



**WHY ANA DE ARMAS
ALMOST PASSED ON
STARRING IN KNIVES OUT**
pg 08

**THREE WOMEN: STORIES OF
INDIAN TRAFFICKED BRIDES**
04

**NICKI MINAJ IS A MOM! RELIVE
HER JOURNEY TO PARENTHOOD
WITH KENNETH PETTY**
pg 08



SummitTIMES

Vol 05 | Issue 261 | Gangtok | Saturday | 03 October 2020

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

Transport Deptt directive on taxi fare and seat- ing capacity

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 OCT:

Transport Department took out an order on Friday on the allowed seating capacity and fare for public transport vehicles.

As per the order, motor cabs [T series] can carry 3 passengers and charge 1.3 times the existing taxi fare per passenger while maxi cabs [J series] can carry 5 passengers and charge double the existing taxi fare per passenger.

It is further stated that State Carriage Buses can carry 50% of the total capacity of passengers and charge double the existing bus fare per passenger while luxury tourist vehicles [Z series] can carry 5 passengers and charge 1.4 times of the existing fare per passenger.

KMSS floats political party on Gandhi Jayanti

GUWAHATI, OCT 2 (PTI): The Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) along with 70 indigenous groups and a regional party on Friday floated a political outfit to fight the Assam assembly elections due next year, outgoing president of the peasant body Bhasco De Saikia said.

The new party, named 'Rajior Dal' (People's Party) was launched on Gandhi Jayanti and the birthday of jailed KMSS leader Akhil Gogoi at a press conference here.

The 70 indigenous groups and the regional party, the 'Sanjukta Anchalik Dal, Asom', were together during the anti Citizenship (Amendment) Act agitation.

Saikia, who along with Gogoi will be the chief convenors of the 'Rajior Dal', said, "The new inclusive democratic political party with the slogan 'Think globally, act locally' would work for ushering in a new Assam with a new era of development taking every one together.

"All ethnic communities will be cooperating and working unitedly for the greater good of the state."

National Award winning film director Jahnna Barua, prominent advocate and political leader Arup Borbora, Lachit Sena leader Sringkhal Chaliha, also addressed the press conference.



**check out an
experiment
with some
podcasting
from Sikkim.**

Visit our website
www.summittimes.com
or find us on
SoundCloud at
<https://soundcloud.com/tshering-eden-506860426/stray-thoughts-01>

With 42 new COVID infections, Sikkim's tally breaches 3K

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 OCT:

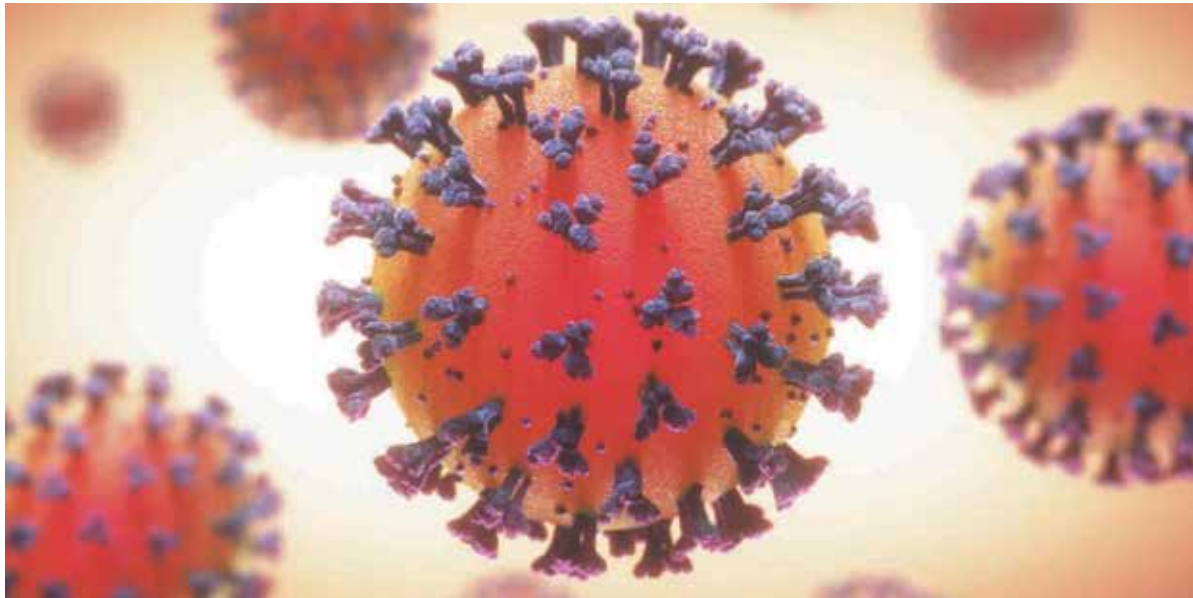
Sikkim's tally of confirmed cases of COVID-19 crossed the 3000-mark on Friday and now stands at 3,011 with the 42 new cases being reported in the last 24 hours. Nine COVID-19 patients are currently admitted in the ICU facility of STNM Hospital.

Out of the 42 cases, 39 have been reported from East District, two from West District and one from South District.

In the meantime, the number of COVID-19 patients discharged from Covid Care Centres and isolation wards further improved to 2,328 with the discharge of 34 more patients on Thursday.

There are now 642 active COVID-19 cases in the State.

21 new cases were reported in RT-PCR testing of 235 samples at the VRD Lab on Thursday,



while nine cases were detected in TrueNat testing of 28 samples and 12 persons were found positive through rapid antigen testing of 70 samples.

While giving details of the new cases found via RT-PCR, Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam G Bhutia mentioned that one

person from Sichey, one from above Entel Motors in Tadong, one from near Little Pixies School in Development Area, one from Namnang and one from Upper Sichey Road, one from below Lingding Taxi Stand and one from below Police Barracks in Upper Sichey tested positive for COVID-19.

He added that two persons from Sichey,

four from below Paljor Stadium, one from near Greendale School in Tadong, one from Lingding, one from Namnang and one from Bahai School Road [Tadong] were also found COVID-19 positive.

He informed that one person from Golitar in Singtam, one from Central Pandam and one from Rangpo also tested

positive for COVID-19 in RT-PCR testing.

Mr Bhutia mentioned that samples of a person from Singtam, one from Changay Senti, one from near Goskhan in Arithang, one from below Shere Punjab Hotel in Arithang, one from Ranipool, one from Sadam and three from a paid quarantine facility also

returned positive in TrueNat testing.

Likewise, a person from IBM Colony in Rangpo, one from MG

found positive in RAT.

He added that a person from Daragaon, Singtam and one from Rhenock in East District, one

ONE MORE COVID-RELATED DEATH IN SIKKIM

GANGTOK, 02 OCT: Sikkim witnessed one more COVID-related death with the passing away of a 77-year-old lady from below Baha'i School Road here on Thursday night. This is the 41st COVID-19 related death in the State.

Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam G Bhutia informs that the patient was admitted in the ICU facility of STNM Hospital after facing some health complications on Thursday evening.

He informed that the sample of the patient was taken last evening itself for RT-PCR testing which returned positive for COVID-19.

He added that the patient passed away around 8:15 PM Thursday night and had the co-morbidities of kidney problems and was also diabetic.

Marg, one from Bhusuk, one from 6th Mile Tadong, one from Metro Point Tadong, one from Thami Dara [Luing] and one from near the Gas Godown in Lumsey were

each from Tikjuk and one from Lower Bhaluthang in West District and one from Rabongla Bazaar in South District were also found COVID-19 positive in RAT.

State-level Gandhi Jayanti celebration goes virtual, stays grand



GANGTOK, OCT 02 [IPR]:

Culture Department organised a virtual programme to mark the conclusion of a two-year long celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi today. The programme was chaired by Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang from Samman Bhawan. He was accompanied by Minister for Culture Department Samdup Lepcha, Secretary to CM SD Dhakal and Secretary Culture Department Sherap Shenga.

Similarly, the programme was also attended by Advisor Culture Department Bhim Kumari Sharma, Chairman Communal Harmony Board Sonam Sherpa, Chairperson Sikkim Song, Drama and Film Board Pooja Sharma, along with officials and staff of Culture Department and NIC, from National Informatics Center, Gangtok through virtual mode.

The programme was also participated in by Director, **turn to pg 02**

Gandhi Jayanti celebrated on MG Marg



GANGTOK, 02 OCT (IPR):

The 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was observed at MG Marg, Gangtok today. The programme was chaired by Governor, Ganga Prasad and was accompanied by Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang. The programme was also attended by Deputy Speaker SLA, Sangay Lepcha, Cabinet Ministers, MLA, Advisors, Chairpersons, Chief Secretary, SC Gupta, Principal Secretary

Home, DGP, Heads of various departments, officials and dignitaries.

On the occasion, Governor, Chief Minister and other dignitaries paid tribute by garlanding to the bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the backdrop of Ramdhun and recorded prayers by different religious heads.

Earlier, the programme began with the National Anthem presented by the Sikkim Police Brass Band.

No entry for tourists in two monasteries

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 OCT:

Restrictions have been announced for two monasteries in the state. Drupchen Duechi Chorten Gumpa, Deorali, has decided that no tourists from outside the state will be allowed entry till 31 Oct 2020. Local devotees, however, will be allowed entry.

Sakyong Pentong GPU in North Sikkim held a Gram Sabha today wherein it was decided to restrict entry of tourists and workers to Tholung Gumpa till 30 Nov 2020.

"The Gram Sabha has unanimously taken the above decision taking into consideration the safety of our people and the Gram Panchayat Unit, from the global Pandemic COVID-19," the resolution statement says.

Farmers under financial strain, time for SKM to deliver on election promises: SDF

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 OCT:

Sikkim Democratic Front has highlighted that Sikkim's farmers are facing acute financial crisis due to the pandemic and the lockdown. The party is demanding that the State government carry out a proper survey on the plight of the farmers and then extend financial assistance to them.

An SDF press release issued by its vice-president [farmer's front], DN Sapkota, states that farm-

ers here have made huge contributions to establish Sikkim as an organic state and were now in need of support from the government.

The release informs that around 3,700 metric tonnes of large cardamom were ready for the market in Sikkim but the prices had crashed. The current rate of Rs 8000 to 12,000 per maund was the lowest in recent times and threatened to dampen Dasain.

