



**NOBODY ELSE HAD GUTS TO
PLAY FLAWED CHARACTERS:
SHAHID KAPOOR**

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**Women's World Cup: the
science of what makes a
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**MEGADETH FRONTMAN DAVE
MUSTAINE DIAGNOSED
WITH THROAT CANCER**

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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Rain scares sends jitters along Teesta

*Rains batter
North roads,
swollen
Teesta
scours East*

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 18 JUN:**

People living along the Teesta, stretching from Dikchu, to Pheedang, Makha, Singtam, Rangpo, etc. had a nightmarish Monday night with the river in full spate, floating down debris and swelling to a size not seen in recent years. The Stage III and Stage V dams had opened their sluice gates to allow the inundation and the debris it carried to flow on without damaging the dams, and the bulg-



ing Teesta which they battered the valley had everyone along its banks on tenterhooks.

The Teesta was at its most furious around midnight when it washed

away the NHPC guest house located near Dikchu Bridge and also cleaved away the retaining wall below Dikchu Mangan highway.

Fortunately, no ca-

sualties were reported because the area had been kept on alert since morning.

Meanwhile, the heavy Rongyong Chu flowing through Dzongu into the Teesta washed away the sus-

pension bridge at Mantam Lake and has cut off 13 villages on the far bank.

The suspension bridge was the only lifeline for the people here since the road leading to the Lingdem on

the left bank of the Mantam Lake has also been damaged by a landslide.

The area MLA, Forest Minister Karma Loday Bhutia, and the HRDD Minister, Kunga Nima

Lepcha, along with the NHPC Teesta V officials visited the spot at Dikchu New Market where the NHPC guest house located at the confluence of river Teesta and Bakcha was

washed away last night.

Both the Ministers directed the NHPC officials to undertake protective measures.

A suspension bridge
turn to pg02



*Sikkim seeks
Rs 1,284 cr in
DoNER funds*

NEW DELHI, 18 JUN (IPR): Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Go-] called on Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Development of North Eastern Region, Dr Jitendra Singh, in New Delhi today.

The Chief Minister discussed the fund to be provided from the Ministry of DoNER to the tune of Rs 160 crores for installation of medical equipment and furniture as a special case at the Multi-Speciality Hospital here.

He also discussed the construction of a District Hospital at Mangan.

The Chief Minister requested DoNER and North East Council to consider 100% grant for Sikkim.

The Minister informed that all the projects under North East Infrastructure Development Schemes will be funded with 100% central grant in future.

Under the same schemes, the Chief Minister informed the Minister about the 19 projects submitted by the State Government totaling Rs 1,284.53 crores to the Ministry to be considered for infrastructural development.

The Minister directed his Secretary to submit details of the meeting held at New Delhi with the Secretary, DoNER and other officials with the Chief Secretary of Sikkim on 18 June, 2019.

The Resident Commissioner, Ashwani Chand, was directed by both the Chief Minister and the Minister to pursue the projects submitted by the State Government and submit a report to the Minister at reasonable intervals.

CM discusses Sikkim's debt burden with Union Finance Minister

NEW DELHI, 18 JUN (IPR): Chief Minister of Sikkim, Prem Singh Tamang called on Minister of State of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Anurag Singh Thakur at North Block, New Delhi today. Both the Chief Minister and Minister of State recalled their friendship relation from 2007 onwards.

The Chief Minister raised the issue of financial mismanagement by the previous government as a result of which the debt burden to the State is very huge. Thakur on the other hand requested to place a memorandum



about it and has assured to discuss with the Union Minister of Finance during inter-Ministerial Meeting.

The Chief Minister highlighted about the various schemes which may be suitable to the plains

area, nonetheless, those are facing many difficulties as regard to the cost, design and other geographical challenges in the hilly places like Sikkim.

The Minister assured that all these issues of

environment, livelihood and other challenges will be discussed during the conference of Himalayan State which is being held during November - December, 2019.

turn to pg02

Disaster Management Minister inspects damage at Mantam

MANGAN, JUNE 18 [IPR]: HRD Minister, KN Lepcha, who also holds the portfolio for Land Revenue & Disaster Department, accompanied by Roads & Bridges Minister, Samdup Lepcha, and Forest Minister Karma Loday Bhutia today jointly inspected the damage caused by Monday night's torrential rain at Mantam in Dzongu.

The Ministers were accompanied by the District Magistrate, North, Raj Yadav, and officers from the line department.

At Mantam, around half a kilometer of road leading to Upper Dzongu has



been completely washed away by Kana-ka river and the only foot suspension bridge swept away totally cutting off

Tingvong, Sakyong-Pentong and Lingden GPU from the rest of the State.

turn to pg02

Protest against OFOJ cancellations returns to Tashiling Secretariat

*Aggrieved
youth submit
7-point
charter of
demands*

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 18 JUNE:**

A section of youth appointed under the One Family One Job scheme earlier this year and recently terminated from their services returned to Tashiling Secretariat with their protest on Tuesday.

A team of their representatives met senior officials of the Department of Personnel seeking explanations for the manner in which they have been treated while the



rest of the youth stayed out.

Registering their dissatisfaction with the assurances made by the department, the aggrieved ex-employees raised slogans. Later, another team of representatives met senior officials of the department again and submitted a seven-point charter of demands.

They have decided

that if the department did not resolve their issues soon, then the OFOJ-affected will return with their protest.

The memorandum submitted to the State Government today has demanded immediate re-appointment of the second list candidates who joined their duties before

turn to pg02

Sikkim Pragya Prathisthan Presents

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HRD Minister chairs coordination meet in North

MANGAN, 18 JUN (IPR): Minister for Human Resource Development Department, Law & Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs and Land Revenue & Disaster Department, and Sport and Youth Affairs Department, Kunga Nima Lepcha chaired a coordination meeting with the District Magistrate, North, Raj Yadav, Sr. S P/N, Kungzang Dorjee Shangderpa, (New) S P/N, Sonam Gyatso Bhutia, Joint Director, HRDD/N, Deelak Pradhan and other officers of HRDD, Sports and LR&DM here at chamber of DM, North, today.

Speaking at the meeting, Mr Lepcha stated that the main objective of the present government is to make an efficient ad-



ministration where the right person shall hold the right post in the right place and decentralization of power.

Stating that Education and Health care is

one of the fundamental instruments for holistic development for state building, he urged the august house to implement the governmental scheme in a

righteous way.

Further, he insisted that punctuality and performance is key part of employees while discharging their duty. Talking on the impor-

ance of co-ordination between officers and staffs he appealed all government employees to work in tandem with government's policies and programme.

Talking with staff of LR&DM, the Minister asked them to work with punctuality and deliver their best performance as to take Sikkim into a greater height and make it a model state. Further, he called all employees to join hands to combat any unforeseen natural calamity.

Besides, he noted and appreciated the inputs placed forward by the officer such as to levy minimum tourist permit fee, maintenance of drainage system of Pentok, maintenance of Mangan School Ground and Gallery. Minister also gave patience hearing to the problem raised by the officers such as staff shortage, Vehicle problem etc.

Health Minister visits District Hospital Gyalshing



GYALSHING, 18 JUN (IPR): Health Minister Dr. M. K. Sharma visited the District Hospital Gyalshing (DHG). He was accompanied by Sangay Lepcha, Deputy Speaker (SLA); L. N. Sharma, Minister for FS&ADD,

H&CCDD, AHLF & VS, IPR and Printing Department; B. H. Limboo, Minister PHE & Water Security, Aditya Golay, MLA (Soreng-Chakung); Vishal Chauhan, Commissioner cum Secretary (Health) along with other Officials of Health Department.

The Health Minister took extensive tour of the Hospital premises. He along with other Ministers interacted with the patients and medical staffs exclusively where proper care along with adequate health facilities to be provided by the Hospital was directed by the Health Minister to the staffs of DHG.

The Minister addressed the Medical Officials during the visit that they have been appoint-

ed to provide Human Services to the public hence it is their duty to do the necessary duties in completing their tasks at hand. He urged them to step beyond their duty hours and provide services as a form of social service.

He mentioned that the Government is adamant to leave no stones unturned to achieve the Health facilities to the people of West District but they must also understand that all progress and work needs to be done in proper manner hence patience needs to be maintained by the public.

He also highlighted that it was his maiden visit to West District hence he wanted the public and medical staffs to know that the Government is keeping West District of Sikkim as a priority.

He further assured that shortages would be met in due time. He later visited the Ayush Hospital at Kyongsa, West Sikkim.

Industries Minister meets Minister Irani



NEW DELHI, 18 JUN (IPR): Minister of Tourism & Civil Aviation and Commerce & Industries, Bedu Singh Panth, called on the Union Minister of Textiles, Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani, at Udyog Bhawan in New Delhi today.

The Minister apprised the Union Minister about

progress of schemes in the state related to textiles, handlooms and carpet weaving.

The Union Minister offered to support carpet weaving activities including skill development and export of the finished products through agencies of the Textile Ministry.

Rain scare...

below Simchuthang Mangley near 3rd IRBn training camp which connects South Sikkim with East Sikkim was also washed away last night.

The State Relief Commissioner, the DC East and his team, SDM Namchi inspected Singtam Adarsh Gaon and the NHPC damsite to compute impact of the flash flood.

Meanwhile, issuance of tourist permits to Lachen, Lachung and Dzongu have been suspended owing to the poor weather conditions, the DC North, Raj Yadav, informs.

The DC also informed that around 250 tourists stranded at Zema beyond Lachen due to road blocked were being evacuated to Lachen by GRE and ITBP personnel.

The heavy rain also damaged the RCC building belonging to Pemduk Lepcha of Rong Rong, Mangzing ward of Upper Dzongu even as roads in Dzongu have been damaged at several places. The approach road between Passingdang and its PHC was blocked by a landslide as was the road to Mangzing in Upper Dzongu along with the road to Lum in Lower Dzongu.

Efforts were underway to clear the roads as soon as possible.

Disaster Management...

After taking stock of the damage, the District Magistrate was asked to start restoration works as early as possible.

Thereafter, the Minister inspected the ongoing work of protection wall at the base of Mangan Bazaar and instructed the DM, North to expedite the work.

In turn the DM, North, suggested that to totally stabilize the landslide prone area, a composite plan will be required. In this context, the DM informed that a detailed project has already sent to the Government of India.

Minister Kunga Nima Lepcha assured that he will pursue the matter with the Centre.

Protest against...

31 May 2019, reinstatement of OFOJ employees at Forest Department whose jobs were cancelled by a DoP notification, DoP to verify OFOJ appointments with the candidates in-service without cancelling or suspending any appointment.

The memorandum has also demanded the immediate release of salaries of first and second list OFOJ employees and no further terminations.

CM discusses...

The Minister also requested the Chief Minister to deliver a talk on difficulties faced by Sikkim due to the tough terrain and other logistic hitches.

