room Daddy Yankee was staying in was robbed of more than \$2 million in jewelry - including diamond and gold pieces - belonging to the Gasolina artist, his manager said Thursday.

"Daddy Yankee's press office confirms that the artist has been victim of a robbery while he was out of his hotel in Valencia, Spain," his reps said via Twitter. "A law firm has been hired and there will not be any more statements in order to not hinder the investigation."

According to the Las Provincias, a Spanish outlet, the robber claimed he was Daddy Yankee to have staff grant him access to the Despacito performer's room at the Melia Valencia hotel - and open the safe inside.

The 41-year-old musical artist was not present at the time of the robbery - in which \$2,500 cash was also taken in the hotel room - according to the outlet.

Authorities will utilize security footage and the guest list at the establishment - as well as seek fingerprints for forensics experts - in their probe in the robbery of the San Juan, Puerto Rico native, whose full name is Ramón Luis Ayala Rodríguez.

Daddy Yankee and his team asked the hotel to contact authorities upon their return to the room, leading multiple branches of law enforcement to respond and interview both hotel employees as well as Daddy Yankee and two people with him.

The thieves wore gloves and didn't leave behind much physical evidence for investigators to follow up on, the publication reported.

The singer was back to work on Thursday with a concert slated for Martiques, France.

Other celebrities who have past been robbed of valuable jewellery include John Stamos and wife Caitlin McHugh earlier this year; Paris Hilton, at her Southern California home by the infamous Bling Ring; and Kim Kardashian, who was held at gunpoint in the fall of



© Getty Images

2016 in Paris while robbers swiped more than \$10 million worth of jewelry.

Kim told Wealthsimple last month that the thieves were organized and specific in the pieces they took from her with force.

"I had done interviews about my jewelry and my pieces, so they always knew it was real," she said, "and I guess I was so open about talking about that. When you get engaged, you want to post the photo of your ring."

Tom Hardy as Al Capone in the FIRST official image in Fonzo!

He's been hyping up his star turn as Al Capone with behind-the-scenes snaps. And the first official image of Tom Hardy as the notorious gangster has been released via the film's director Josh Trank on Twitter on Thursday.

In the first look, the Inception star, 40, looked barely recognisable as he transformed into Al Capone with his withering hairline and trademark cigar hanging from his mouth.

Tom looked entirely different from his usual hunky exterior with prosthesis aging his skin with wrinkles.

The Wuthering Heights actor captured the essence of the gangster boss with a silk robe and stripped shirt polishing off his character look.

According to production notes for the film - entitled Fonzo - the story will show how 'his past becomes present as harrowing memories of his violent and brutal origins melt into his waking life'.

The highly anticipated gangster flick is said to detail the final years of Capone's life and his struggles with dementia.

Tom will share the screen with Matt Dillon, Noel Fisher and Linda Cardellini, who will play his wife Mae. The star famously shaved off all of his hair for the dramatic role and has previously been seen sporting his new 'do - and shocked fans when he appeared at the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Me-



gan Markle back in May.

The Dark Knight Rises star, who beefed up considerably to play hulking antagonist Bane in the Batman film and MMA fighter Tommy Conlon in Warrior, previously spoke about his fears for his health now he's 40.

For the project, Tom once again altered his appearance, although he claimed it wouldn't be as drastic as his previous roles.

He told the Daily Beast: "It's not the classic Al Capone that you necessarily envision with the silhouette. I don't want to give too much away about it, but there's definitely a transformation with that role. I don't know if it's as drastic as Bane. I've probably damaged my body too much. I'm only little! If I keep putting on weight I'll collapse like a house of cards under too much pressure."

The star added that he has aches and pains in places that he shouldn't and now struggles lifting his children Louis, nine, and the two-year-old he shares with wife Charlotte Riley.

Nick Jonas CONFIRMS his engagement with Priyanka Chopra!

Priyanka Chopra had announced that she doesn't think her life is for public consumption and thus, refused to speak about her engagement to Nick Jonas recently at an event. But the American singer doesn't have any such hang-ups.

Us Weekly reports that when a fan congratulated him about his engagement, he graciously said, "Thanks man!" That's the first confirmation that we have received so far. But that's not all.

The singer told US media, "[Having a family of my own] is the goal. It's definitely something that I hope will happen. I am not sure of the exact timeline. But, I need to give my nieces cousins at some point." In fact, Nick is so clued into being a parent thanks to his nieces, he thinks he has been sufficiently trained to do this job. "The best part about being an uncle is that it's like training wheels. You get to spend time with these young people and have some responsibility, which is nice," Nick revealed.

John Varavtos with whom



Nick launched his perfume recently, revealed that he loves kids.

"He is great with kids. He's like a magnet to them. They latch right on. It's amazing. He's great," revealed John.

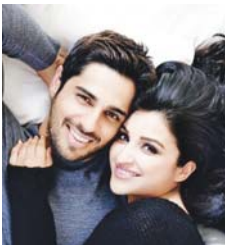
Clearly, Nick had family in his mind when he got into a relationship with Priyanka Chopra. PC too had echoed the same sentiments regarding kids.

She had said, "I am a very live in the today, maximum live in the next two months kind of person. But [in] 10 years, I definitely want to have kids. That is, it's going to happen in the next 10 years. Well, hopefully, earlier than that. I'm very fond of children and I want to be able to do that."