The release points out that the SKM had prom-

ised in its election manifesto that it would ensure Rs 50,000 per maund of large cardamom if elected to office. Now is the time for the party to deliver on its promise, the release adds.

The release also reminds SKM that its government has not provided the additional Rs 8 per liter of milk it had promised to top-up whatever the Milk Union paid dairy farmers. This had been promised from March onwards and six months since, it has still not been provided.

The Streets for People Challenge is an initiative of the Smart Cities Mission to inspire cities to create walking-friendly streets through quick measures, in response to COVID-19. The Challenge will support cities across the country to develop a unified vision of Streets for People in consultation with stakeholders and citizens.

GANGTOK
is participating in the
**Streets for People
CHALLENGE**
We need your support!
#streetsforpeople

<http://smartcitygangtok.com>

Gangtok Smart City

Submission of Stage 1 proposal-11th February, 2021
Announcement of Shortlisted Cities-25th February, 2021
Submission of implementation report-31st May, 2021
Announcement of Best performing Cities-21st June, 2021

Through this challenge Gangtok city will be able to create walking-friendly streets through quick measures with support from citizens and experts and will also receive guidance on how to create permanent interventions to re-imagine streets as public places to make them safe and people-friendly. For more details please refer to link :-
<https://smartnet.niua.org/indiastreetchallenge/support-your-city-2/>

Zuventus Healthcare unit head elected VP of pharma education assoc

SUMMIT REPORT

RANGPO, 02 OCT:

Unit Head of Zuventus Healthcare, Sikkim, Deepak Kumar Verma, has been elected vice president of Society of Pharmaceutical Education & Research which has Professor Brahmeshwar Mishra of IIT-Varanasi as president.

South celebrates Gandhi Jayanti

NAMCHI, 02 OCT (IPR):

The South District Headquarters observed 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at the premises of Namchi District Administrative Centre, today.

Present during the occasion were District Collector (South), Ragul K, ADC (South), Satyen K Pradhan accompanied by Heads of Departments, officials and staff from various department. To commemorate the birth anniversary, the attendees paid tribute and offered khadas to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi. This year the celebration was observed in a low key manner keeping in view the COVID-19 protocol laid by the Sikkim State Government.

Fifth seed Tsitsipas swats aside Cuevas to reach French Open third round

PARIS, 02 OCT [REUTERS]:

The 22-year-old Greek needed over three hours to rally from two sets down and beat little-known Spaniard Jaume Munar in round one and he could not have hoped for an easier second match on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Tsitsipas, who won the season-ending ATP Tour Finals in 2019, came into his second-round match at Roland Garros having defeated Cuevas in straight sets in all three previous meetings. If Cuevas had any hopes for a different result, they were quickly snubbed out as the Greek jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the opening set and never looked back.

"Right now the way I see it, it will be the physical challenge of playing a Grand Slam," Tsitsipas told reporters. "Grand Slam tournaments are way different than any other tournaments we get to play the rest of the year.

West teachers trained as Health & Wellness Ambassadors

GANGTOK, 02 OCT [IPR]:

The four-day online training programme for school teachers of 103 State Government Schools, 2 Central Government funded Schools and 1 NGO run School of West Sikkim (Aspirational District) was jointly organized by Population Education Cell-SCERT, Education Department and Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) unit of Health Department, Government of Sikkim from 28th September to 1st October 2020.

The programme to train two teachers as Health and Wellness Ambassadors from each School of selected districts from all over the country was jointly launched by Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India during the month of February under the aegis of ongoing Ayushman Bharat Programme.

The objective of the programme is to provide comprehensive knowledge, psychological support and services to school going children related to health and well-being to enhance their growth, development and educational achievements.

These trained Health



and Wellness Ambassadors will create a support group of students in their respective schools who will serve as "Health and Wellness Messengers". They jointly will spread awareness regarding preventive health by organizing appropriate activity sessions of one hour every week in their respective schools to promote joyful and healthy learning.

For the state of Sikkim, a State Resource Group (SRG) of 16 members comprising of faculty members from SCERT and DIET, School Heads and officials from State Education and Health Department has been trained by the National Resource Group. The curriculum and training

materials for this programme is prepared by NCERT in consultation with Union Ministries of Health and Education, Government of India.

The modules include eleven themes - emotional and mental well-being, gender equality, interpersonal relationships, nutrition, prevention and management of substance misuse, health and sanitation, reproductive health and HIV prevention, promotion of safe use of the internet, media and social media and security against violence and injuries.

The said training programme was inaugurated by Shri. G. P. Upadhyaya, Additional Chief Secretary, Education Department, Government

of Sikkim on 28th Sept, 2020 in the presence of Dr. Tseten Yamphe, Principal Director cum Mission Director (NHM-Sikkim), Dr. Rabin Chhetri, Director SCERT and other officials.

The group of 212 teachers selected as Health and Wellness Ambassadors were divided into three groups and training sessions were conducted simultaneously in online mode. Each group was trained by separate group of SRG members headed by Dr. Mahendra Tamang of SCERT-Sikkim, Rajesh Thapa, HM of Langang Sec School and Tashi Ongyal, HM of Gyangyap Secondary School.

The online technical support team was

headed by Rajiv Philips of SCERT-Sikkim and the whole programme was coordinated by Ms. Ranju Pradhan, Asst Prof. and Head of Population Education Cell of SCERT and Dr. Simmy Rasaily, Additional Director (RKSK), Health Department at the State level.

Dr. Mahendra Tamang of SCERT and Ms. Swarnalata Pradhan of DIET Geyzing coordinated the programme at the district level.

During the closing day, the participants were addressed by Dr. Rabin Chhetri, Director, SCERT-Sikkim, Dr. Phumzey Bhutia, Director (RCH) Department of Health and K. C. Gyatsho, Additional Director (Education), West District and Ms. Ranju Pradhan. The programme also had the presence of Joint Directors, faculty members from SCERT and DIETs, State Resource Group Members, technical team members, heads of the institutions and heads of ten BRCs and trainee-participants teachers of West Sikkim. The teachers have expressed their gratitude to the organizing agency for building their capacity in an important sector and also assured for proper implementation of the programme at the school level.

Rs 1500 fee for dialysis an "anti-people move", says SPYF

SUMMIT REPORT

Gangtok, 02 Sept:

Calling it an "anti-people" move, Sikkim Progressive Youth Forum [SPYF] has criticized the levying of Rs 1500 charge for dialysis in government hospitals for those who do not belong to Below Poverty Line category.

In a press release, SPYF has said that the state government issued a notification a few days back stating that Rs 1500 would be charged for dialysis in government hospitals for those who do not belong to Below Poverty Line category.

"This decision is in the direction of completely commercializing public healthcare system in the state," the forum has alleged.

Many people undergo dialysis twice or thrice

a week and at the above rate dialysis thrice a week costs Rs 18,000 per month, the release states.

At the same time, SPYF has also praised the steps taken by the government in providing the dialysis facility to people of Sikkim.

SPYF, on behalf of all the kidney patients of the state currently undergoing dialysis, has requested the Government to immediately do away with the Rs 1500 fee for dialysis.

"This is also part of our ongoing movement for 2-point demand of fulfilment of IPHS guidelines in all hospital and free medicines and other services for all in the state, for which we have given ultimatum to the Government," the forum has said.

IDCS Centre Rangpo celebrates Gandhi Jayanti



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 OCT:

IDCS Centre Rangpo Upper Bazaar under West Pendum Constituency, East Sikkim, celebrated Gandhi Jayanti cum foundation day of the ICDS today, a press release informs. The event was attended by members of

ICDS, ASHA and Aanganwadi along with children and guardians.

The program started with offering khadas and garlands to the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi. A plantation drive was also organised on the day to mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Shares, oil prices sink after Trump tests positive for virus

U.S. stock futures and Asian shares fell Friday after President Donald Trump said he and first lady Melania Trump had tested positive for the new coronavirus. The future contracts for both the S&P 500 and the Dow industrials dropped nearly 2% but were trading 1.2% lower several hours later. Oil prices tumbled about 3%. Trump tweeted news of his test results just hours after the White House announced that senior aide Hope Hicks had come down with the virus after traveling with the president several times this week.

The positive test reading for the leader of the world's largest economy heaps uncertainty onto a growing pile of unknowns investors are grappling with, first among them how it might affect the Nov. 3

election and American policies on trade, tariffs and many other issues beyond them.

"To say this potentially could be a big deal is an understatement," Rabobank said in a commentary. "Anyway, everything now takes a backseat to the latest incredible twist in this US election campaign."

A statement issued by Trump's doctor saying both he and his wife were well and that he would continue his duties appeared to calm the markets' reaction.

Germany's DAX gave up 0.6% to 12,649.29 and the CAC 40 in Paris lost 0.6% to 4,796.97. Britain's FTSE 100 slipped 0.5% to 5,850.86. Trading in Asia was thin, with markets in Shanghai and Hong Kong closed. The Nikkei 225 index shed strong early gains.

India's COVID-19 tally comes close to 64 lakh-mark

NEW DELHI, OCT 2 (PTI):

India's COVID-19 caseload inched closer to 64 lakh-mark with 81,484 infections reported in a day, while the number of people who recuperated from the disease crossed 53 lakh pushing the recovery rate to 83.70 per cent, the Union health ministry said on Friday.

The total number of coronavirus cases in the country mounted to 63,94,068, while the death toll climbed to 99,773 with the infection claiming 1,095 lives in a span of 24 hours, according to the ministry data updated at 8 am on Friday.

The total recoveries have surged to 53,52,078. There are 9,42,217 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 14.74

per cent of the total caseload, the data stated. The COVID-19 case fatality rate was recorded at 1.56 per cent, it said.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20 lakh-mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past the 50 lakh-mark on September 16 and crossed 60 lakh on September 28. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a cumulative total of 7,67,17,728 samples have been tested for COVID-19 up to October 1, with 10,97,947 samples tested on Thursday.

The 1,095 latest fatalities include 394 from Maharashtra, 130 from Karnataka, 80 from Uttar Pradesh, 66 from Tamil Nadu, 59 from West Bengal, 45 from Punjab, 41 from Andhra Pradesh, 40 from

Delhi and 29 each from Chhattisgarh and Kerala.