Mr Thakur also suggested having inter-Himalayan games which can be held in different States so that the youth having the different strength can learn the games by conducting exchange programme.

The Chief Minister has suggested that the Sikkim has good potentiality in sports like football, taekwondo, boxing, karate, wushu and archery. The meeting concluded with congratulating each other for the assumption of new offices in the Government.

Final Account Reconciliation Meeting for Election 2019

GYALSHING, 18 JUN (IPR): The final Account Reconciliation Meeting with the AEOs, candidates/election agents was conducted today in presence of Central Expenditure Observers, Alok Malvia and Anil Bhardwaj accompanied by Tushar G. Nikhare, SDM (HQ) and Ashap Dahal, AO (HRDD) at the Conference Hall of Zilla Bhawan, Kyongsa, West Sikkim.

The election observers emphasised upon the points that all the Annexure should be duly filled, all vouchers should be duly signed by the candidates/candidates agents and all the expenditures right from nomination day to the poll day as well as the counting day should be accounted for.

This expenditures shall match the folder of evidence and annexure B(6) that was sent on the daily basis during election time.

The Expenditure Observers also asked all AEOs to personally see that all candidates are submitting the details and he also warned that those who failed to do so even after last date of reconciliation may lead to such candidates getting disqualified.

As per the instruction received from the Election commission of India the Election Observers will be staying at Gyalshing for next eight days. All accounting processes for General Election 2019 are supposed to be over in next 3-4 days.

Agriculture Minister visits KVK Gyalshing

GYALSHING, 18 JUN (IPR): L. N. Sharma Minister for FS&ADD, H&CCDD, AHLF & VS, IPR & Printing Department visited the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Gyalshing. He was accompanied by Aditya Golay, MLA Soreng; Secretary AHVS D. K. Bhandari; Secretary Agriculture Khorlo Bhutia and Secretary Horticulture Dr. Kumar Bhandari

The Minister whilst addressing the gathering present during the meeting mentioned that the Government has come to change and make the lives of the farmer better in Sikkim.

He urged all the Officials of the Agriculture

and Horticulture Department to work for the benefit of the farmers and directed them to sort out genuine beneficiaries for various schemes. He also mentioned that genuine beneficiaries should be selected for the PM Kisan Scheme where an amount of Rs 6000 would be given to farmers in 3 installments as an honorarium for their contributions.

Further he stated that the production of various cash crops and staple crops needs to be monitored and given adequate supplies of necessary elements for more production. He later visited the farms of KVK and Animal Husbandry.

Meri Saheli program held at Rangpo



SUMMIT REPORT GANGETOK, 18 JUN: Lions Club of Rangpo Under One District One Activity Mission of Lions Club International 322F organised Meri Saheli Program at Dewan Junior High School, Rangpo, West Bengal. The program was attended by Chitramani Khawas and

Sanjay Agarwal.

Dr Dixcha Poudyal in her address spoke about Menstrual Hygiene. She interacted with girl students to know the problems faced by them during menstruation. In the program, the club distributed Sanitary Napkins to all the girl students from Class V to VIII.

West District conducts coordination meet of HoDs



GYALSHING, 18 JUN (IPR): A District Level Coordination Meeting of HoDs with Deputy Speaker, Ministers and MLAs was successfully conducted at the Conference Hall, Zilla Bhawan, Gyalshing. Present during the meeting were Sangay Lepcha, Deputy Speaker (SLA); L. N. Sharma, Minister for FS&ADD, H&CCDD, AHLF & VS, IPR and Printing Department; B. H. Limboo, Minister PHE & Water Security, Aditya Golay, MLA (Soreng-Chakung); Sunita Gajmer, MLA (Zoom-Salghari); Karma R. Bonpo, DC West and other officials.

The meeting was mainly conducted for the newly formed Government machinery to have a proper understanding of the West District's working and status of Departmental works on various initiatives and policies.

Sangay Lepcha asked the officials to work in cooperation and with proper coordination to achieve the dream of

making the West District prosper. He further urged the District Administration to help the leaders to work properly.

L. N. Sharma addressed the gathering about the importance of departments in the District and must work as a single entity. He mentioned that as Officials of West Sikkim all HODs and various Staffs to work for the benefit of the public.

He urged all to be honest, prompt and work diligently. Further he asked all Officials to be patient and understanding with the rural populous and make them understand the necessary procedures when they visit the Office.

Aditya Golay mentioned that the government is keen to work for the betterment of the State and asked the Department expertise to help him.

During the Meeting various Departments presented their Status of Work and Profile of the Department.

AIFF D-Licence course concludes

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGETOK, 18 JUN:

The valedictory function of the All India Football Federation [AIFF] D-Licence Course for football coaches was held here at Football House on Monday. A total of 24 aspiring coaches attended the six-day course which was conducted by Sikkim Football Association in close coordination with AIFF and Ideas Sports Management, Kolkata.

Renowned ex-footballer from Manipur,

Choaba Devi, who is currently an AIFF Instructor, conducted the course.

Out of the 24 candidates in the course, 20 were from Sikkim.

SFA president, Menla Ethenpa, handed over certificates of participation at the function which was also attended by SFA executive members.

It is informed that log books have been provided to participants to fill up and results will be declared after submission of the log book by the candidates.

KUTSE SHEGU

The 49th day Kutse Shegu of Late Doma Bhutia w/o Lakpa Thendup Bhutia who left for her heavenly abode on 01.05.2019 falls on 18.6.2019 (Tuesday). All relatives, friends & well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at Below Law College, Helipad, Lower Burtuk, Gangtok, East Sikkim.

Lakpa Thendup Bhutia(Husband), Kesseng Norbu Bhutia(son) & all family members.
Mob: 9800655921/ 6294186876.



~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

URGENTLY REQUIRED:

Urgent Recruitment for a waiter with atleast 3 years experience and one kitchen helper. Contact: Hotel Paramount, Dentam, West Sikkim- 9735909625 / 8348285444

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Vacant plot measuring 0.38 Acres for sale at Amdo Golai, Deorali. Contact: 09717191985/097474651223

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GENERAL INFORMATION

This is for general information of all concerned that Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali East Sikkim shall remain closed for a period of six months for carrying out necessary repairs. All concerned tour operators and clients are requested to refrain from booking or deal with any sort with regard to Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali, East Sikkim.

Mr. Subash Lama

Proprietor

Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali, East Sikkim

BUILDING FOR SALE

A 5 storied building with 3 floor completed having a land area of 30x70 at DABUWA, Melli road (2km from Namchi) is for sale. Rate reasonable. Interested party please contact: **6296370905, 9733284142, 8597088755.**

Food Minister chairs co-ordination meeting



GANGTOK, 18 JUN (IPR):

The Departmental Co-ordination meeting of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs was held at the Departmental Head Office, Gangtok, today. The meeting was chaired by Minister for Urban Development & Housing Development and Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Departments, Arun Upreti.

Minister, Mr Upreti in his address, called for close coordination and transparency for the reformation in working system of the department. He stressed to install internet system in the respective units to strengthen Public Distribution System and maintenance of proper data.

Minister, Mr Upreti instructed the Secretary to form a team to conduct field visit and address the issues raised by the officials during their deliberations. He also urged to ensure delivery of food supply to the poor and genuine beneficiaries and encouraged participants to work for betterment of the system in public interest.

With the view to reduce governmental expenditure, he advised to replace rented Food Godowns on priority rather than going for construction at new places.

Minister, Mr Upreti asked everyone present to be responsible and sincere and urged them to maintain official tim-

ings strictly.

Secretary, Sarala Rai in her welcome address, urged newly formed committee to compile CAG report at the earliest and upload in departmental website for voluntarily disclosure of the matter for public domain. Further, she instructed officials to be accountable and responsible in implementation of governmental schemes. She also drew lights on need to review existing list of beneficiaries and advised to revive enforcement cell to conduct social auditing. Secretary, Sarala Rai encouraged officials to work with new spirit and with utmost sincerity to benefit deserving beneficiaries and ad-

dress pending issues.

During the meeting Additional Secretary, Yangchen D Tamang briefed on status of Food Godowns in the State and also informed that, at present, three food Godowns are under construction under Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and additional eleven food Godowns have been sectioned under Central Sector Scheme under Ministry of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Government of India.

Joint Director, Pintso N Bhutia highlighted various schemes of the Department like National Food Security Act (NFSA), and Non NFSA, AAY, PHS, OPH and Food

Commission.

Additional Controller, CK Sharma informed about the Construction of Laboratories and Mediation Centre in the State, Appointment of Inspectors under Legal Metrological Service and Revision of verification of stamping fee.

District Civil Supplies Officer (DCSO) West, Dilip Sharma elaborated on the Fair Price Shops Automation and various technical steps and challenges in execution of entire process in maintenance of data. DCSO from South, North and East districts also presented profile of their respective districts and underlined various efforts they have made to ensure delivery of Food supply to the identified beneficiaries.

Chief Account Officer, Nakul Gurung presented details of budget of the department.

The programme was concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the Special Secretary, DB Rawat wherein he assured to follow every directives given by the concerned Minister and to bring in necessary changes in the working mechanism of the Department.

Official promo for Mr Sikkim 2019 Manhunt launched



NITESH R PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 18 JUN:

After successfully completing the first season of Mr Sikkim Manhunt, the second season of the event is on the anvil and its official promo was launched today.

The event is powered by GBT Entertainment, The Accelerator and Sikkim Chronicle and supported by Demarg.

The promo features models Rikzang Bhutia, Shahil Lama, Chewang Bhutia and Wangchuk Bhutia and is directed and edited by Manaen Lepcha [Manny] with post production by Aloran Sattar of Josho Visuals.

The models featured in the video are not contestants of Mr

Sikkim 2019 Manhunt as the audition call will be intimidated only later, the organizers informed.

Talking about the competition, Event Head Yougan Tamang stated that the first season was well received by the people and shared that they hoped to recreate the "same magic".

Likewise, another Event Head, Pragya Satpathy of the Accelerator, commented that Sikkim has tremendous potential in modeling, grooming and entertainment, something that the manhunt hopes to achieve.

The video has Akashdeep Gajmer [of Akashdeep Gajmer Photography] as cinematographer and Deepankar Shakya [Dharma Ratna

Productions] while the video was shot at The Rumtek Resort and Silicon Suyen Spa.

Aahan from Uniglow was the makeup artist for the models while music featured in the promo is by Samtinessz [Legends Are Made].

The organisers have thanked Usha Theengh Lama, Kevin Rasaily, Qeren Rai, Dichenla Wangmo Thungon (Miss NEFA Arunachal 2018), and Pema Jigdel for their support.

Kunzang Topgay Bhutia, Akhilesh Pradhan and Anurag Baraily were last season's winner, first runner up and second runner up respectively and has since charted their own paths in modeling and acting.