Well, PC's refusal and Nick's admittance say a lot about how differently Bollywood and Hollywood operate.

Sidharth Malhotra & Parineeti Chopra's Shotgun Shaadi is now Jabariya Jodi!

Parineeti Chopra and Sidharth Malhotra are all set to reunite for another project. The fans of the cult hit Hasee to Phasee would wish it was a sequel to the movie, but the premise of the new project sounds even more interesting. Jabariya Jodi is the new title of their movie and it is a love story based on the concept of groom kidnapping, as per a report by DNA. The news daily quoted their source, "The movie is based on pakadwa vivaah, the makers felt that this was an apt name. In Bhojpuri, jabariya means zabardasti, so the title refers to a couple who is forced to get married. The two actors have also shot for the posters before leaving for Lucknow, so they should be out soon."



The movie was initially titled Shotgun Shaadi. But Sidharth was instrumental in coming up with the new name. "He came across this word during the readings and told the team about it. They liked it instantly," the source added.

Ekta Kapoor's production house is backing Jabariya Jodi. "Balaji will always be special because till date, my biggest film (Ek Villain, 2014) is with Ekta. That's why the thought of calling her up about this script earlier this year was obvious. She's good at presenting and marketing a film. We have had great energies which have worked for us in Ek Villain and we are going to amplify it further with this movie," Sidharth told DNA.

Apart from Jabariya Jodi, Sidharth will be seen in the Vikram Batra biopic, co-produced by Dharma Productions. Parineeti has quite a few movies in her kitty including, Kesari with Akshay Kumar, Sandeep aur Pinky Faraar with Arjun Kapoor and also, Namaste England.

ARIES: Your telepathy and intuition are at an all-time high today, Aries. You should find it easier than usual to tune in to others' thoughts and feelings. It might be a good idea to control your reactions. Don't tell others what you're picking up unless you're sure they want to know. Your imagination and creative abilities are also operating at a very high level. Make the most of them.

TAURUS: Today a deep concern for others' feelings could have you lending a sympathetic ear to those in need of some understanding. It's more important to listen than talk now, Taurus, even though your practicality might want to express itself. Your affairs should go smoothly, bringing you a lot of satisfaction. Don't be surprised if you shed a few tears of joy at some point.

GEMINI: Today you might complete a difficult project that's important to your career. Acknowledgement of your dedication and hard work could find you more emotionally overwhelmed than makes you comfortable. You may have to make a special effort to control your feelings. You've moved mountains to get where you are, Gemini, so it's nice to be recognized. You deserve to celebrate tonight.

CANCER: A long-awaited social event, perhaps a wedding or christening, could have you moved to tears, Cancer. As you're naturally a person who doesn't like to show your feelings, you might need to be by yourself until the urge to cry has passed. This should be a very happy day for you as well, and your contentment could seem almost too good to be true. It's real. Relax and enjoy it.

LEO: An intense, emotional dream could move you so powerfully that you awaken with the odd sense that the dream was real. Write it down, Leo. Maybe it is. Efforts to overcome obstacles and advance in business could finally pay off. You could walk around in a daze asking yourself if it really has happened. It has. Make the most of it, and don't be afraid to show your feelings.

VIRGO: Emotional discussions with your partner could move you to tears, Virgo. You've overcome any difficulties and probably reached a new understanding. Any relationship or friendship started or advanced now shows promise of being strong and lasting. Your basic inclination will be to control your feelings, but don't be afraid to show them. It's OK at times like this.

LIBRA: Today you may feel the need to do a lot of work around your home, Libra. Perhaps you expect visitors or simply want to spruce up the place for yourself. You may need to pace yourself and not try to do everything at once. You could run into difficulties that require help from others who may be unavailable. Control the urge to steamroll through your chores.

SCORPIO: Some intense communications with a close friend or lover could reveal wonderful things about your relationship. Perhaps you have more in common than you thought. Maybe your fears and insecurities prove groundless. As a result, you two could grow closer and discover a new mutual sense of purpose. Enjoy the positive feelings that come your way and have a great day.

SAGITTARIUS: Ancient social tra-

ditions could be a powerful part of today, Sagittarius. An emotional event concerning your family, perhaps a wedding or other milestone, could have you feeling especially moved. In the rush of events, you'll probably keep a tight rein on any expression of emotion. Keeping up appearances could be more important to you than usual today. Do it, but also be yourself. **CAPRICORN:** You usually place a lot of importance on self-control. Today this skill will come in handy when you receive some wonderful news that might otherwise move you to tears. Don't carry it too far. Under these circumstances, it's OK to let it out a bit. Your hard work and dedication to your career are paying off. News about possible advancement could arrive. It's a very eventful day.

AQUARIUS: Expect some great

news regarding money, possibly professional advancement. You may have to control the urge to break into tears of joy, Aquarius. A female friend could be going through some heavy changes and might want your support. Your best course of action would be to listen rather than offer advice. You may have to try hard to control yourself, however. The situation could defy all reason.

PISCES: Happy events involving a close female relative might have you feeling emotional, Pisces. A marriage or birth could be involved. Your projects, particularly those with other people, could proceed well despite difficulties you've had to overcome. The results could move you to tears. You may feel the need to control yourself, but don't be afraid to show how you feel.