The total 99,773 COVID-19 deaths reported so far in the country include 37,056 from Maharashtra followed by 9,586 from Tamil Nadu, 8,994 from Karnataka, 5,869 from Andhra Pradesh, 5,864 from Uttar Pradesh, 5,401 from Delhi, 5,017 from West Bengal, 3,460 from Gujarat, 3,451 from Punjab and 2,336 from Madhya Pradesh.

The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the ICMR," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

State-level Gandhi ...

Nehru Yuva Kendra, Gangtok Branch, and joined by the participants of the online quiz competition from four districts.

During the programme, the Chief Minister announced free Library Membership to the State Central Library and District Libraries for all senior citizens, school and college students and 50% discount for lifetime membership to Government employees from 02 October to 31 December, 2020 to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary celebration of Mahatma Gandhi.

He also announced distribution of books on Mahatma Gandhi to all libraries in Block Administration Centers and libraries under registered literary societies of Sikkim.

In his address, the Chief Minister spoke on the life of the Mahatma whose ideals and sacrifices are lessons for all to follow. He congratulated the Culture Department for being able to organize the event to commemorate the two year long concluding celebration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. He also mentioned that the birth an-

niversary of Gandhiji could not be celebrated in a grander manner due to the ongoing pandemic which has engulfed the world. However, the State has celebrated the programme in a simple and brief manner abiding by the COVID-19 protocols. He also congratulated the participants from all four districts of Sikkim via video conference provided by NIC.

While speaking to the participants, Chief Minister encouraged them to work hard during the pandemic and added that the COVID-19 should not stop them from achieving their dreams and goals. He mentioned that the State Government has been able to have its own separate BSNL Center in Sikkim and also informed the attendees that Sikkim soon will be able to get connected and have proper digital education after the BSNL is set up.

The Chief Minister also stated that the State Government has been continuously working to tackle the COVID-19 situation in Sikkim. However, the only vaccination as of now is the use of masks, proper hygiene maintenance of

social distancing. He urged them to follow the SOPs of the State Government to keep the pandemic at bay.

While speaking on the State Government's policies, the Chief Minister mentioned that the education sector has always been given topmost priority along with health and tourism, which is the backbone of the State economy. He emphasized that higher educational system and infrastructures would be improved in near future. He also informed about the State government plans and future course of action with regard to education, health and tourism sector.

He also informed about the opening of Dialysis Centers in the three districts of Sikkim for the people of the State to utilize during these uncertain times.

The Chief Minister also shared the importance of nature and environment which needs to be conserved by all. The responsibility of protection and preservation rests with the people, especially the youths of today.

He also encouraged the 'Vocal for Local' or 'Atmanirbhar' policy of the Prime Minister of India. He mentioned that

Mahatma Gandhi also introduced the spinning wheel (Charkha) for the same purpose and hence, as Indians one should use and promote local products as much as possible.

During the programme, Culture Department also conducted an online 'Quiz competition on the life and achievement of Mahatma Gandhi. Around fifty participants from the State including members of State library, districts libraries, members from libraries of BACs, students of schools and college participated in the online quiz competition from respective districts National Informatics Centres. It was also attended virtually by the Chief Minister and Culture Minister along with other dignitaries present.

Alin Balkuti stood 1st in the competition followed by Bindya Darjee as 2nd and Dipika Chhetri, Kalzang Pintso Lepcha and Eshan Karin in the 3rd positions respectively. The winners were presented with the prizes by the dignitaries.

It was informed that the first ten winners will be given prizes comprising of books on Mahatma Gandhi.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land 30X40 (3 Plots) available for sale at Tadong 6th Mile next to Harka Maya College. Flat Land no cutting required. Price 27 Lakhs (negotiable).

Contact: 9800201335

LAND FOR SALE

A land measuring an area for 50x32 1/2 at Road-side just below housing colony is for sale. It is just a one minute walking distance from Namchi bazaar taxi stand. Interested party may contact 9593373387 and 9434406761

LAND FOR SALE

An area measuring 1 acre at Sadam South Sikkim near Loretto Convent School at Gupti road. Price negotiable any one interested can contact: 78640-04501, 62970-03235, 98320-48410

VBDAS marks National Voluntary Blood Donation Day at Duga

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 OCT:

National Voluntary Blood Donation Day 2020 was observed by Voluntary Blood Donors Association of Sikkim [VBDAS] at BAC Duga under West Pendum constituency in East District on Friday.

The event, organized in collaboration with Sikkim State Blood Transfusion Council and Sikkim State AIDS Control Society, had RDD Chairperson Sunita Gautam as the chief guest.

The function was also attended by Health Department Additional Director, Dr Barun Subba, BDO Duga, IB Chettri, Singtam District Hospital Blood Bank Technical Officer, DR Dhakal, SKM party's CLC president, Hari Prasad Dangal along with VBDAS executive members and blood donors.

Although National Voluntary Blood Donation Day falls on 01 October, due to engagements



of the association in other parts of the State, the function at Duga was organized today.

On the occasion, VBDAS felicitated organisations working in the field of blood donation, Blood Bank workers, BDO and other personalities with letters of appreciation for their contributions. The association also conferred letters of appreciation to blood donors who came forward during the lockdown to do-

mate blood.

In her address, the chief guest expressed that the blood donation was the greatest contribution to save lives and appealed to youth to have a positive outlook and volunteer for blood donation.

She appreciated the initiative of VBDAS in saving people's lives through blood donation and assured to provide all possible support to the organization.

Earlier, Health Additional Director, Dr Subba highlighted the importance of blood donation.

VBDAS advisor, Bikash Pradhan spoke about the objectives of the organization and shared the various achievements and activities of the organization since its establishment in the year 2008.

SKM CLC president, Mr Dangal assured to extend all possible help to VBDAS while VBDAS

advisor, Puran Tamang, highlighted that the organization has been successful in achieving its goals and further encouraged youth to find sync with VBDAS.

The programme was organized in active participation of VBDAS president Kishore Baniya, general secretary Som Bahadur Rai and active members Rojan Pradhan, Srijana Rai, Srijana Subba, Manita Rasaily.

Raj Bhavan celebrates Gandhi Jayanti

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 OCT:

Raj Bhavan paid tribute to the Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his 151st birth anniversary.

A Raj Bhavan release informs that the Governor, Ganga Prasad offered floral tribute and garlands to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Bhavan complex.

The Governor said, "Let us pay our unending respects to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary and follow the Gandhian principle of truth, non-violence and harmony for the welfare of the State and nation at large."

The programme was attended by Additional Secretary, BK Lama, officials and staff of Raj Bhavan.



TMC minister tests positive for COVID-19

KOLKATA, OCT 1 (PTI): West Bengal minister and TMC leader Tapas Roy tested positive for COVID-19 and was admitted to a Kolkata hospital Thursday night, hospital sources said.

Roy's family members are under home isolation.

"He had tested positive and was admitted late tonight at around 11:30 pm. He is currently doing fine, but we have kept him under observation. He is asymptomatic," a senior official at Calcutta Medical College and Hospital said. Roy is the state minister for parliamentary affairs.

Will stand by farmers till last breath: Mamata

KOLKATA, OCT 2 (PTI): Describing farmers as the "backbone" of India, West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC boss Mamata Banerjee on Friday said she and her party members would "stand by them till last breath", come what may.

Banerjee, after paying tribute to former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his birth anniversary, remembered that he had raised the slogan 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' 55 years ago to enthuse and motivate the country's soldiers and farmers. "Remembering former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his birth anniversary. 55 years ago, he gave us the inspirational slogan of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' for our proud farmer brothers & sisters. Come what may, we will always firmly stand by them till our last breath," Banerjee tweeted.

The TMC chief, who has been critical of the new farm laws, said history stood testament to all that her government did for the welfare of farmers. "Farmers are the backbone of our society. In Bengal, the average annual income of our farmers has tripled from Rs 91,000 in 2011 to Rs 2.91 lakh in 2018.



NDRF CLEANS UP MANGAN SHOPPING COMPLEX:

The NDRF team stationed at Mangan in North Sikkim carried out a cleanliness drive on 02 Oct at the Mangan Shopping Complex and its surrounding areas as one of its initiatives for Gandhi jayanti.

Pompeo, Vatican clash over China after tensions spill out

ROME, OCT 2 (AP): The US and the Vatican butted heads over China on Thursday as the Holy See chafed at US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's public call to take a harsher stance against Chinese restrictions on religious freedom.

The State Department sought to play down the differences, but tensions were palpable during Pompeo's two-day visit to Rome. The disagreement on China comes as the Vatican is heading into delicate negotiations with Beijing to extend its controversial 2018 accord over bishop nominations.

Pompeo spent about 45 minutes Thursday meeting in the Apostolic Palace with his Vatican counterpart, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, and the Vatican foreign minister, Archbishop Paul Gallagher.

We had a constructive discussion, Pompeo said after the meeting. "We have a shared objective. The Chinese Communist Party is behaving in ways that are reminiscent of what's only happened in centuries past in terms of human rights violations. We've watched them oppress not only Muslim Uighurs but Christians, Catholics, Falun Gong, people of all faiths.

I know that the Catholic Church, the Vatican, the Holy See all care about these issues deeply, Pompeo told Fox News in an interview.

We've urged them to take a stronger view, to express their moral witness against these depredations that are taking place there in China.

Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said that during the meeting,

both sides presented their respective positions about relations with China in a climate of respect, openness and cordiality. Pope Francis declined to meet with Pompeo, to avoid any suggestion of political favouritism ahead of November's US presidential election, Vatican officials said. Pompeo met with Francis last October, and it would have been unusual for him to have gotten another audience so soon, even without an impending election.

In the Fox interview, Pompeo said he wasn't troubled by the lack of a meeting with the pontiff. Oh, he's a busy man," Pompeo said.

We scheduled this a little bit late. He doesn't always meet with foreign ministers too. They've made clear on my next trip we'll be able to do it, and I'm hopeful I'll get back before too long and have a chance to engage with him.

Pompeo's visit got off on a sour note, as far as the Vatican was concerned, after he penned an essay last month for a conservative magazine suggesting that the Vatican had compromised its moral authority by signing the 2018 nominations agreement with Beijing. His article greatly irritated the Vatican, which saw it as interference in the church's internal affairs for the sake of scoring domestic political points.