No minimum educational qualification for transport vehicle drivers

NEW DELHI, 18 JUN (PIB):

In a move to benefit skilled persons from economically underprivileged sections of the society, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has decided to remove the requirement of minimum educational qualification for driving a transport vehicle. Under Rule 8 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, a transport vehicle driver needs to have passed class 8. However, there are large numbers of unemployed persons especially in rural areas of the country, who may not have a formal education, but are otherwise literate and skilled.

In a recent meeting in the Transport Ministry, the Haryana government had requested for waiver of the educational qualification condition for drivers from the economically backward Mewat region where the population is dependent for livelihood on low-income earning pursuits including driving.

The state government had submitted that many people in the region possess the required skill but not the required educational qualification, and were finding it difficult to obtain driving license. Hence it was felt that driving being more a matter of skill than of educational competence, the condition of minimum educational qualification acts as a hindrance for the otherwise eligible unemployed youth. The removal of this requirement will open up employment opportunities for a large number of unemployed persons, especially the youth in the country.

Not only this, the decision will also help meet the shortage of nearly 22 lakh drivers in the transport and logistics sector, which is hindering its growth. However, while removing the require-

ment of a minimum educational qualification, the Ministry has strongly emphasized upon training and skill testing of drivers so that road safety is not compromised in any way. Anyone applying for a driving license will have to mandatorily pass a stringent skill test.

The Ministry has emphasized that training imparted by a school or establishment as mentioned in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 should ensure that the driver can read signs and perform logistical duty such as maintenance of driver logs, inspection of trucks and trailers, submission of pre-trip and post-trip records, determination of discrepancies in paperwork, effective communication to report safety hazards. Moreover schools and establishments which are providing vocational training and skilling facilities are subject to regulatory control by the states. Hence, the training imparted should be of high quality covering all aspects of driving a particular type of motor vehicle.

It may also be noted that the Supreme Court, in its judgment dated 03 Jul, 2017 in Civil Appeal No. 5826 of 2011 – Mukund Dewagan Vs. Oriental Insurance Company Limited & Ors., in the matter of issue of driving licenses for light motor vehicles, had passed directions that the licence for Transport Vehicles would not arise in case of licence of the Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) class.

The Ministry had already proposed the removal of requirement for educational qualification in the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill that got passed by the previous Lok Sabha. The subject was also deliberated upon by the Standing Committee and Select committee of the Parliament.

Art of Living yoga level 1 gets underway



REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 18 JUN:

"Yoga has many dimensions. It is much deeper than physical exercise. It will give you clarity of mind and peace of mind," said yoga certified level 2 teacher, Kamala Rai during the first day class of "The Art of living yoga level 1".

The Art of Living yoga level 1 started from today at Happiness Centre, Durga Mandir (opposite Government


College), Tadong. Classes will conclude on 22 June.

The yoga course includes five sessions of two hours each from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Anyone aged 14 years and above can take part in the course which is being conducted by all Art of Living volunteers.

Kamala Rai became an Art of Living yoga level 1 teacher in 2013. She completed a yoga course from the Inter-

national Science of Art of Living in Bangalore in 2014. She also takes yoga classes in and around Sikkim, and is looking forward to teach yoga across the nation.

"However, being a Government employee, it is tough to manage time. As we have to give our full time at work. We would definitely like to hold yoga classes outside the state if we had time," she said.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
OFFICE OF THE SR.SUPERINTENDENT OF PRISONS
STATE CENTRAL PRISON
RONGYEK
TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited from registered firms of Sikkim for Supply of ration, grocery, hardware and electrical items to the State Central Prison, Rongyek and District Prison, Namchi for the period with effect from 01.07.2019 to 31.03.2020. The rates quoted shall be inclusive of all transportation/Carriage charges upto point of delivery i.e. the Central Prison, Rongyek and District Prison, Namchi as and when the items are requisitioned. The items which fall under the provision of Essential Commodities Act, the rates fixed by the government shall prevail.

The quotations addressed to the Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prison, Rongyek should reach the office of the undersigned on or before 10 A.M. on 12/07/2019. The Tender Selection Committee shall open the tenders in the office of the Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prison, Rongyek at 11 A.M. on the same day in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorised agents.


The quotations shall be accompanied by a State Bank of Sikkim, T.D.R. made in favour of the Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prison, Rongyek for Rs.20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand) only along with certified copies of the concerned firms registration, valid Trade License, Income Tax/Sales Tax/VAT Clearance Certificates, GST etc. The failure to submit anyone of the above mentioned documents shall render the quotation void.

The Tender Selection Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

The Tender documents can be obtained from the Office of the Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prisons, Rongyek between 10.00 A.M to 2.00 P.M. on all working days with effect from the publication of Tender Notices.

Sd/-
R.O No. 51/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20
dt. 14.6.19

Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prison,
State Central Prison, Rongyek



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT
No: 36/ETENDER/BHD/2019
Dated: 10/06/2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Superintending Engineer (Project), Buildings & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim invites percentages rate tenders' from qualified Class IIB contractors, within the East District, enlisted with the SPWD in single 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.	Construction of Sainik Rest House cum Office at DPH Road Gangtok, East Sikkim.	8.67	346.61	0.30	30 months.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

i)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	:	10 th June, 2019
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	:	10 th June, 2019
iii)	Document download/sale state date and time	:	11 th June, 2019 11:00am onwards.
iv)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	:	18 th June, 2019 up to 1500 Hrs.
v)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids	:	15 th July, 2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
vi)	Date of opening of Tender bids	:	16 th July, 2019 at 1300 Hrs.

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

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (Project)
Buildings & Housing Department
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT
IMPORTANT EVENTS

Name of Work	:	Construction of Sainik Rest House cum Office at DPH Road Gangtok, East Sikkim.
Amount put to tender (Rupees in Lakhs)	:	346.61 lakhs.
Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	:	10 th June, 2019
Document download /sale start date and time	:	11 th June, 2019 11:00 Hrs onwards.
Last date & time for seeking clarification regarding bills	:	18 th June, 2019 up to 1500 Hrs.
Last date for online submission of completed bids	:	15 th July 2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
Date of opening of tender bids	:	16 th July, 2019 at 1300 Hrs.
Place of opening of tender bids	:	Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Planning) Building & Housing Department Government of Sikkim Nirman Bhawan.

Sd/-
R.O. No. 49/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20
Date: 14.6.19

Superintending Engineer (N&E)
Buildings & Housing Department
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.

Adventurous Future

Schools in Sikkim could experiment with one more subject

Curriculums in schools have not seen much change since modern education as we know it was introduced. Yes, the syllabus changes for such ill-informed reasons as a change in government or dominance of a particular political ideology, but the subjects have remained more or less the same. And even when the rare change or introduction is introduced, it flows more from what catches the fancy of the policy-makers and less from an understanding of what students could benefit from or learn. Take for instance a unique commitment made by the Chief Minister in his address to NITI Aayog recently. Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] told the meeting: “We have increasingly felt the need of nurturing our young children in schools and adults in colleges and universities with sharp consciousness about the national security interests. Hon’ble Prime Minister Sir, to this effect, we are soon going to introduce courses and programmes in the curriculum in schools and higher education institutions.” One wonders whether overt attempts at developing “sharp consciousness” about national security issues are a good idea given the easy hurt that the great nation’s sense of nationalism can nowadays manifest. But we digress. But since the new government appears to be open to the idea of a curriculum rejig, some thoughts on those lines follow.

An idea left largely unexplored, but one for which an argument can be made is the introduction of adventure sports in schools. Yes, there are the Scouts & Guides and NCC and even NSS which touch on this concept, but they have now become so traditional that their efficacy relies more on the teachers than the module itself.

Think about it, one of the more interesting enterprises of the skill development programme of the State Government was the adventure course the Sports & Youth Affairs Department took to different corners of the State and then handpicked some candidates for onwards advanced training. The products of that initiative one gets to occasionally see bobbing across the Gangtok horizon on their paragliding runs. The original initiative was interesting since even youth in places still not on the tourism map were trained in adventure sports. And it was interesting not just for the skills imparted and the potential self-employment opportunities but also for the healthy adrenaline rush that the course introduced the young to. The skill development initiative appears to be dulling, and one has not really heard of future engagements on this line, but it would be worthwhile for the Human Resource Development Department to pick up from where the Sports & Youth Affairs Department left off – seriously consider introducing adventure sports as part of the regular curriculum of schools in Sikkim.

For one, such an experiment will not only involve the already trained youth gainfully, but could also contribute more to the future generations than half-baked computer classes or poorly defined environment sciences. The youth already trained in adventure sports should be invited to form clubs which could then open memberships to schools, essentially rural schools. They can charge a nominal membership fees and the students who sign up can be taken through the ropes of adventure options every fortnight. On longer breaks and vacations, these clubs could take students on proper treks or adventure sports excursions. Sounds simple enough and all it requires is for the HRDD to allow the trained youth to enter schools. It would have been wonderful if they also could be employed, but just access should do for now.

How does this help?

To begin with, the students get to do something exciting in school for once. That’s a fine achievement in itself. The more important contribution would be the boost that confidence levels can receive with adventure sports. It is now an established fact and even management courses advise adventure sports to increase the confidence levels of trainees. The other advantage would be involvement. The students, when they trek through forests or climb rock faces or white water down the Teesta (wherever hydel projects still allow the river such a rush any more) will receive an intimate introduction to what Sikkim is. They will then learn to appreciate the environment more, care for it more, become more responsible towards it. Few textbooks can deliver these enhancements; it just might be worthwhile to make adventure sports an optional activity in schools here.



Women’s World Cup: the science of what makes a good football game for fans

NICOLAS SCELLES
theconversation.com

The 2019 FIFA Women’s World Cup has got off to a record breaking start. The US beat Thailand 13-0, claiming the biggest ever Women’s World Cup win, showing why they are first in the world rankings. A record 6.1m tuned in to watch England beat Scotland, making it the UK’s most watched women’s game of all time.

The viewing figures are proof that the popularity of the women’s game is growing – with many football fans keen to tune in and support their country. But while this is great news for the sport, there still tends to be much less interest in women’s national football teams compared to the men’s teams.

This is in part down to the fact that the development of women’s football has been historically disadvantaged by national associations banning their members from allowing women’s football to be played at their grounds. These bans started in 1921 and were only lifted in 1971. As sports writer Jim Weeks notes, “by this time, half a century of progress had been lost”. Of course, there is also far less money in women’s football today, compared with men’s, but there could also be another major factor.

COMPETITIVE BALANCE

My research looks at competitive balance and intensity in women’s as well as men’s football. Competitive balance is a key concept in sports economics. The main idea is that there is a need for equilibrium between teams’ playing strengths to generate enough uncertainty for fans to be interested. Essentially, people prefer to watch games with teams that are close in ability levels rather

than a game where one team is far better than the other. This is because, from a viewer’s perspective, it makes for a better match and a more uncertain finish.