A State Department official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, sought to tamp down the tensions Thursday, noting that the US has good relations with many Catholic institutions, including charities. Another US official, similarly speaking on con-

dition of anonymity due to being unauthorized to discuss the private conversation, also sought to smooth over the dispute, saying the Holy See had a history of promoting religious freedom.

The Vatican's playing the long game when it comes to human rights and religious liberty, the official said. Tactical agreements and tactical differences will come and go, the official continued.

But the broader strategic vision, the United States and the Vatican, are in lockstep and have been for four generations and will be for generations to come.

Pompeo was in Rome to participate in a conference on religious freedom organised by the US Embassy to the Holy See, and to meet with Italian and Vatican officials.

During the Wednesday conference, Pompeo urged the Holy See to join the United States in denouncing violations of religious freedom in China, part of the broader US campaign to criticize Beijing's crackdown on religious and ethnic minorities.

Gallagher, the Vatican foreign minister, was in the audience at the time of his speech and didn't refer at all to China in his remarks.

The Vatican is seeking to extend its accord with China, which envisages a process of dialogue in selecting bishops. It signed it in 2018 in hopes it would help unite China's Catholics, who for seven decades have been split between those belonging to an official, state-sanctioned church and an underground church loyal to Rome.

WANDERING SOULS OF SAKKAM
www.wanderingsofsofsikkim.com

CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED FOR THE UPGRADEATION OF LIBRARY AT RATEYANI SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL.

CONTACT 7384639193 TO CONTRIBUTE & HELP US IN LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR BETTER FUTURE

Specialized Dental Clinic of Siliguri
(Sevoke Dental Clinic)
Branch Open in Gangtok.

GANGTOK DENTAL CLINIC

NOW OPEN
10AM to 7PM

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT
82106 99271

Dr. Anjali Gupta
BDS, Dental Surgeon

Near Shree Ganga
Below Greenfield Hotel
Gangtok, East Sikkim

+91 8210699271
+91 8768213966

What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

The Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) is new strain of Coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China. Notorious for mutating quickly and acquiring new qualities, it is a rising epidemic that was previously not identified in humans.

Symptoms of nCoV

- Fever
- Difficulty in breathing
- Dry Cough
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome
- Pneumonia - like symptoms

Treatment

- Treatment is symptomatic and supportive, based on the patient's clinical condition.
- No vaccinations available as of now.
- Visit Doctor in case symptoms detected.

Precautions to Prevent nCoV

- Wash your hands often with soap.
- Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Observe good personal hygiene.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people with possible symptoms.
- Avoid contact with animals and consumption of undercooked meats.
- Avoid travel to nCoV affected places.
- Wear a mask if you have respiratory syndrome, and cover your mouth while coughing or sneezing.

If you seek help, you may call :
-Toll free no. 104
District surveillance Officer
EAST : 7029372100
WEST : 9593297809
NORTH : 9641957468
SOUTH : 7407691463
New STNM
AMS : 9434711402

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

Correct Pressure from the Right Peers

To help the young grow well, provide them access and counsel

A 13-year-old who used to tear open a bag of A-chips or kurkure whenever his hands were free and the moment allowed, has managed to stay away from such “junk” food for four months now. And for the past two months, he has not even taken the occasional cheat days. True story. From Gangtok. What convinced him to go “clean” and “live healthy” was the discovery of football as a passion and a senior who came along at the right moment and coached and guided him. And the 13-year-old is not even a good footballer, but has a passion for the sport which motivates him to be the best footballer that his late initiation into the sport and lean frame will allow. Earlier, no amount of sage counsel or dire warnings succeeded in weaning the child away from junk food. Eventually, all it took was for a peer elder to says, “Sportspersons need discipline. We do not do junk food”.

We have often seen such course corrections around us. Some of us might have even experienced it first hand when had a peer, elder or colleague who put things in perspective and gave us context, may be even set us off on the course of our life. In the episode shared here, two things converged – access and counsel. Thankfully, the child developed an interest in football because just about every school and town has a ground where he could kick a ball around. What if he had taken an interest in lawn tennis?:(But just access to something one can get passionate about is obviously not enough. What also came along at the right time was counsel in the form of a senior at school who could channel the passionate energy into what will hopefully be lifelong discipline. There is an important lesson here for Sikkim which is grappling with more teen-problems than it has fashioned solutions for.

Significant attempts like SAATHI (Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India) are underway at select schools to build a network of peer-educators and counselors who can intervene and assist fellow students deal with the challenge of addiction and other influences that beset them. But this, if we are go by the analogy drawn above, addresses only one part of the problem. Sikkim, hence, needs to also provide access to its young if it wants to keep them away from, as leaders here are wont to say, “antisocial” activities and distractions. The young, as anyone who was young at one time will attest, are not excited with counseling sessions and rarely take such advise seriously, which is why it is a good idea to have someone closer to their age speak to them about their concerns. But even this will meet with limited success unless their energies find proper release. Iceland has done so with remarkable success. Teenage smoking, drinking and drug use have been radically cut in the past 20 years, a development directly credited to a policy shift which saw the country invest heavily in after-school activities by setting up well appointed clubs and community centres for sports, music, dance, art or whatever else the young could take a fancy for. Simultaneously, mentors from among the young were groomed. And now, twenty years down the line, the change is obvious. The need for “human” mentors and physical activities cannot be stressed enough in these times of online connectedness and human detachments. Sikkim will do well to ponder of this option...

WRITE US:

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

Three Women: Stories of Indian Trafficked Brides

SREYA BANERJEA
theconversation.com

“I tried to escape in the middle of the night,” Mahira* recalled. “With a small packed bag, I tiptoed towards the door thinking that he was asleep. Suddenly, he grabbed me from behind and attacked with a cutlass.” I sat, stunned, as she lifted her saree and revealed a wide scar below her knee.

In north India, there is a particular history of purchasing brides from other states due to the “male marriage squeeze”: there is an excess of eligible men but not enough local women for marriage. This is caused by an imbalanced child sex ratio caused by sex-selective abortion and female foeticide.

A recent study found that selective abortion could lead to 6.8 million fewer girls being born by 2030, with preference for sons highest in the north of country. These gender imbalances have increased cross-cultural and cross-regional marriages, which has in turn exacerbated trafficking of brides in India.

There is inconsistent and limited data on how many brides are trafficked in the country. But the numbers are significant. In 2013, a study that included 10,000 households across 92 villages showed that about 9,000 women were purchased from different states in forced marriages. And a door-to-door survey in 2014 found 1,352 trafficked wives living with their buyers in 85 villages in north India.

Men and women operate as brokers, agents or suppliers, to facilitate marriages with brides in other states. In many cases, young women are often tricked, manipulated, abducted or coerced into marrying “un-marriageable” men: those that are older, widows, disabled, alcoholic, separated from their previous wife, or financially unstable. For such men, it is convenient to purchase a bride across state for a cheaper price.

For my PhD research I spoke with several migrant brides in cross-regional marriages. Some were survivors of marriage trafficking. I found that these women often give consent to these marriages to escape poverty and the burden of dowry. Despite various challenges and difficulties, they frequently stay in these marriages for their children and for material, social and cultural reasons. I met them all in villages in the northern states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Assam and West Bengal.

According to the 2011 census, for every 1,000 men, there are 947 women in West Bengal. In Rajasthan the figure stands at 926 women, while in Haryana it is 877 (the lowest of all states). Assam and West Bengal, meanwhile, are known as “source states” – localities struggling with poverty, the aftermath of natural disasters and the burden of the dowry system.

Families in these regions are manipulated into sending their daughters away for work, unaware that this eventually leads to them becoming subjected to forced marriage in a different state. In other cases, families in source states arrange such long-distance and dowry-free marriages for at least one daughter, so that their other children are able to marry in the same state or region.

Mahira was one such wife. Her experience of exploitation, social isolation, abuse and a lack of basic human rights are far from unique.

MAHIRA'S STORY

I met Mahira on a warm November afternoon in 2016 during my first visit to a village named Kherli in the district of Mewat, Haryana.

As a researcher from abroad, the locals were curious about my presence and Mahira and other women willingly shared stories about their marital journeys. I followed Mahira's lead as we walked on a sandy trail passing cattle and hens, women drying cow and buffalo manure in front of their houses and on their walls, children playing around, and men fixing broken roofs or rebuilding their houses. Upon reaching her house we drank cold bottles of Thumbs UP (Indian cola) with seasoned chickpea leaves. A couple of other women joined us as we sat in a circle.

Mahira recounted vague memories of leaving her family home in the state of Assam at the age of 14, and then being forced to marry to a man in Haryana who was three times older than her. A distant family member had accompanied her under false pretence of touring the city of Delhi with her, where she was sold to a “broker”. It is believed that Mahira's relative and the “broker” received money for the deal, but in many cases of marriage trafficking, parents who supposedly “sell” their daughters ultimately fail to receive any cash, even if promised. It is often only the so-called “marriage agent” that profits from the trade.

Mahira was forced to join other girls who were being auctioned off to men bidding for brides. She was purchased for Rs.8,000 (US\$104) by a 45-year-old Sikh man. He lived in a small village in Haryana and worked as a driver and labourer in the fields. By 28, Mahira was a mother of three and earned Rs.2 per hour for working in the fields.

Life became a continuous struggle to deal with her alcoholic husband while engaging with strenuous domestic chores and work in the fields. For many of the women I met, it was difficult for them to remember their age because of how young they were when they got married (most of them were between 14 and 17 years old). And so it was not possible to figure out Mahira's age. But the age difference between her and her husband was over 30 years.

Her husband died in 2014. Since becoming a widow, Mahira has been living alone with her children in a small village in Mewat, Haryana. She walked across the room and returned with a passport-sized photograph of her late husband – a man who looked to be in his late 60s with a long beard and a blank look on his face.

Some 15 years later, Empower People, a leading pioneer grassroots organisation that campaigns against marriage trafficking, helped Mahira to be reunited with her family in Assam. When they advised her to leave Mewat and settle back at home, Mahira told them she would stay where she was, replying: “Jaise mere bhagya mein likha hai, main who hi bhugtungi” – “I will endure whatever is written in my destiny.”

I also met Mahira's cousin in Assam and heard

his side of the story. He still wishes Mahira would return to their village in Assam, but understands and respects her reasons for staying in her marital home in Haryana. In other cases however family members abandon women after learning that they were sold to a groom in a different and state. In other extreme cases where women choose to be rescued and return home, they often experience social stigma and struggle to reintegrate.

Similar stories were told by other women whose marital journeys resembled Mahira's. Most of them had limited or no contact with their family. In many cases, these women are considered “missing” or remain abandoned by their family due to the shame and stigma associated with being sold or abducted for marriage. These marriages sometimes break caste and religious boundaries, and several women face exclusion in their new marital communities. The men that purchase brides for marriage do not face social stigma to the same extent, even when brides often belong to a different caste or religion. It is more shameful for them to remain bachelors.

Many of the women found consolation in believing that their marital home, or “sasural” was written in their fate. But it was clear that their idea of “home” was distorted: it seemed as though many of these women didn't really feel a sense of belonging to their marital home and community. They struggled with feeling like a foreigner in their marital village, and often felt isolated, abandoned and that their voice was subjugated.

The women in these marriages faced many problems. Their mobility and decision making was heavily restricted and they lacked basic reproductive and property rights. They regularly had to deal with financial issues and domestic abuse. Added to this, these women were also dealing with basic issues like a lack of water and electricity, not to mention the general scarcity of toilets and bathrooms. Brides from far-off states with different cultural backgrounds have a hard time adjusting.

‘SONS ARE PINNACLE OF THE HOME’

My research has shown that there is more to marriage trafficking than the “marriage squeeze” and female scarcity. Intersections of gender, class, age and caste play a significant role in pushing women into exploitative situations. Girls from poor families living in precarious conditions are more vulnerable to such long-distance and cross-regional marriages.

The preference for sons among land-owning caste groups in the north is supported by local people's disapproval of inheritance laws that acknowledge the rights of males and females equally. But there is a demand for girls and women for labour, domestic production and sexual pleasure. A famous saying in the Hindi language is: “Ladki paraya dhan hoti hai” – “a girl is someone else's property.” As the Indian sociologist Ravinder Kaur has pointed out, a daughter is “dispensable” and “burdensome”, while a daughter-in-law is needed for “family wellbeing and perpetuation”.

There are laws against bride trafficking in India. The Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act (ITPA), the Bonded Labour Abolition Act, the Child Labour Act, the Juvenile Justice Act, and parts the Indian Penal Code are all used to penalise trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour. But research has revealed several gaps and ambiguities in how international law conceptualises trafficking, migration and slavery. This makes it even more challenging to understand and recognise it.

‘HE USED TO BEAT ME WITH HIS SHOES’

One reason it is so difficult to document the accurate number of trafficked brides is because they are often identified as domestic servants by the marital family and “agents”. The story of Sahar is an example of this.

Sahar was just 14 when she was forced to marry a man of 50. Born and raised in a small village of Bihar, she was the youngest of her 12 siblings. She told me that her cousin's husband worked as a marriage broker and arranged her marriage with a man in Haryana. Sahar's new husband was a widow and sought a second wife who would raise his three children and take care of domestic tasks such as cleaning and cooking.

Sahar told me that her parents were hesitant about the proposal because they wanted her older siblings to marry first. To convince them, the broker told them that the groom lived in Delhi and Sahar would not be too far away from home. They were given a false age of the groom and were told that he only had one child from his previous marriage.

Sahar spent the initial three months of her marriage crying and secluding herself from the rest of the village. Later, she found out that her parents were given a false address so that they would not be able to trace her. If they did find her, she said: “I would've returned home with them because I did not like it here and did not want to settle down. But they could not reach me and with no other choice, I had to get used to this place.” After pleading with her husband, Sahar was allowed to visit her parents once, under supervision of the marriage broker – her cousin's husband.

Sahar's husband died in Hyderabad when her youngest daughter was born (who unfortunately died at the age of two). She has been raising her three children on her own by working in the fields. When I asked whether her husband loved her, she replied:

He used to tell me that he did not kidnap or steal me from anyone, he married me ... He used to beat me with his shoes and broke my bangles. It angered him when I told him I did not want to live here. He would punch me. I would cry all night and my bruises would become swollen. My mother-in-law did not say anything and I was not able to confront her. Now we have mobile phones, but back then, we only had letters to communicate. How would I have escaped or ran? Where would I have gone? How was I supposed to contact anyone?

Like several other women that I spoke to, Sahar's views on marriage and feelings towards her husband were complicated. They were reduced to the mistreatment she faced.

He was an old man with a long beard. How could I like him? I could not even tie rakhi(a Hindu festi-

val which involves sisters tying a threaded bracelet around the wrists of their brothers to celebrate brotherhood and love) on him. I was very young when I got married, but I learned to cook from other women in the village.

Her views and feelings are also shaped by social and familial norms that condition girls and women into believing that part of their duty as a wife is to remain submissive, compromised and engage in care work, child rearing, domestic and agricultural work with a great lack of financial security, respect and basic freedom. The idea or expression of love in these marriages are complex, and sometimes, absent. It is primarily the women's unpaid care work and informal labour that informs their perceptions about their marital relationship.

SAFETY AND HARM

In cases where girls are abducted or tricked into marrying out of state, their experiences of isolation, dislocation and their struggle for a sense of belonging are much more nuanced. Despite various constraints, some “choose” to stay and fulfil the marriage as a survival strategy.

Amreen was 15 when she was kidnapped on her way home from school. She lived with her mother, Mahnoor, and three brothers, ages 14, seven and three. Since their father abandoned the family, Mahnoor raised all four children on her own and paid for Amreen's education. Amreen was first taken to Ambala in Haryana, 2,033km away from her home village. Then, she was taken to another village where she was married off to a man 12 years her senior. I asked Amreen's mother how she ended up in Haryana. She said:

I don't know. I returned home from a relative's house and realised she was missing. A month later, I received a phone call from her and she explained that she married someone and lived in Haryana. Her husband took the phone and we chatted for a while, even though we did not speak the same first language. I visited her once and asked her to return home with me, but she refused to come back without her husband.

Around five years later, in 2015, Empower People was able to reunite Mahnoor and Amreen. The organisation and the police initiated a “rescue attempt” but Amreen refused to return home to her mother. She told Mahnoor that two men had forced her into a car and she ended up in Haryana. The husband, meanwhile, claims that he found her at a railway station and managed to rescue her from the abductors, and later, they decided to get married. When Mahnoor and Amreen reunited, Empower People found out that Amreen was pregnant. When I spoke to her, it had been six months since Mahnoor last spoke to her daughter. Amreen's number is no longer active and she has not tried to contact Mahnoor.

Many women remain in these marriages because they do not remember their address nor do they have the means to leave or escape. That means there is a lack of sufficient and consistent data on marriage trafficking. When a woman's natal family comes to know that a marriage has taken place through abduction or trade, in many cases they refuse to reconnect due to social stigma. Some feel relieved that the burden of dowry and economic baggage of unmarried daughters have been lifted. Amreen's mother, however, genuinely wanted her daughter to return home. So why did she refuse?

Mahnoor did not know how her daughter reached Haryana. All she knew was that after gaining consciousness, Amreen found herself to be very far from home, in a place where the local language was completely unknown to her. It is possible that she willingly decided to stay with her husband. While the motivating factors behind Amreen's decision remain unknown, such survival strategies are used by many women and may shed some light on Amreen's decision.

Amreen's pregnancy might also be a key factor in her decision not to try and escape or be “saved” by the local NGO. It may seem like common sense to try and escape the oppression of a forced marriage. But Amreen – and women like her – also have material and security needs and a duty toward their children. This is why many choose to stay.

At the end of our conversation, Mahnoor told me: “I hope that she comes back so that we can live together again.”

MORE THAN A ‘TRAFFICKED BRIDE’

The life stories of these women reveal that the issue of marriage trafficking cannot be equated with other, legally recognised, forms of human trafficking. It is a form of exploitation that is embedded within the institution of marriage – particularly the customs, rules and ideas around gender roles and gender disparity. Marriage trafficking perpetuates economic, reproductive and sexual violence under patriarchal domination. This leads to various degrees of marginalisation and oppression in women.

Listening to these women allowed me to understand and recognise their own desires and opinions. They talked about their goals, their childhood memories, their thoughts around love and marriage and the gendered division of labour. The women's stories of survival reveal that – even in the face of regular oppression and abuse – they negotiate for their rights and “bargain” with patriarchy on a daily basis.

Acknowledging the stories, voices, adjustments, and survival strategies of migrant brides to learn about their lived realities provides one way forward. With the support of grassroots organisations and local activists, some of these women have become community leaders and mentors.

Many of these women do not necessarily want to be “saved”. They strongly believe that marriage trafficking and gender inequality must come to an end. But at the same time, they wish to be recognised for their contributions as a wife, mother, and widow – not just a “trafficked bride”.

*This article does not disclose any identifiable information of the research participants, and uses pseudonyms to maintain complete confidentiality.

[the writer is PhD Candidate, SOAS, University of London]

Amit Shah likely to visit Bengal before Durga Puja

KOLKATA, OCT 1 (PTI): Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah is likely to visit West Bengal before Durga Puja to look into the party's organisational aspects ahead of state assembly polls due in 2021, its state president Dilip Ghosh said on Thursday.

BJP national president J P Nadda is likely to visit the state after the Pujas to be held later this month, he said.

Amid murmurs of discontent in the party's Bengal unit, Shah along with Nadda held a meeting with its top brass in Delhi on Thursday and discussed various organisational issues.

"Today we had an organisational meeting with Amit Shah Ji and J P Nadda Ji. We discussed various issues related to our growth in the state. Most likely Amit Shah Ji will come to Bengal for an organisational meeting with other party leaders state-level leaders. The date of his visit will be announced later," Ghosh said after the



closed-door meet. The date of Nadda's visit to West Bengal is yet to be decided, he said.

According to sources in BJP, during their visit both Shah and Nadda will take stock of the organisational situation of the state unit and also ground level political situation in Bengal.

"Our party leadership has big plans for Bengal. After our spectacular success in the Lok Sabha polls in 2019 nearly one crore people of Bengal had registered for the party's membership

during its nationwide campaign. Bengal is one of the focus states of the party," they said.

The organisational restructuring of BJP's central unit had sparked off discontent in the Bengal unit as senior leader Rahul Sinha, who was dropped as the national secretary, expressed his anger over being left out.