Competitive balance goes beyond sports economics to relate to psychology and sociology. Indeed, Stefan Szymanski and Andrew Zimbalist noted in 2005 that fan interest is supposed to come from the satisfaction of emotional and spiritual needs. It can be seen as a “quest for excitement”, consistent with what Aristotle called “the tragic pleasure”.

A key factor that can affect the competitive balance at international level is the way the sport is developed in different countries. Large differences in the development of the game across countries can lead to large differences on the pitch – with certain games being less interesting for fans to watch. This tends to be the games between countries that have vastly different amounts of funding put into the game and where there is not the same youth development or scouting for the football stars of the future. All of which can impact levels of participation across countries, as well as the different levels of experience across national teams.

WOMEN CLOSE THE GAP

As part of my research I’ve looked at and compared the competitive balance of both the women’s and men’s World Cup games since 1990. To do this, I calculated the percentage of game-time with a difference of no more than one goal between teams. My results show that historically, women’s World Cups have always been less balanced than men’s, but that this gap has considerably reduced over time.

The findings show that the percentage of game-time with a difference of no more than one goal

was 64% in the 1991 Women’s World Cup, and 90% in the 1990 Men’s World Cup. Then in the 2015 Women’s World Cup, it was 81% for women vs. 87% for men in the 2014 World Cup – making it a much more exciting and competitive tournament for fans. This may be one reason why the 2015 edition of the Women’s World Cup was the most watched in history.

But competitive balance isn’t the only factor that makes a football match more appealing to fans. It also matters whether there is something at stake for at least one of the sides – this is known as competitive intensity – and it explains why knock out matches or games where at least one side could go ahead if they win, tend to be so much better to watch.

When looking at competitive intensity in World Cup games, the percentage of game time with something at stake for at least one team was 81% for women in 2015 compared with 80% for men in 2014. In other words, there was slightly more game time with actual uncertainty in women’s football – with at least one team having something to compete for.

So when it comes to selecting the best matches to watch as a football fan, you want to be going for those games that are predicted to be close, with teams of equal standing, or where one side has a lot to lose – these games make for a much better viewing experience. Yes, games like like US thrashing Thailand 13-0 are spectacular, but from a fan perspective nothing beats a closely contested grudge match between two rival teams who are both going for glory.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics, Policy and International Business, Manchester Metropolitan University]

Men’s Cricket World Cup: Diversity must be one of the rewards of a successful tournament

THOMAS FLETCHER
theconversation.com

The ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup is well underway in the UK and fans of participating nations from around the cricketing world – many of whom live in the UK – are thrilling to the exploits of some of the game’s biggest stars playing in what is arguably the biggest competition the sport can offer.

England and Wales last hosted the Men’s World Cup 20 years ago. Since that time, some aspects of the game have developed substantially, while others have been seemingly more resistant to change. Among those changes, globally, we have witnessed growing interest for shorter formats – most notably T20, which is the shortest form of the game currently played internationally – and arguably, a declining appetite for test matches – at five days, the longest, most traditional format.

As hosts – and number one ranked one-day cricket team in the world in 2019 – expectations on the England team have never been higher. And, what of that England team? The starting line-ups have so far featured three black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) players in Adil Rashid and Moeen Ali, whose family origins are in Pakistan, and Jofra Archer – the team’s latest star, who was born and raised in Barbados, but who has qualified for England thanks to his father, who is English.

Rashid and Ali have been part of the England line-up throughout the period since the last World Cup in 2015, while Archer only actually qualified to play for England in March this year. This was earlier than expected, following the England and Wales Cricket Board’s

(ECB) decision to relax its residency ruling from seven to three years from January 1, 2019.

In addition to Archer’s proven on-pitch ability to take wickets and win matches, there will inevitably be discussions about his off-field ability to stoke up interest in the game among young black people. Cricket – like any sport – has to compete for participants, and the latest figures show that fewer than 280,000 people in the UK regularly play cricket, almost half of what it was 20 years ago.

A SPORT FOR ALL

In recent times, the ECB has not been shy to use the representation and success of its BAME players as part of its marketing strategies. Moeen Ali in particular – like Monty Panesar before him – has become somewhat of a cult hero among many white England supporters and is even more popular among British South Asian supporters.

The ECB’s attempts to reach out to underrepresented groups was well illustrated in June 2018 when it partnered with broadcaster Sky to make the second test of England’s series against Pakistan into what they called “The Participation Test”. During the lunch interval on each day of the test, Sky showcased some of the ECB’s equality and diversity work – initiatives which ranged from shining a spotlight on disability cricket and the women’s game as well as its programmes to encourage more young people into cricket: Chance to Shine, a national charity, which aims to give more young people (mainly those in state schools) access to cricket, and All Stars, the ECB’s newest initiative aimed at getting children aged between five and eight involved in the sport.

Of particular interest to me, as someone who has been working on ethnic diversity in cricket for over a decade, was the launch of the ECB’s South Asian Action Plan. This comprises 11 points and aims to create more opportunities for South Asian communities to engage with cricket while building strong relationships between South Asian communities and the ECB, the counties and individual clubs. The plan also focuses on ways to use cricket to make a positive difference to communities.

The ECB’s strategy to engage with South Asian communities and drive up interest and participation among these groups makes sense. The Active Lives Survey shows that, overall, while people from BAME communities are no longer less likely to participate in sport than white Britons, participation by those from South Asian backgrounds in sport in general is still relatively low.

DIVERSITY THE WATCHWORD

But cricket is rather different. Despite only making up approximately 11% of the overall British population, research for the ECB identified that no less than 30% of grassroots cricketers are drawn from BAME groups – and the game is particularly popular among those from South Asian communities. But research I have been involved in suggests that ethnic diversity at grassroots level is not necessarily transferring into other aspects of the game, such as coaching.

Using information published on the websites of the 18 “first-class” counties in England and Wales, for the 2019 season – excluding those registered as overseas – only 30 of 362 male players (8.3%), ten of 106 female players (9.4%) (seven registered to one county), seven out of 118 managers/coaches (5.9%) and nine

of 79 male Academy players (11.4%) were from a BAME background.

So, compared to the BAME population, these figures (excluding those related to coaching) do not immediately appear too serious. But research has consistently identified that BAME representation on the pitch is only a partial win because experiences of participation are often tinged with perceptions of exclusion and racism. Moreover, something that the ECB will be very keen to learn is how they can get more BAME groups and individuals into stadiums to follow the national and county teams.

Notwithstanding the excellent attendance figures (and anecdotally, significant diversity in attendance) for the World Cup to date, it is well acknowledged that the England cricket team struggles to garner the support of British BAME communities.

I hope the England team is successful at the World Cup – and I hope that success will have an impact on the level of interest in the sport. But we should not get carried away by assuming that increased exposure to the sport – for example, via media coverage (which is, sadly, mostly hidden behind a Sky pay wall) – and increased interest in the sport will necessarily lead to increased numbers of players, coaches, spectators or volunteers.

What cricket – and any sport – needs is commitment and resources from the top, not to mention a workforce that is skilled in and knowledgeable about the communities it serves to take advantage of the unquestionable potential of events like the Cricket World Cup.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer, Events, Tourism, Hospitality and Languages, Leeds Beckett University]

Activists protest outside Bihar Bhawan, seek Nitish Kumar's resignation over deaths of children

NEW DELHI, JUN 18 (PTI): Several activists from different organisations staged a protest outside the Bihar Bhawan here Tuesday and demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar as more than 100 children have died due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in the state.

They accused the Centre and the Bihar government of not being serious about containing the outbreak, and said the healthcare system in the state was mismanaged.

Many held placards with the message "Give adequate compensation to affected families".

Other banners asked Kumar and Bihar Health Minister Mangal Pandey to resign.

"Ayushman (Bharat) ki jumlebaazi band karo," another read.

Several women activists raised slogans against Kumar, who once was called 'sushashan babu' because of his governance, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi outside the Chanakya-puri-based Bihar Bhawan.

A delegation of the activists later submitted a memorandum to the resident commissioner of Bihar in New Delhi. The memorandum was addressed to Kumar.

"We are anguished and urge the government to provide adequate medical facilities, particularly in Muzaffarpur, to attend to the patients,"



the memorandum read. It sought a thorough study into the AES outbreak.

Members of All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA), Centre of India Trade Unions, Dalit Shoshan Mukti Mamch, Democratic Youth Federation of India and Students' Federation of India participated in the protest.

Mariam Dhawale, general secretary of AIDWA, said the Bihar chief minister chose to visit Muzaffarpur on Tuesday while reports of children dying in the city have been coming for days.

"It is shameful and he must tender resignation.

The Bihar health minister, who has been inefficient in handling the issue, should also step down," she said.

An AIDWA delegation had visited Muzaffarpur and assessed the situation in hospitals there. "It is filthy, overcrowded with four children on one bed, inadequate medicines and lack of doctors. How do we intend to battle this outbreak," she asked.

Dhalwale said that these deaths should be treated as "institutional murders".

Meanwhile in Muzaffarpur, public grief gave way to outrage as angry people raised slogans

against the Bihar chief minister as he held a meeting with officials.

The death toll has climbed to 105 with both the state-run Sri Krishan Memorial College and Hospital (SKMCH) and the privately-owned Kejriwal hospital reporting one casualty during the night, the district administration said.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan visited SKMCH on Sunday, when a strike by doctors had paralysed medical services. He was accompanied by his deputy Ashwini Kumar Choubey and the Bihar health minister. Dhawale of the AIDWA said Vardhan had vis-

ited Muzaffarpur in 2014 too as the Union health minister and promised to build a research centre.

"What happened to that promise," she asked.

Dalit Shoshan Mukti Mamch's Pyare Lal said a massive amount of money was spent on the Lok Sabha election and everyone was busy talking about campaigns and before that the Ram Mandir issue. "As a nation, we have got our priorities wrong," he said.

Traffic was briefly restricted on a section of a street between Bihar Bhawan and Gujarat Bhawan due to the protest and another in front of the Gujarat Bhawan.

Mizoram has taken many steps to ensure food safety: Minister

AIZAWL, JUN 18 (PTI): The Mizoram government has taken several steps to check the standard of food under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Food Safety and Standards Rules and Regulations 2011, Health Minister Dr R Lalthangliana informed the state Assembly Tuesday.

Replying to questions

from Dr Vanlaltanpuia of the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF), Lalthangliana said that inspection of hotels and restaurants and sampling of some food products have been conducted by the food administration officials.

Most of the food samples were sent to State Public Health Laboratory in Guwahati, he said.

A food testing lab-

oratory is being set up at Zemabawk locality in Aizawl where equipment and machinery purchased by the state commerce and industries department have been already installed, he said.