Sinha too had been asked to present at the meeting held this afternoon.

He declined to comment when asked whether the meeting discussed his grievances. "I will wait

for 10-12 days before announcing my next line of action," he had said earlier.

Announcing a new team of the party's national office bearers on Saturday, the BJP had named Mukul Roy as a vice-president, and Anupam Hazra, a former TMC MP who had joined the saffron party in March 2019, as a secretary.

Roy, once considered the number two in the TMC next to its supremo Mamata Banerjee, had switched over to the BJP in 2017 following differences with her.

13 new cases push COVID-19 tally of Andamans to 3,848

PORT BLAIR, OCT 2 (PTI): The COVID-19 tally of Andaman and Nicobar Islands rose to 3,848 on Friday as 13 more people tested positive for the infection, a health official said.

Seven new patients have travel history, while six fresh infections were detected during contact tracing, he said.

Fifteen more people have been cured of the disease, the official said.

The Union territory now has 172 active coronavirus cases, while 3,623 people have been cured of the disease and 53 patients have succumbed to the infection so far, he said.

The administration has so far sent 59,676 samples for COVID-19 tests, of which 59,633 have been received and 43 are awaited, the official added.

Assam logs 14 fresh COVID fatalities, 1,585 new cases

GUWAHATI, OCT 1 (PTI): Assam's COVID-19 death toll mounted to 711 with 14 people succumbing to the disease on Thursday, while 1,585 new positive cases were detected taking the tally to 1,82,396, Health and Family Welfare Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

He said that 1,904 patients were cured of the disease during the day, pushing the number of recovered people to 1,47,519. The recovery rate is 80.53 per cent.

Kamrup Metropolitan and Dibrugarh districts reported four deaths each, while two fatalities were registered in Jorhat and one casualty each from Sivasagar, Charaideo, Golaghat and Karbi Anglong.

"I stand with all the bereaved families in this hour of pain and grief. My deepest condolences," Sarma tweeted.

IIT Kharagpur launches telemedicine software

KOLKATA, OCT 2 (PTI): With the COVID-19 pandemic still raging, IIT Kharagpur on Friday launched a telemedicine software which facilitates critical health care support to patients at their doorsteps through remote consultation by a physician.

The system iMediX which is accessible by any standard internet browser and also from a mobile device, has been developed by researchers at IIT Kharagpur's Department of Computer Science and Engineering, an institute spokesperson said.

In this system, a patient signs up to get an account by providing his/her Email ID or mobile number.

Then the patient can make a request for consultation by choosing a department of the hospital, entering his/her chief complaints and uploading necessary scanned medical records.

The hospital administration processes the request and assigns a doctor.

The doctor after logging in sets an appointment date and time for the patient and the system communicates the information to the patient by mail and SMS.

On the day of visit, the doctor consults the patient using video conferencing and advises him/her by writing a prescription,



tion, which is sent by mail to the patient. The patient can also download the prescription from her account.

Prof Jayanta Mukhopadhyay, the lead researcher said, "As the number of cases of home isolation and home quarantine are increasing, the system will cater to the needs of the present situation. It would be useful also to follow up and treat aged patients."

iMedX is being adopted for public use right at its home, IIT Kharagpur on-campus healthcare system, he said.

Director of IIT Kharagpur, Prof V K Tewari said "In April we had announced eight R&D projects for providing COVID healthcare services. This telemedicine project was key among these especially keeping in mind its effectiveness in our own community."

"When our campus will start operating in full

strength close to 30,000 people including students would be in need of healthcare services and this technology will reduce over-exposure of the healthcare staff while efficiently catering to the population. While we are promoting physical distancing, it seems only appropriate to introduce this digital platform to meet the healthcare needs of the campus community effectively."

The institute is creating user accounts for its medical cardholders who can avail the consultation facility home through video conferencing.

The software, launched on October 2 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, will be integrated at the Dr B C Roy Technology Hospital of the institute which provides emergency healthcare services for the campus residents and employees, confirmed the office of Principal Medical Officer Dr Samir Dasgupta.

Odisha reports 3,600 new COVID-19 cases, 16 fatalities

BHUBANESWAR, OCT 2 (PTI): At least 3,600 more people tested positive for COVID-19 in Odisha on Friday, which raised the tally to 2,26,334, while 16 fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 875, a health department official said.

Of the 3,600 new cases, 2,109 were reported from various quarantine centres and the rest were detected during contact tracing, he said.

Khurda district, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the maximum number of new cases at 766, followed by Cuttack at 358 and Mayurbhanj at 156.

Thirteen districts reported over 100 cases.

"Regret to inform the demise of sixteen #COVID19 positive patients while

under treatment in hospitals," the health and family welfare department said on Twitter.

Of the 16 fatalities, six were registered in Khurda, three in Nayagarh, two each in Balasore and Cuttack, and one each in Bargarh, Jagatsinghpur, and Kalahandi.

Ganjam district alone reported 220 of the 875 deaths in the state, followed by Khurda at 144 and Cuttack at 74.

Odisha currently has 35,326 active cases, while 1,90,080 people have recovered so far. Fifty-three people have died due to comorbidities, according to the official.

As many as 33.48 lakh tests have been conducted so far, including 48,217 on Thursday.

रजिस्ट्री सं. बी.एल.- 33004/99

REGD. No. D. L-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-29092020-222085
CG-DL-E-29092020-222085

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 3001] नई दिल्ली, सोमवार, सितम्बर 28, 2020/आश्विन 6, 1942
No. 3001] NEW DELHI, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020/ASVINA 6, 1942

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय
अधिसूचना
नई दिल्ली, 28 सितम्बर, 2020

का.आ. 3363(अ).—केन्द्रीय सरकार, राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग अधिनियम, 1956 (1956 का 48) (जिसे इसमें इसके पश्चात् उक्त अधिनियम कहा गया है) की धारा 3क की उप-धारा (1) द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, यह समाधान हो जाने के पश्चात् कि सिक्किम राज्य के साउथ डिस्ट्रिक्ट जिले में NH 510 के कि.मी. 32.5 से कि.मी. 33.6 (जिला कलेक्टर नामची) तक के भू-खण्ड के निर्माण (चौड़ीकरण/पेन्ड शोल्डर सहित 2-लेन/4-लेन का बनाना आदि), अनुरक्षण, प्रबन्धन और प्रचालन के लोक प्रयोजन के लिए वह भूमि अपेक्षित है जिसका संक्षिप्त वर्णन नीचे अनुसूची में दिया गया है, ऐसी भूमि का अर्जन करने के अपने आशय की घोषणा करती है।

कोई भी व्यक्ति, जो उक्त भूमि में हितबद्ध है, उक्त अधिनियम की धारा 3ग की उप-धारा (1) के अधीन पूर्वांक प्रयोजन के लिए ऐसी भूमि के उपयोग पर राजपत्र में इस अधिसूचना के प्रकाशन की तारीख से इक्कीस दिन के भीतर अपनी आपत्ति प्रकट कर सकेगा।

ऐसी प्रत्येक आपत्ति सक्षम प्राधिकारी, अर्थात् जिला कलेक्टर को लिखित रूप में प्रस्तुत की जाएगी और उसमें उसके आधार अधिकृत किए जाएंगे और सक्षम प्राधिकारी, आपत्तिकर्ता को व्यक्तिगत रूप में या किसी विधिक पेशेवर द्वारा सुने जाने का अवसर देगा और ऐसी आपत्तियों की सुनवाई के पश्चात् तथा ऐसी और जाँच करने के पश्चात्, यदि कोई हो, जिसे सक्षम प्राधिकारी आवश्यक समझे, आदेश द्वारा या तो आपत्तियों को अनुज्ञात कर सकेगा या अननुज्ञात कर सकेगा।

4587 GI/2020

(1)

2 THE GAZETTE OF INDIA : EXTRAORDINARY [PART II—SEC. 3(ii)]

उक्त अधिनियम की धारा 3ग की उप-धारा (2) के अधीन सक्षम प्राधिकारी द्वारा किया गया कोई भी आदेश अंतिम होगा।

इस अधिसूचना के अंतर्गत आने वाली भूमि के रेखांक और अन्य ब्यौरे सक्षम प्राधिकारी के उक्त कार्यालय में उपलब्ध हैं और उनका हितबद्ध व्यक्तियों द्वारा निरीक्षण किया जा सकता है।

अनुसूची

सिक्किम राज्य के साउथ डिस्ट्रिक्ट जिले में NH 510 के कि.मी. 32.500 से कि.मी. 33.600 (जिला कलेक्टर नामची) के लिए अर्जन की जाने वाली संरचना रहित अथवा संरचना सहित भूमि का संक्षिप्त विवरण।

| राज्य का नाम: सिक्किम | | जिले का नाम: साउथ डिस्ट्रिक्ट | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| क्रमिक संख्या | सर्वेक्षण संख्या | भूमि का प्रकार | भूमि की प्रकृति | भूमि का क्षेत्रफल (स्थानीय इकाई) | भूमि का क्षेत्रफल (हेक्टेयर) |
| तालुक का नाम: राबोंगला | | | | | |
| गांव का नाम: राबोंगला टाउन | | | | | |
| 1 | 2092 | सरकारी | ड्राई | 0.0540000(हेक्टेयर) | 0.0540000 |
| 2 | 2096 | निजी | ड्राई | 0.0008000(हेक्टेयर) | 0.0008000 |
| 3 | 2097/2139 | निजी | ड्राई | 0.0005000(हेक्टेयर) | 0.0005000 |
| 4 | 2098 | निजी | ड्राई | 0.0001000(हेक्टेयर) | 0.0001000 |
| 5 | 569 | निजी | ड्राई | 0.0002000(हेक्टेयर) | 0.0002000 |
| कुल | | | | 0.0556 | 0.0556 |

[फा. सं. NHIDCL/PMU-SKM/Ravangla-Legship/2020-21/3A]

राजेश गुप्ता, उप सचिव

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 28th September, 2020

S.O. 3363(E).—In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH 510 in the stretch of land from Km. 32.5 to Km. 33.6 (District collectorate South Sikkim Namchi) in the district of SOUTH DISTRICT in the state of SIKKIM, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, District Collector in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

[भाग II—खण्ड 3(ii)] भारत का राजपत्र : असाधारण 3

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling NH 510 in the stretch of land from Km. 32.500 to Km. 33.600 of NH 510 (District collectorate South Sikkim Namchi) in the South District in the State of Sikkim.

| State: SIKKIM | | District: SOUTH DISTRICT | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Sl. No. | Survey/Plot Number | Type of Land | Nature of Land | Area (in Local Unit) | Area (in Hectare) |
| Taluk: Rabongla | | | | | |
| Village: Rabongla Town | | | | | |
| 1 | 2092 | Government | Dry | 0.0540000(Hectare) | 0.0540000 |
| 2 | 2096 | Private | Dry | 0.0008000(Hectare) | 0.0008000 |
| 3 | 2097/2139 | Private | Dry | 0.0005000(Hectare) | 0.0005000 |
| 4 | 2098 | Private | Dry | 0.0001000(Hectare) | 0.0001000 |
| 5 | 569 | Private | Dry | 0.0002000(Hectare) | 0.0002000 |
| Total | | | | 0.0556 | 0.0556 |

[F. No. NHIDCL/PMU-SKM/Ravangla-Legship/2020-21/3A]

RAJESH GUPTA, Dy. Secy.

Uploaded by Dte. of Printing at Government of India Press, Ring Road, Mayapuri, New Delhi-110064
and Published by the Controller of Publications, Delhi-110054.

R.O. 93/IPR/PUB/Classi/ 2020-21
Dated: 03/10/2020

We know sky is the limit in last four overs: Pollard

ABU DHABI, OCT 2 (PTI):

“We know sky is the limit in the last four overs,” said Mumbai Indians all-rounder Kieron Pollard after adding 67 runs in 23 balls with Hardik Pandya in their IPL game against Kings XI Punjab here.

After skipper Rohit Sharma laid the foundation with a 45-ball 70, Pollard and Pandya smashed fours and sixes at will, lifting MI to 191 for four from 83 for three in the 14th over.

In reply, Kings XI Punjab were stopped at 143 for eight.

Pollard, who was adjudged the Man of the Match, said: “It’s about what’s there in front of you. Look at the bowlers and see how many you want to get, 15 off the over and then you try to go hard.

“Today Hardik had to come and swing and he showed his prowess. We know sky is the limit in the last four overs.”

MI had scored 25 runs in the final over with Pollard sending spinner Krishnappa Gowtham’s last three balls into the stands of the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Kings XI Punjab captain KL Rahul admitted they might need to play an extra bowler, saying an all-rounder would be a good addition to his team, which suffered its third defeat in four games.

“I won’t say it is frustrating, but obviously, it is disappointing,” Rahul said at the post-match presentation.

“Looking back, we could have been three wins out of four. This game, we made some mistakes. Important we come back stronger. Wicket looked good with the new ball. Don’t know if it slowed up after that.

“Another bowling option would be nice -- an all-rounder option who can bat and bowl well. We will be sitting with the coaches to decide if we want to play an extra bowler.”

For Punjab, Mohammed Shami, Sheldon Cottrell, Ravi Bishnoi fared well in the bowling department, but K Gowtham and Jimmy Neesham proved to be expensive.

Winning captain Rohit Sharma said that his team tried to capitalise on Punjab’s attack weaknesses at the death.

“It was a great win. We didn’t start really well, but we always knew with the kind of attack Punjab had we wanted to capitalise,” he said.

With Punjab having in their ranks Rahul and Mayank Agarwal -- both of whom have scored a century in this IPL -- Rohit said it “wasn’t going to be easy with the ball” against their batting line-up. “We knew we had to get early wickets and everything went to plan, credit to the bowlers. The last game the execution wasn’t exactly right at the death with the ball (MI lost a super over to RCB). So we discussed and wanted to improve,” he said.

“I haven’t played enough with Boult and Pattinson, so it’s difficult to get them on the same page.

Arsenal to play Manchester City after Carabao Cup shootout win at Liverpool

LIVERPOOL, 02 OCT [THE GUARDIAN]: Mikel Arteta kept his domestic cup record intact as Arsenal proceeded to the last eight of the Carabao Cup on penalties, Joe Willock scoring the crucial kick in the sudden-death phase after Harry Wilson had seen his effort saved.

That was hard on Wilson, making his first Anfield start after several seasons on loan, though Divock Origi and Mohamed Elneny also had penalties saved and the Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno deserved something for his saves in normal time that took the contest to a shootout.

Liverpool and Arsenal must be tired of meeting each other, or perhaps they are just tired. Despite being altered beyond recognition from their Premier League meeting at Anfield on Monday, these two shadow squads did little more than shadow-box for the 90 minutes of normal time.

Arsenal might have taken an early lead when Eddie Nketiah found himself with a shooting chance on the six-yard line after eight minutes, though he hesitated a fraction too long and Adrián was able to extend an arm to flick the ball away from his feet. While both sides made wholesale changes Arsenal had a slight



edge in experience. They had the new England call-up Bukayo Saka at left wing-back and it was a foul on the teenager that earned Takumi Minamino the first booking.

When Minamino brought down Nicolas Pépé after losing the ball on the half hour he was therefore living dangerously, though Kevin Friend contented himself with only a word of warning.

Mohamed Salah, one of the few survivors from Liverpool’s 3-1 win three days before, was probably their most dangerous attacker in an uneventful first half. For the most part Saka looked after the striker quite well when he stayed on the wing, it was his regular incursions infield that seemed most likely to cause Arsenal problems, though he clearly does not share the

same sort of understanding with Diogo Jota and Minamino that he enjoys with Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mané.

All the drama in the first half was packed into its final minute. First Dani Ceballos got away with a rash tackle on Jota that must have been outside the area by a matter of millimetres, then when Arsenal failed to clear the free-kick a Jota header brought a one-

handed save from Leno, with Minamino arriving at speed to volley the rebound against the bar.

It was a clear chance but a difficult one, with the ball at an awkward height and Minamino having no time to readjust his position. While Liverpool had probably applied more pressure to their opponents’ goal than Arsenal had managed, in terms of

scoring opportunities neither side had looked particularly threatening. Leno came to Arsenal’s rescue again at the start of the second half when a corner fell to Virgil van Dijk and he stabbed a shot goalwards from a couple of yards out. There was no great power in the effort but it was heading for the bottom corner until the goalkeeper got down smartly to his right to push it away.

Jota hit a deflected shot wide and Marko Grujic headed the wrong side of a post then brought another save from Leno as Liverpool began to dominate, at which point Jürgen Klopp stuck to his original plan and brought off Salah and Van Dijk after an hour, removing the only two outfield players who had started the previous game.

The pattern did not change, Leno was still needed to keep out attempts by Jota and Grujic, and if anything Liverpool stepped up their pressing game with Origi on the pitch, yet an excellent covering tackle by Neco Williams was necessary to prevent Saka opening the scoring against the run of play. Pépé and Nketiah also had chances and Willock had a penalty appeal turned down in stoppage time.

Harry Kane hat-trick sparks Tottenham demolition of Maccabi Haifa



DAVID HYTNER TOTTENHAM, 02 OCT [THE GUARDIAN]: To paraphrase Mohammed Abu Fani, the Maccabi Haifa midfielder, he was going to own Harry Kane. Everybody has seen the social media video by now and the only thing to say is that it did not really work out that way.

It was never going to. Tottenham are in a different league to their Israeli opponents on pretty much every level and they made light work of smoothing safe passage into the group phase of the Europa League. It is not exactly the promised land after the club had begun to get used to the Champions League but it will do for this season.

After everything that Spurs had done at the end of the previous campaign and how the qualifying rounds of the competition have led to such fixture congestion at the start of this one, it felt like something to celebrate, even if the final whistle brought little more than silence.

Kane scored a hat-trick and José Mourinho even felt emboldened to substitute him with 15 minutes to go and the score at 6-2. Giovanni Lo Celso scored two, Lucas Moura got another and there was time at the end for Dele Alli, on as a half-time substitute, to summon a glorious turn followed by trademark nutmeg to draw a penalty from Bogdan Planic. Alli picked himself up to score it.

Mourinho had made nine changes to his lineup for Spurs’s seventh game in 18 days this season. The number that will mean more to him and the club is the extra millions that a Europa League run will bring. They can now look forward to a day off, perhaps, and then the Premier League visit to Manchester United on Sunday. “Job done, group phase, almost at the end of an incredible period,” Mourinho said.

Kane found the breakthrough after just 92 seconds following Ben Davies’s cross and it was plain from the early running that Spurs had the beating of Maccabi man-for-man in the final third, that the visitors were going to struggle to keep them at bay.

That said, Maccabi were determined to ask questions at the other end and Tjaronn Chery’s equaliser for 1-1 was a beauty. The former QPR player got the ball to swerve viciously from outside the area and it flew away from Joe Hart and into the top corner. It was not an isolated first-half effort. Chery twice extended Hart, Toby Alderweireld had to stretch into one saving challenge and the ubiquitous Abu Fani fizzed just wide of the angle.

Spurs, though, found it so easy to play through Maccabi that they could afford to be relaxed about what their opponents did on the ball. Mourinho’s team had four by the interval and it could have been more. Lo Celso shot into the side-

net, Steven Bergwijn worked the goalkeeper and Kane had three moments when a finish just eluded him.

Some of Maccabi’s concessions were grisly – not least those for the second and fourth goals. Lucas was allowed to dart onto a Bergwijn corner and flick a header home while Lo Celso’s second followed a miscue by Planic. Kane released the Argentinian whose clipped finish was of the highest order. Lo Celso’s first had come after Lucas’s header was blocked and Davies prodded the ball back to him.

It would not be football these days without a couple of dodgy penalties for handball and Maccabi got the first one early in the second-half when Dolev Haziza blasted the ball at Matt Doherty from about a yard away. The Spurs full-back had his arms by his sides but it did not matter. Nikita Rukavytsya beat Hart from the spot. The award of Kane’s kick for 5-2 was also harsh, although Ernest Mabouka was a little further away when Davies hammered a cross at him.

Moments earlier, Abu Fani had forced Hart into another save and there were further chances at both ends, mainly for Spurs. Kane’s third was a nonchalant little chip after good work by Bergwijn and Mourinho was able to finish the evening happily posing with Maccabi players for selfies.