He said that the new laboratory would be commissioned after the equipment are handed over to the health department.

Nagaland's 1st Music Industry Stakeholders Conclave on June 21

KOHEMA, JUN 18 (PTI): The first 'Nagaland Music Industry Stakeholders Conclave' featuring workshops, concert and a music equipment donation drive will be organised here on June 21, to mark the World Music Day.

"Considering the fact that Nagas love music, the event will take place in a grand way," the organisers said.

The conclave will be conducted by Music Task Force (MTF), under the Department of Youth Resources and Sports, with the theme 'Music & Arts to greater heights'.

MTF project director Hovithal Sothu told a press conference on Monday, "There is no other better day to hold the first ever stakeholders conclave than the

World Music Day." The first session starting at 11 am would be dedicated to the conclave, with the Advisor of Youth and Sports Resources Zale Neikha to be the special guest.

Advisor for Rural Development Neikiesalie Kire and Secretary YRS Lhouchalie Viya will be present at the concert and open mic, to be held later in the day.

Workshops on music education, choir, artist management and production will be held in the afternoon session.

"The main purpose of the workshops is for the musicians to express their joys, sorrows and dreams. It is a platform for them to share their challenges and also deliberate on ways how the MTF can be of help in

carrying forward the music industry, Sothu said.

The third phase of the programme will feature an open mic event and concert. The open mic is aimed at encouraging upcoming musicians and an opportunity for them to showcase their talents.

Altogether 17 bands and 60 RJs will perform at the evening concert, he said. The MTF also has plans to tour eastern Nagaland districts in October and conduct workshops on sound management, music training and vocal training.

A music donation drive will be initiated on the same day in terms of music equipment and items to be given to the less privileged music learners during the eastern Nagaland tour, he said.

Tripura CM meets Shah, seeks spl package for tribal council

Agartala, Jun 18 (PTI): Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb has sought a special economic package from the Centre for the development of Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) during his meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, an official release said.

TTAADC constitutes one-third of the Tripura's territory and is home to the state's indigenous people.

"Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb has request-

ed for a special package for the fast development of ADC (TTADC) He laid special emphasis on overall development of the ADC," the statement issued by the chief minister's office said.

The BJP had promised to empower and financially assist the tribal council in the state ahead of the assembly elections in 2018.

According to the release, Banerjee discussed schemes for uplifting tribal youths with Shah, while apprising him of the development work

being undertaken by his government.

Deb also pressed for expeditious completion of fencing work on the India-Bangladesh border at Dhalai and Sepahijala districts, home guard deployment in sensitive areas and increase in honorarium for Special Police Officers, it noted.

The Union home minister, on his part, assured the CM that all issues would be "positively and quickly looked into" for the overall development of Tripura, the statement added.

South Africa look to avenge 2015 semifinal defeat, Kiwis ready to get back on top

BIRMINGHAM, JUN 18 (PTI): With pacer Lungi Ngidi back in the side, South Africa will look to avenge their 2015 semifinal defeat while New Zealand will aim to reclaim their position at the top when the two sides clash in a World Cup match here on Wednesday.

South Africa, who suffered a heartbreaking loss to New Zealand in the last edition, had a dismal start to their World Cup campaign, losing three straight games followed by a wash-out before registering their maiden win against bottom-placed Afghanistan.

In contrast, New Zealand are yet to face defeat in the tournament and are lying second on the table with three wins and a washout.

Injuries to pacers Dale Steyn and Anrich Norje have hurt the South African bowling unit severely.

With Ngidi fully fit and the team finally tasting victory, skipper Faf du Plessis will breathe a sigh of relief.

"Hopefully this is a real confidence booster for everyone on the team. And there's a little bit of weight that you feel that's off your shoulders now. We need to win every game that we play" Du Plessis had said after the win against Afghanistan. South Africa will need their bowlers to step up to keep their World Cup hopes alive.

As strikes end, SC defers hearing on security of doctors, keeps open 'larger issue' of their safety



NEW DELHI, JUN 18 (PTI): The Supreme Court Tuesday deferred the hearing on a plea seeking protection of doctors in government hospitals, saying since doctors have called off their strike in West Bengal and other states, there is no urgency to hear the matter.

The top court observed that it understand's that safety of doctors is a serious issue but it cannot direct to depute police personnel with each and every doctor without taking into account the holistic picture.

A vacation bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Surya Kant refused to issue notice (to the Centre) at present but said that it is keeping the larger issue of protection of doctors open.

"When this matter was mentioned yesterday, we had directed to list it today because the strike by the medical fraternity in West Bengal and in some other states was continuing. On Mon-

day, the strike was called off. Therefore we find no urgency to take up the matter. List the matter after summer vacation before appropriate bench," it said.

The bench said safety of doctors is a serious issue and it needs to take a holistic view in providing security to doctors.

"We understand it is a serious issue but we can't provide security to doctors at the cost of other citizens. We have to take a holistic view. We have to look at the larger picture like availability of police personnel and other things. We are not against protection to doctors but at the same time we cannot direct to depute police personnel with each and every doctor," the bench said.

Meanwhile, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) also filed an impleadment application seeking the court's intervention into the plea already filed, saying protection needs to be pro-

vided to doctors across the country.

The top court was hearing a plea filed Friday by petitioner advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava in which directions have been sought Union ministries of home affairs and health and West Bengal to depute government-appointed security personnel at all state-run hospitals to ensure safety and security of doctors.

Doctors in Bengal had been on strike since two of their colleagues were assaulted allegedly by relatives of a patient after he died last week.

They called off their protest Monday night after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in a meeting assured them of steps by her government to scale up security at state-run hospitals in the state.

The breakthrough came on a day health services, especially outpatient departments (OPDs), were crippled across the country as doctors held protests and

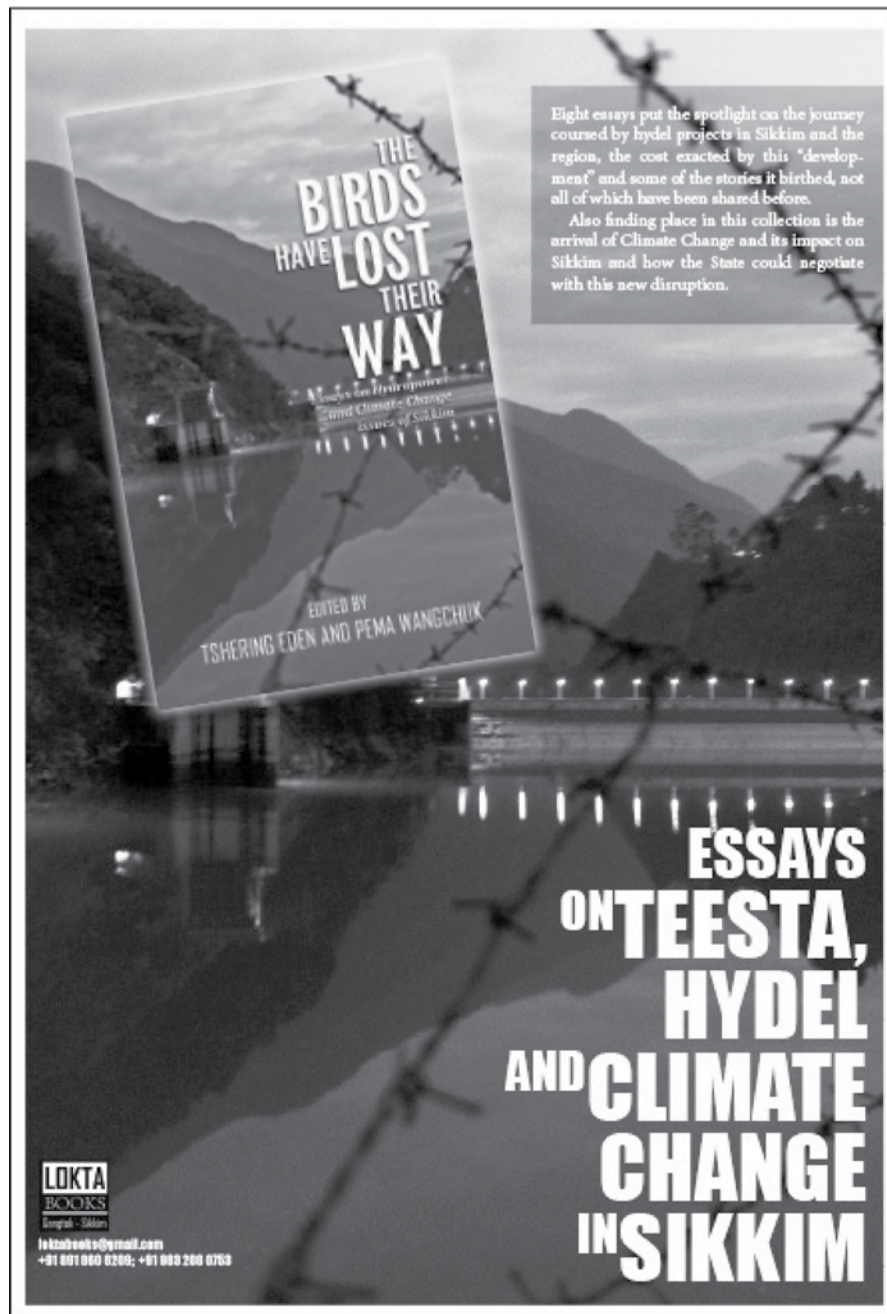
boycotted work to show solidarity with their colleagues in Bengal.

It had also sought directions to the Bengal government to take the strictest legal and penal action against those who assaulted the two junior doctors at a hospital in Kolkata.

The plea had cited an IMA data to say that more than 75 per cent doctors across the country have faced some form of violence.

It said the study concluded that 50 per cent violent incidents have taken place in the Intensive Care Unit of hospitals and in 70 per cent cases, relatives of patients were actively involved.

"The doctors are our saviours and particularly the doctor working in government hospitals are doing great national service, particularly to the poor and downtrodden of this country, in extremely adverse circumstances," the plea had said.



Women's World Cup game-changing moments No 1: Marta in 2007

JON COTTERLL
THEGUARDIAN

"Marta. Amazing. A goal by a genius!" screamed Luciano do Valle – one of Brazil's most respected football commentators – in September 2007. "There are no words to describe Marta's goal!" he yelled; but astounding, incredible, out of this world, came close.

That goal in the Drag-on Stadium: A dream to some, a nightmare to others. First, a nonchalant flick to make Tina Ellertson appear like a befuddled five-year-old hopelessly snatching at a fugitive whippet. Next, a quick change of direction that left the defender Cat Whitehill off balance like a staggering skater. And then a crisp finish to beat the keeper before the remaining defenders cantered into picture like Gold Cup also-rans. The South Americans had demolished USA 4-0 in the semi-finals of the Women's World Cup, and Marta was applauded off by the Chinese fans in Hangzhou.

The USA had come into the match on the back of a 51-game unbeaten run. But after Leslie Osbourne's own goal, and Shannon Boxx's red card at the end of the first half, Brazil knew the tie was theirs for the taking. A goal from Cristiane and a brace from Marta did the job.

The Brazilians had their revenge for the defeat in the Olympic final in Athens in 2004. Back home the press lapped it up: "Brazil humiliate the USA and are in the final", the Rio-based newspaper O Globo proclaimed. "Brazil run over the US", declared UOL Esporte.

The New York Times stuck the knife in and described the USA's per-



formance as a "total collapse". The Washington Post said it was the worst display by a USA side, but also recognised the opponents' quality.

The result left Brazil on the verge of World Cup glory but facing those perennial party-poopers: the Germans. Despite not going out on Brazil's biggest channel, a huge TV audience tuned in to watch the final. But it wasn't to be for the South Americans. Marta missed a penalty when Germany were leading 1-0, and the Europeans ran out 2-0 winners in Shanghai.

Marta finished the tournament with the Golden Shoe after scoring seven goals, and the Golden Ball after being voted the best player, but there was no gold medal in 2007.

The Brazilian had been voted Fifa World Player of the Year the previous season, so Marta was already carrying the hopes and dreams

of Brazil on her shoulders. And, even before the World Cup in China in September, Marta had already achieved cult status in Brazil.

Two months earlier, the then 21-year-old had led her side to victory in the Pan-American games in Rio de Janeiro. She had also been voted the best player and finished top scorer with 12 goals.

In the group phase Brazil had rolled over Jamaica, Ecuador, and then hammered Canada 7-0. Marta scored five in that game and became the first female footballer to leave her footprints in the Maracanã's Walk of Fame.

The Seleção beat Mexico in the semi-final and cup fever gripped the country. "Brazil fans have discovered women's football," said a headline; and they had as 68,000 crammed into the Maracanã to see the hosts crush the USA 5-0. After the match, an emotional Marta opened

up. "The final in the Maracanã was a special day for me. [But] we can't leave women's football in this situation. There are some great women in Brazil, and they deserve all the support in the world. I hope women's football improves and that the players can overcome these problems".

Marta remains the face of women's football in Brazil and her influence on the game in her country has been immense. The sport in Brazil is going through a bit of an expansion and improving all the time. In 2019, there are around 300 professional players. There are now 16 teams in the first division and 36 in the second. The U18 competition has a record number of 24 teams. Something like 3,000 amateurs are getting financial help with grants for education or training and more money than ever is coming into the game. The Bra-

zilian Football Confederation (CBF) ploughs in around £5m annually. With the growing involvement of the major clubs, the market is expected to be worth around £15m in 2020.

But all is not well with the Seleção, and women's football in Brazil still has a very long way to go until it becomes more respected. Some within the game feel that Marta's relationship with the CBF has always been a bit too cosy and that she is more focused on her own marketing rather than rocking the boat and taking a more hard-line stance for women's football.

On the pitch, Brazil headed to France on the back of the worst run of any national team ever, having lost their past nine games – but they beat Jamaica 3-0 in their opening game after a Christiane hat-trick. Anywhere else at club or international level, the coach Vadão and the

football coordinator Marco Aurélio Cunha would have been given the chop long ago. But the pair are still in their jobs.

Like the rest of the team, Marta is in poor form, and she was on the bench for the Jamaica game because of injury. But the Brazilian press remains kind. Overall, the player has avoided the same scrutiny, or pressure to deliver, to which the legendary Zico was subject, and that Neymar endures.

Marta is now 33 and France might be her last olé. She has been voted the planet's top player on six occasions. She has picked up a stack of titles though a World Cup winner's medal has always eluded her. But, even if she comes away empty-handed in France this July, Marta will always be remembered for the goal that "no words can describe," and a moment of pure magic in the Dragon Stadium.

Italy gun for Brazil scalp in clash to stir World Cup memories

REIMS (FRANCE), JUN 18 (AFP): Surprise package Italy are aiming to emulate Germany and France by topping their group when they face Brazil on Tuesday in an encounter that evokes classic World Cup memories.

Milena Bertolini's side have a perfect six points after scoring seven times in their opening two matches, including a shock opening win over pre-tournament dark horses Australia, and need a draw against Brazil to ensure topping Group C.

The clash harks back to some pulsating men's World Cup encounters, including the Pele-inspired 4-1 destruction of the Italians in the 1970 final and Paolo Rossi's hat-trick in 1982, which downed Zico's flamboyant Selecao 3-2 as Italy went on to lift the trophy.

"I have vivid memories of the Italy-Brazil match in 1982 and being here to experience such a match in person is incredible," said Bertolini.

The Italians have surpassed all expectations in France and have shone a light on women's football in a country where there are just a fraction of the players that world champions the United States can call upon, despite being a powerhouse in the men's game.

"We need to be good at everything," added Bertolini of the clash in Valenciennes.

"In the first match it was important that we kept the ball so we could breathe, against Jamaica we needed to maintain a balance (in attack). With Brazil we need to bring it all together."

Australia can snatch second place if they beat Jamaica, who have failed to score in losing both their matches, and Brazil fail to win.

The Matildas looked dead and buried as they headed towards half-time against Brazil two goals down, but Caitlin Foord's stoppage-time strike sparked an incredible fightback to win 3-2.

- KOREANS CRASH OUT -

Norway await the Group C runners-up in the last 16 after Martin Sjogren's side inched past South Korea 2-1 in Reims on Monday, thanks to two penalties, to finish second in Group A.

Caroline Graham Hansen gave Norway a third-minute lead after Cho So-hyun grabbed Maria Thorisdottir.

Graham Hansen was chopped down by Kang Chae-rim shortly after half-time but the Barcelona striker was receiving treatment and had to watch as Isabell Herlovsen squeezed home Norway's second from the spot.

Yeo Min-ji's poked finish 12 minutes from time ensured a nervy finale for Norway.

The Scandinavians survived a stoppage-time scare when Yeo's header was a fraction wide for the impressive Koreans, who are out after three defeats.

Norway will have to sweat on Graham Hansen's fitness, but the 24-year-old said "the doctors are positive" she'll be ready for Saturday's last-16 match in Nice.

France confirmed top spot in Group A after Wendie Renard scored the only goal against Nigeria with a retaken spot-kick in Rennes.

They face the prospect of a quarter-final against defending champions USA if the Americans top Group F and get through the last 16 as expected.

Germany made sure they avoided the USA in the next phase after hammering South Africa 4-0 to finish top of Group B.

The Germans finished on a perfect nine points without conceding a goal despite being without injured star Dzsenifer Marozsan for the past two games.

Spain will likely face the USA after qualifying second in Group B behind the Germans, after a goalless draw with China who are also guaranteed to go through as one of the four best third-placed sides.

Shakib revels in Bangladesh's epic World Cup run chase

TAUNTON, JUN 18 (AFP): Shakib Al Hasan admitted his match-winning 124 in Bangladesh's World Cup victory over the West Indies ranked as one of the best moments of his career.

Shakib's majestic display paved the way for Bangladesh to record the second highest run chase in World Cup history as they reached 322-3 at Taunton on Monday.

Hitting 16 fours in his unbeaten 99-ball innings, Shakib was well supported by Liton Das, who scored 94 from 69 balls in his first World Cup appearance.

The pair's unbroken stand of 189 was the second highest for the fourth wicket in World Cup history.

It was a memorable day for Shakib, who rated both his performance and his team's among the greatest he has experienced.

"It's obviously one of the best, because the way we chased that run, the way I paced the innings, I was never in a rush. I didn't have to play too many shots from a good ball," he told reporters.

"I had to be patient. And I was patient enough to put the bad ball away.

"I think every time I

did that quite well. And it's one of the key things in my batting in this chase." Only Ireland's 329-7 against England in 2011 stands as a bigger World Cup run chase.

But Shakib insisted Bangladesh never doubted they could overhaul the West Indies' total of 321-8.

In the end they reached the target with 8.3 overs to spare thanks to Shakib and Das.

"At the end of the first innings in the dressing room no one felt that this was tough. Everyone was comfortable and was chilling," he said.

"It gave a lot of confidence in the dressing room and belief that we could chase that run.

"Once we started batting, I think the way the openers started their innings, everyone in the dressing room felt good and comfortable and relaxed. "That helped us a lot. So at no point of time we had to panic." Shakib has now scored two centuries in this World Cup after hitting 121 against England.

In the course of the West Indies match he became just the second player to score 6,000 career ODI runs for the Tigers.

AFC Cup: Chennaiyin aim to seal knock out round spot

Guwahati, Jun 18 (PTI): Table toppers Chennaiyin FC will be eager to seal a knockout berth when they take on compatriots Minerva Punjab in a AFC cup group stage clash here Wednesday.

Chennaiyin are ahead of Bangladesh's Abahani Limited Dhaka courtesy a better head-to-head record, with both sides locked on seven points from four games.

This will be Chennaiyin's second consecutive away game. A win for the two-time Indian Super League (ISL) champions will help them inch closer to the knockout round, while an unbeaten Minerva will be looking for their first AFC Cup win to keep qualification hopes alive, having drawn all their four games so far.

Match fitness will be key in the humid Guwahati conditions in an afternoon kick-off, as the two side aim to hit the ground running in a crucial tie following the considerable break.

"You might say we had a break (after our last game in May), but we actually didn't. Before we went away, we were given this big handbook on



fitness and conditioning by our team. And we have ensured we stay fit and in shape. We are focused on getting all three points tomorrow (against Minerva) and inching closer to the knockout round," said CFC's CK Vineeth at the press conference ahead of the match.

"The mood is very good in the camp. We have two important games coming up against Minerva and Manang (Marshyangdi) in Nepal. The professionalism that my boys have portrayed is first class. And they are all aware of the task at hand. What is great is that it is in our hands. We control our destiny," said CFC

head coach John Gregory. "If we win our two remaining group matches, we 100% qualify for the knockout round. And if that happens, it will be a huge achievement for everyone associated with the club," he added.

CFC center-back Eli Sabia will be out after the defender picked up his second yellow card of the group stage against Abahani last month.

For Minerva, right-back Prateek Joshi will be absent after he saw red in the previous matchday at Manang, which ended 1-1.

The Chennaiyin gaffer has again aimed at giving exposure to youth, with

defender Reamsochung Aimol (19), midfielder Zonunmawia (19) and striker Bawlte Rohmingthanga (20) part of the travelling party to Guwahati.

After the tie against Minerva, Chennaiyin travel to Nepal for their final group game on June 26 in Nepal, against Manang Marshyangdi Club whom they had earlier defeated 2-0.

In the group's other game, Abahani welcome Nepalese club Manang Marshyangdi, the latter needing a win at all costs to stay alive in the competition after registering two draws and two losses so far.

Japan pushes 300 North Korean boats out of fishing grounds

TOKYO, JUN 18 (AP): The Japanese coast guard says its patrol boats have been pushing back hundreds of North Korean boats trying to poach in fishing grounds rich with squid off Japan's northern coast.

Coast Guard officials said Tuesday they have forced more than 300 North Korean boats out of Japan's exclusive economic zone near Yamototai since May.

The patrol boats used water cannons on 50

North Korean boats that ignored warnings.

Coast Guard footage obtained Tuesday showed North Korean crewmen on a wooden boat abandon a fishing rope after being sprayed water.

Japanese authorities have stepped up patrols in the area as North Korean poaching has surged in recent years.

Experts say Pyongyang's campaign to boost fish harvests has increased poaching by North Korean boats.

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Expert: UN failed before Rohingya crackdown in Myanmar

UNITED NATIONS, JUN 18 (AP) An independent review of United Nations operations in the years before hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims fled a violent crackdown by Myanmar's military concluded that the organisation's many bodies failed to act together, resulting in "systemic and structural failures."

The 36-page review by Gert Rosenthal, Guatemala's former foreign minister, released Monday said the UN could conceivably have reconciled competing views on whether quiet diplomacy or outspoken advocacy against human rights abuses in Myanmar should have been used but it didn't.

The result as in Sri Lanka at the end of the civil war against Tamil separatists in 2009 was a "dysfunctional performance of the UN system," Rosenthal said.

"Without question serious errors were committed and opportunities were lost in the UN system following a fragmented strategy rather than a common plan of action," he said, adding that the "systemic failure was further magnified by some bureaucratic and unseemly infighting."

The long-simmering crisis exploded in August 2017 when Myanmar's military launched what it called a clearance campaign in northern Rakhine State in response to an attack by a Rohingya insurgent group.

The campaign forced more than 720,000 Rohingya to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh and led to accusations that security forces committed mass rapes, killings and burned thousands of homes.

Rosenthal said the key lesson is "to foster an environment encouraging different entities of the UN system to work together."

On a more optimistic



note, he said since UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres took office at the start of 2017, "there appears to be renewed recognition of the crucial importance of improved coordination."

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Guterres, who commissioned the report, has accepted all of its recommendations "and is committed to implementing them."

"The secretary-general is very grateful to Mr Rosenthal for producing a candid, forthright and very useful report," he said.

The review covers the UN involvement in Myanmar since 2010, when the at the time military-fuelled nation moved started opening up to the outside world, eventually leading to elections and moves toward a more open, market-oriented economy.

Rosenthal said "for all these positive tendencies with their ups and downs over time," Myanmar also engaged in "long-fester-ing discriminatory treatment against minorities" for decades, most especially the Rohingya.

Buddhist-majority Myanmar has long considered the Rohingya to be "Bengalis" from Bangladesh even though their families have lived in the country for generations.

Nearly all have been denied citizenship since 1982, effectively rendering them stateless, and they are also denied freedom of movement and other basic rights.

In his conclusions and recommendations, Rosenthal said Myanmar's government is mainly responsible for the grave abuses against the Rohingya.

He said the UN system "has been relatively impotent to effectively work with the authorities of Myanmar to reverse the negative trends in the area of human rights and consolidate the positive trends in other areas."

He also noted "increasing criticism regarding the lack of leadership displayed by Aung San Suu Kyi," the government's de facto leader, "as well as her unwillingness to take distance from the military."

Although the UN's systematic failures are

not down to any single entity or any individuals, Rosenthal said, "clearly there is a shared responsibility on the part of all parties involved in not having been able to accompany the government's political process with constructive actions, while at the same time conveying more forcefully the United Nations' principled concerns regarding grave human rights violations."

Rosenthal said the UN Security Council as the world body's most powerful organisation should also bear some responsibility because its divisions failed to provide support to the UN Secretariat "when such backing was and continues to be essential."

The Secretariat "would have benefited enormously" from Security Council support for an impartial UN observer presence in Rakhine state "to deter the use of violence in general," he said.

He said the UN, which has multiple ways to engage its 193 member states, could find ways "to criticise and prod governments that engage

in serious violations of international law while at the same time cooperating with them in delivering humanitarian and development assistance."

"This would be the highly desirable objective to address the obvious dysfunctional performance of the UN system observed in both Sri Lanka and Myanmar," he said.

But Rosenthal said "recent experience, precisely in both countries, has gone in the opposite direction, with mindsets and specific actions" competing rather than complementing each other.

Louis Charbonneau, UN director at Human Rights Watch, said the United Nations failed to keep its promise of "never again" to mass atrocities after the wartime deaths of tens of thousands of civilians in Sri Lanka.

"If the UN leadership is determined to change its internal culture, it needs to hold UN officials most responsible for ignoring ethnic cleansing in Myanmar accountable for their inaction," he said.

Under US pressure, Afghan army starts closing checkpoints

MAIDAN SHAR (AFGHANISTAN), JUN 18 (AFP): Only a tangle of razor wire marks the entrance of a remote Afghan army checkpoint that may soon be shuttered as the government closes vulnerable outposts after years of losses to Taliban fighters and desertions.

The post in Wardak province west of Kabul has been hit before, and its sagging blast walls and teetering sandbags make clear the vulnerability of the 13 troops living there for weeks on end.

Now, after years of brutal attacks and mass desertions from similar checkpoints, the Afghan government is acting on long-standing American requests to close them.

The aim is to shutter outposts where troops are often left like sitting ducks for Taliban attackers and consolidate them onto larger bases -- several of which are under construction.

The plan is for troops to lead offensive missions, taking the fight to the Taliban instead of trying to survive day-to-day in often deplorable living conditions with little outside support.

The "checkpoint is a failed tactic," Dadan Lawang, an Afghan army general, said recently at a US base in Paktia province, south of Kabul.

Some 50 per cent of military casualties occur at checkpoints, he said, a grim number considering tens of thousands of Afghan troops have been killed or wounded since the end of 2014 -- losses the massively depleted Afghan military can ill afford.

"We want to draw down all those checkpoints and establish strong bases now," Lawang told AFP.

The idea of closing checkpoints has been taboo in Afghan politics for years.

A tiny fort flying the

black-red-and-green national flag sends a message that the government holds an area, and Afghan politics is built on a patchwork of alliances with regional power brokers, many of them in remote places.

"To maintain an alliance sufficient to remain in office... the president of Afghanistan has often preferred to push troops out into locations that make no military sense but are politically important," said Stephen Biddle, a professor at Columbia University in New York who has written extensively about Afghanistan.

US Army Brigadier General Kevin Admiral, who heads the US military's Task Force Southeast, said it was challenging to finally change the Afghan military's view.

"They have a lot of political pressure at the local level with district governors and parliamentarians who have said this is our only visible representation of (the government) in these remote areas," he said.

For General Scott Miller, who leads NATO's Afghanistan mission and the US war effort in the country, the closure of checkpoints is crucial for the Afghan military. "They don't lose people in (offensive) operations, they kill Taliban," Miller told US military officials at a recent meeting.

"You want to hear my (tactical) priorities? Talk about checkpoints." To hammer his message, Miller makes frequent trips across Afghanistan, bringing local military commanders to show them troops' living conditions.

On a visit to the Wardak checkpoint last week, Miller said he wanted to open Afghan commanders' eyes to the perilousness of such outposts.

The scruffy camp, where troops sleep in converted shipping con-

tainers with smashed windows, is a short distance from Highway 1 -- a key route for sending goods and supplies into Kabul and around the country.

But despite its strategic location, troops at the checkpoint and others like it often go without regular food or pay because of mismanagement and corruption.

And if an attack does come, back up may never arrive.

On Miller's visit, US snipers and soldiers secured the isolated facility's perimeter and one Afghan soldier complained to his higher ups about not having been paid for three months.

Asadullah Khalid, Afghanistan's acting defence minister, blamed a documentation issue and said it would be fixed.

His staff dished out several USD 100 bills to soldiers from a wad that Khalid said was a gift for Eid, the festival marking the end of Ramadan.

"I want to make sure that everyone sitting on a checkpoint gets a paycheck and food," Miller told AFP.

"It's a leadership issue. These are things we take for granted."

While critics agree Afghan checkpoints have little tactical value, they differ over whether withdrawing troops to bases will make them more willing to fight.

Closing checkpoints "essentially cedes ground to the Taliban and gets the (Afghan security forces) onto larger bases, where they often hunker down," said Bill Roggio, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies think tank in Washington.

But Colonel David Butler, a US military spokesman in Kabul, said Afghan troops "are doing more independent operations and are more effective during those operations."

Trump threatens to deport millions beginning next week

WASHINGTON, JUN 18 (AP): President Donald Trump is threatening to remove millions of people in the country illegally.

In a late-night tweet Monday, Trump says U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will begin the removal process next week. He tells his Twitter followers, "They will be removed as fast as they come in."

An administration official says the effort will focus on people who have been issued final deportation orders by federal judges but remain at large in the country.

Trump has threatened a series of increasingly drastic actions as he tries to stem the flow of Central American migrants crossing the southern border, which has risen dramatically on his watch.

Immigration is expected to be a central issue of Trump's 2020 re-election campaign, which officially launches Tuesday.

Venezuela receives second shipment of Red Cross aid



CARACAS, JUN 18 (AFP): Venezuela Monday received a second shipment of Red Cross humanitarian aid, including 24 tonnes of medical supplies and generators provided by Panama, intended for hospitals to help address the country's acute health crisis.

In a statement, the Venezuelan Red Cross said it had received "medicines, medical supplies and power generators" that will be distributed in hospitals across the country, which is experiencing the worst crisis in its recent history.

Six trucks moved the supplies to a Red Cross warehouse in Caracas, an AFP journalist confirmed.

The shipment seeks to mitigate

a severe shortage of drugs and hospital supplies in Venezuela, which has suffered more than four years of recession and hyper-inflation marked by shortages of basic necessities such as food and medicine. The United Nations says a quarter of its 30 million population is in urgent need of aid.

The oil-rich South American nation has suffered the collapse of its vital crude production and runaway inflation that the IMF projects at 10 million per cent this year. Socialist President Nicolas Maduro authorised entry of the first Red Cross shipment in April after signing an agreement with the International Committee of the

Red Cross (ICRC), in the middle of a power struggle with opposition leader Juan Guaido.

The Red Cross said it sent the second shipment from its logistics center in Panama to the Venezuelan capital Caracas.

Guaido, speaker of the National Assembly and recognised as Venezuela's president by more than 50 countries, in February tried unsuccessfully to enter with donations from the United States, which Maduro denounced as a prelude to a US-led invasion.

The ICRC has warned that humanitarian aid will not solve the crisis-wracked country's problems.





MODEL BEHAVIOR! The beauty, Emily Ratajowski rocks a striped A-symmetrical dress while greeting fans in NYC.

‘Euphoria’ a raw and honest portrait of addiction: Zendaya

LONDON, JUN 17 (PTI): Singer-actor Zendaya issued a trigger warning ahead of the premiere of her show “Euphoria”, describing the HBO series suitable for mature audience only. Based on Israeli series of the same name,

life today. There are scenes that are graphic, hard to watch and can be triggering.

“Please only watch if you feel you can handle it. Do what’s best for you. I will still love you and feel your support,” Zendaya said in a statement on Twitter on Sunday.

Revolving around a group of teenagers, an official synopsis of “Euphoria” describes how the show “follows a group of high school students as they navigate drugs, sex, identity, trauma, social media, love and friendship.”

The series is directed by Augustine Frizzell and written

by Sam Levinson.

It also features Storm Reid, Maude Apatow, Brian Bradley, Eric Dane, Angus Cloud, Alexa Demie, Jacob Elordi, Barbie Ferreira, Nika King, Hunter Schafer and Sydney Sweeney.

Zendaya will also reprise her role in “Spider-Man: Far From Home”, slated to be released next month.



the show will see Zendaya portray Rue, a lying drug-addicted 17-year-old girl in the series.

The actor said as “Euphoria” uses a no holds barred approach to explore the menace of addiction, she advised the audience to watch the show only if one was comfortable with the content.

“It’s a raw and honest portrait of addiction, anxiety and the difficulties of navigating

Nobody else had guts to play flawed characters: Shahid Kapoor

BY JUSTIN RAO

MUMBAI, JUN 18 (PTI): Shahid Kapoor says he was drawn to flawed characters in his career at a time when many mainstream actors were wary of taking up such roles.

The actor, who started out as a romantic hero in 2003 with “Ishq Vishk”, is now more famous for his roles in “Kaminey”, “Haider”, “Udta Punjab” and the upcoming “Kabir Singh”, a remake of Telugu film “Arjun Reddy”.

“Nobody else had the guts to play these characters. Maybe because I am my father’s (Pankaj Kapur) son, I felt the need to play such flawed characters,” Shahid told PTI in an interview.

After starring in a series of love stories, Shahid’s career witnessed a turn around when Vishal Bhardwaj cast him in a double role in “Kaminey”, setting the tone for his future filmography.

Shahid followed it up with a critically-praised role in Bhardwaj’s “Haider”, an adaptation of Shakespearean classic “Hamlet”. The Kashmir-set drama saw him as a young student who gets caught in the politics of the Valley when he returns to his home to find his father has disappeared and his mother is about marry his uncle.

In “Udta Punjab”, he played a drug addict rapper Tommy Singh and in “Kabir Singh” he will be seen in the role of a doctor who descends into self-de-

struction and alcoholism after a heart-break.

Shahid believes the perception about flawed characters has changed over the years in the industry as more and more actors are keen to take up such roles.

“Ranveer did a negative character in ‘Padmavat’, Rajkumar (Rao) and Vicky

made a man of me. You have to learn to take failure on your chin, to take responsibility for your actions, to deal with the very public rejection and failure. You’ve to learn to believe in yourself when no one else does.

“You’ve to make choices which people around you say aren’t safe. You have



(Kaushal) have played interesting characters. Now everyone is getting there. But I felt the need to do it pretty early (in my career).

“I’ve made many mistakes as well but the thing with choices is, they are always judged in retrospect of the result,” the actor said.

Shahid, 38, said a mainstream actor has to be good at many things and acting is just one aspect of it. He believes one has to learn to handle failures as the nature of rejection is public. “Acting has

to learn to find yourself as an artiste and not try and be like hundred other successful people.”

Shahid said though hits and misses are a part of an actor’s life one cannot afford to be complacent because there is always “too much competition”. “There are so many people doing good work, you just can’t be complacent.”

“Kabir Singh”, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, and also featuring Kiara Advani, is scheduled to be released on Friday.

Megadeth frontman Dave Mustaine diagnosed with throat cancer

LOS ANGELES, JUN 18 (PTI): Heavy metal band Megadeth’s frontman Dave Mustaine has announced that he has been diagnosed with throat cancer.

Following his diagnosis most of the band’s shows for this year will be cancelled.

“I’ve been diagnosed with throat cancer. It’s clearly something to be respected and faced head on - but I’ve faced obstacles before. I’m

working closely with my

will be back on the road ASAP,” he added. The singer/guitarist also revealed that he and his band members are currently working on the follow-up album to 2016’s ‘Dystopia’.

“Meanwhile, Kiko, David, Dirk and I are in the studio, working on the follow up to Dystopia which I can’t wait for everyone to hear. I’m so thankful for my whole team - family, doctors, band members, trainers, and more,” he said. Mustaine, a former member of Metallica, founded Megadeth in 1983.

Following the revelation, the musician’s friends from the industry expressed their support on social media.

Guns N’ Roses guitarist Slash posted on Twitter, “I have 100 per cent faith you will conquer this as you do everything else. Get better soon my friend.”

“Old band mates with @Metallica. Hopefully, I can give @DaveMustaine a hug like this very soon. We are all standing strong with you Dave,” wrote Ron McGovney.

Megadeth bassist David Ellefson said, “Praying for my friend @DaveMustaine for a full and speedy recovery.



doctors, and we’ve mapped out a treatment plan which they feel has a 90 percent success rate. Treatment has already begun,” Mustaine, 57, shared on Instagram.

“Unfortunately, this requires that we cancel most shows this year. The 2019 Megacruise will happen, and the band will be a part of it in some form. All up to date information will be at megadeth.com as we get it. Megadeth

Money was my main driver: Irina Shayk on joining fashion industry



LONDON, JUN 18 (PTI): Supermodel Irina Shayk has revealed her aim was never to work in the fashion industry and she wanted to study marketing. The 33-year-old Russian model said growing up she had no access to the world of fashion and she decided to say yes to a modelling assignment to support her family, reported Contactmusic. “We lived in a super small village, we never bought fashion magazines, I didn’t even know that world existed. When I was asked to be a model, at first I said no, I wanted to finish studying marketing at college.

“My mum had been saving up to pay for it. Then I realised modelling would be a good way to help my family. Money was my main driver,” Shayk said. She believes it is important to be “strong and stubborn” if one wants to have a successful modelling career.

“I was older than other girls - some started modelling aged 13. I wasn’t a size zero, I was bigger and I was sexy. ‘Now, because of Instagram, it is not really about being a size zero, but back then, all the girls were skinny and I wasn’t.

“There are so many people who tell you to lose weight, to colour your hair or cut it or do this or that... It’s very important not to lose who you really are,” she added.

ARIES: Disrupt the status quo on Saturday, Aries, but aim for mild tremors instead of extreme shockwaves. With the Sun and moon trading friendly fire, it’s obvious to everyone that change is necessary. But leadership is sorely needed to reveal the next stage of the game. That’s where you come in: Make proactive suggestions or simply lead by example!

TAURUS: ETrue success doesn’t simply hinge on climbing tirelessly to the top. Saturday’s evocative angle between the Sun and moon points you down a more soulful path. Pause from “doing, doing, doing” and think big picture. Beyond putting food on the table, how is your work helping other people and the world at large?

GEMINI: Start your weekend on an inspired note! Pull a motivational or spiritual book off the shelf for some morning reading. Try a little “bibliomancy”: opening to a random page and letting the words be your divine directive for the day. Avoid complainers like the plague and seek “high-vibrational” groups of people to spend time with,

especially if you could use an infusion of positive energy.

CANCER: Trying to get a straight answer over the last three weeks has been nearly impossible, thanks to communicator Mercury’s backspin through your truth-telling ninth house. You can now breathe easy as the messenger planet turns direct and forges ahead. No more dancing around an issue—insist on the complete story. Steer clear of even slight exaggerations and aim to be fully authentic. Since the ninth house also rules travel, you’ve got a cosmic thumbs-up for a winter getaway.

LEO: Today’s cosmos shine a light on hidden realities as expressive Mercury turns direct in your covert eighth house. Over the past three weeks, while the messenger planet was retrograde, you’ve held your cards close to your vest, but guarding one secret could be taking a toll on your psyche. Mercury’s forward motion could attract a worthy confidante—which is a good start to releasing your burden.

VIRGO: Your routine-driven sign isn’t

generally considered erratic, but Mercury’s retrograde through your relationship house over the past three weeks might have made you flip-flop. Perhaps a BFF hasn’t had much time for you since finding “The One” or an ex resurfaced without an offer of commitment. Enough already!

LIBRA: Channel-surfing or downward-dogging? If you’ve been doing more of the former over the past three weeks, you can thank Mercury, which has been retrograde (backward) in your self-care sector. But don’t throw in the towel! Today, the quicksilver planet turns direct, helping you find sustainable routines.

SCORPIO: You’re back! On March 5, expressive Mercury turned retrograde in your passionate fifth house. You may have felt like you were missing the love boat. Or perhaps you couldn’t get a clear read on a romantic interest. Get ready to shake off the confusion and insecurity today, as the communication planet powers forward and calls forth your most radiant self!

SAGITTARIUS: Baby, it might (still) be

cold outside, but it wouldn’t hurt to open a few windows and air out Chateau Sagittarius. With Mercury retrograde in your domestic fourth house since March 5, home and family matters might have felt a bit dazed and confused. Your survival instincts kicked in, causing you to retreat from the insanity. You can breathe a sigh of relief and re-engage today, as Mercury turns direct. Call a truce with your roomies, make up with your S.O., seek out a solution with your mother!

CAPRICORN: Banish that either-or thinking, Capricorn. After a confusing three-week Mercury retrograde in your communication house, the messenger planet powers forward today. While you prefer to pour your (prodigious) energy into one thing at a time, this approach may not be serving you. Don’t be afraid to dip your toe into multiple ponds, like those librarian-slash-actors or entrepreneur-slash-activists. Commuting or living in two cities is even a possibility for some earthbound Goats.

AQUARIUS: Loosen those purse strappings, Aquarius. Since Mercury went retrograde

on March 5, you may have had a few budgetary breakdowns. But the messenger planet resumes forward motion today, making it safe to once again enjoy your hard-earned cash. This is a perfect time to revisit (and if necessary, revamp) your plans to strike a healthy balance between saving and spending. Invest in your greatest resource: yourself! A personal growth workshop, meditation retreat or life-coaching sessions can awaken your creativity and usher in a tsunami of entrepreneurial ideas.

PISCES: Vote with your dollar on Saturday, Pisces. An auspicious Sun-moon angle sends a reminder of how loudly money talks. Perhaps you’ll choose socially responsible companies over those with murky or questionable practices. Supporting a small business owner can keep the unique character of your neighborhood thriving. This cosmic confab could inspire you to do business in different ways yourself or even earmark some of your earnings for a very specific cause you want to support.