Messi playing out of his skin for Barcelona after ending departure saga

VIGO, SPAIN, 02 OCT [REUTERS]: Barcelona defender Sergi Roberto praised his captain Lionel Messi for a sensational display in his side’s 3-0 win away to Celta Vigo in La Liga on Thursday, as the Argentinean further demonstrated he has put his troubles with the club behind him

After Ansu Fati had opened the scoring, Messi helped double Barca’s advantage early in the second half with an unstoppable run down the right hand side of the area and a shot that bounced off Celta’s Lucas Olaza and into the net for an own goal.

Messi later had a

strike ruled out narrowly for offside and then created Barca’s third goal in added time, dancing through Celta’s defence and firing a shot at goal which keeper Ivan Villar parried, leaving Sergi Roberto to score on the rebound.

“Leo is so fired up right now,” Sergi Roberto said.

“He ran so much today and played out of his skin for the team.”

Messi has sought to draw a line under his efforts to leave the club over the summer as well as his vociferous criticism of president Josep Maria Bartomeu, saying in a recent interview that

the time had come for everyone at the club to pull together. He backed up his words with a tireless display against Celta, leading the team’s attacks as well as running himself into the ground to help them cope with having Clement Lenglet sent off in the first half.

“We’re so happy that Leo is still with us and the fact he is so motivated is a huge boost for us,” added Sergi Roberto.

Coach Ronald Koeman also pointed to Messi’s willingness to sacrifice himself, adding: “Messi worked very hard off the ball tonight which was very important for us tonight.”

Opening week of IPL had record 269 million viewers - study

MUMBAI, 02 OCT [REUTERS]: A record 269 million viewers tuned in for the opening week of this year’s Indian Premier League (IPL), which is being held in the United Arab Emirates due to the COVID-19 crisis, with viewing minutes up 15%, data released on Thursday showed.

The Broadcast Audience Research Council India (BARC) said the first seven matches of the tournament’s 13th edition from Sept. 19 to 25 had 60.6 billion view-

ing minutes, 15% more than the opening week of the 2019 edition (52.8 billion).

“We’re thrilled to deliver the biggest ever IPL. The opening week... resulted in a staggering new viewership record,” Gautam Thakar, the CEO of broadcaster Star Sports said in a statement.

“Dream11 IPL 2020 wouldn’t have been possible without the support of all our sponsors and stakeholders. Our teams are working tirelessly in

a bio-secure bubble in India and UAE to bring fans closer to the game.”

The increase in viewership for the 2020 edition -- up from 268 million viewers in 2019, was despite there being only seven matches in the opening week, one fewer than last year, BARC said.

The season opener between champions Mumbai Indians and three-times winners Chennai Super Kings on Sept. 19 was watched by 158 million viewers, it added.

Walsh named head coach of West Indies women’s cricket team

KINGSTON, OCT 2 (PTI): Fast bowling great Courtney Walsh has been appointed as the new head coach of the West Indies women’s cricket team.

The West Indies cricket legend will lead the preparation and development of the women’s team at least till the end of 2022, including competing in the next ODI World Cup and T20 World Cup.

Walsh has served as an assistant coach with the Bangladesh men’s team, and subsequently worked on a short term contract with the West Indies women’s side, including at the T20

World Cup held in Australia earlier this year. Walsh is the highest wicket-taker in West Indies Test history with 519 scalps in 132 matches.

A former Jamaica and West Indies captain, he took 227 wickets in ODIs and 1807 wickets in 429 first-class matches. The 57-year-old is a member of the ICC Hall of Fame.

“It’s an exciting challenge and I’ve always wanted to give back in any way I can and help with the development of the game in the West Indies,” Walsh said in a statement on Thursday.

Ethiopian migrants held in Saudi Arabia call it ‘hellish’

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA (AP): From a filthy cell in Saudi Arabia, the Ethiopian migrant spoke on a smuggled phone, fearing to give his name. Some 300 countrymen are detained with him, he said. And no one knows when Ethiopia’s government might bring them home.

“We are detained in a very inhumane condition, sleeping on waste overflowing from a nearby toilet. We really want to go back home but no one is assisting us, including Ethiopian officials,” he told The Associated Press from a detention center outside the Saudi capital, Riyadh. “We are beaten every day, and our only crime was seeking a better life in a foreign land.”

New details are emerging of the squalid detention conditions facing thousands of migrants from Ethiopia — men, women and children — some who were chased across the border from Yemen into Saudi Arabia this year amid gunfire because of coronavirus fears.

A new report released Friday by Amnesty International describes widespread abuses in Saudi detention facilities, including beatings and electrocutions. Detainees described being chained together in pairs and being forced to use cell floors as toilets.

“Surrounded by death and disease, the situation is so dire that at least two people have attempted to take their own lives,” Amnesty researcher Marie Forestier says in the report. “Preg-



nant women, babies and small children are held in these same appalling conditions, and three detainees said they knew of children who had died.”

The abuses highlight one of the most popular, and most dangerous, migrant routes in the world. The Saudi government did not immediately comment.

Thousands of Ethiopians cross into Saudi Arabia every year after a journey across the Red Sea or Gulf of Aden from Somalia or Djibouti and through conflict-torn Yemen, looking for better lives.

Amnesty International said thousands of Ethiopian migrants had been working in northern Yemen, earning money to pay for their passage to Saudi Arabia. “When the COVID-19 pandemic escalated, Houthi authorities began ordering migrant workers to go to the border, where they reportedly became caught in crossfire between Saudi and Houthi forces,” the new report

says.

The International Organization for Migration says some 2,000 Ethiopians are stranded on the Yemeni side of the border without food, water or health care.

Now migrants say they are held in life-threatening conditions.

“I wouldn’t have left my country had I known this hellish condition would await me,” another detained migrant told the AP. “I had some suicidal thoughts in the past. It is just unbearable, especially during those very hot days, since we don’t have an air conditioner. And they beat us with electric cords whenever we complain. And they took all our money and cell phones.”

He said he was detained nine months ago because his Saudi residence card had expired. “The only thing I want now is to return to Ethiopia, but that’s just a dream for now,” he said. The detainees spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear for their

safety.

The COVID-19 pandemic has complicated their repatriation, with Ethiopian authorities saying they don’t have the quarantine capacity to handle the return of so many people at once, which could overwhelm the health system.

Ethiopia’s state minister at the foreign ministry, Tsion Teklu, told the AP that up to 16,000 Ethiopians are estimated to be held in Saudi prisons. She said some 4,000 have been repatriated since April.

“We are now working to repatriate 2,000 more migrants by bringing around 300 of them every week,” she said, adding that Ethiopia has repatriated some 400,000 in recent years. “The problem is compounded with the fact that some of our citizens that are repatriated are re-trafficked.”

In a separate statement Friday, the foreign ministry noted reported abuses in Saudi detention and said authorities

are working together to confirm them and improve conditions.

The ministry also said migrants suffer sexual abuse, torture, dehydration and hunger on their monthslong journey to Saudi Arabia, and “this makes the repatriation process even more complicated as the psychosocial support is intense. The reintegration process also needs enormous resources as returnees come back home empty-handed.”

Amnesty International urged more and speedier efforts, with outside help.

“If quarantine spaces remain a significant obstacle, other governments and donors must support Ethiopia to increase the number of spaces to ensure migrants can leave these hellish conditions as soon as possible,” Forestier said. “Nothing, not even a pandemic, can justify the continued arbitrary detention and abuse of thousands of people.”

Harvest workers among COVID world’s last regular travelers

ROCCA DE’ GIORGI, ITALY (AP): Her hands were hardly visible, so quickly did they press the clippers before dropping grape clusters into red plastic bins. Some distance behind her, in the next row over, Italian students subbing in due to a pandemic-fueled worker shortage tried vainly to catch up.

Though from a Romanian region famed for its wine, Alexandra Ichim had never worked in vineyards before traveling to Italy’s Lombardy region for the September grape harvest, known in Italian as the vendemmia — the pay is too low in Romania and the working conditions too harsh, she says. For the Italian work, the 20-year-old came on a 12-hour bus ride and returned by plane to her native Arad region when the harvest was done.

Eastern European seasonal workers, led by Romanians, are considered essential to getting food on the table throughout the continent. Their willingness to work hard in uncertain jobs for lower wages is sought after abroad, and their income is desperately needed at home. At a time when travel for work is seen as dangerous for everyone, they are among the world’s last regular border-crossers. Unlike the farms that so desperately need them, there are no subsidies from the European Union or special protection should they fall sick.

Around one in five Romanians works abroad. Italy is the top destination for 1.2 million of them, with France and Spain not far behind. When coronavirus struck, around a million returned to their homeland, ignoring the Romanian president’s plea to stay in place and avoid bringing the virus already raging in Western Europe. For many, it was the longest homecoming of their adult lives.

Workers can make around 1,200 euros a month working eight-hour days during the vendemmia in Italy, versus around 700 euros for a month of 10-hour days in Romania.

Ichim has lived off and on in Lombardy with her mother since 2006 and speaks flawless Italian. She was in Romania with her father when the coronavirus outbreak first struck Italy earlier this year, working in a steering wheel factory, which later sent her home during Romania’s virus lockdown. She left to join her mother nearly as soon as the borders reopened. At the time, Romania’s infection rate was low and no quarantine was required, but within a few weeks, a 14-day quarantine was required in Italy for travelers from Romania and Bulgaria.

One province, Trento, allowed farms and vineyards to put in place “working quarantines,” where masked seasonal laborers could work outside in their own clusters and stay in housing on site.

“A company cannot afford to keep a foreigner for 14 days without putting him to work. This is obviously an unsustainable cost,” said Roberto Caponi, of the Italian agriculture confederation. Nor can the fruit itself wait, as Ottavia Gorgi di Vistarino knows well.

Her family’s land spans four hill-sides in Rocca de’ Giorgi, a tiny commune about 60 kilometers (37 miles) south of Milan. The harvest starts with Pino Nero for Spumante, then comes the Chardonnay and Pinot Grigio, followed by more Pino Nero for red wine.

Ichim joined a crew for the first Pino Nero harvest in mid-September, speed-

ing through the cone-shaped clusters at a breathtaking pace. The winery’s full-time foreman, Christian Florisan, also is Romanian from the Arad region, as are many of the men who work the presses.

“Corona has brought the agriculture business to its knees more than any others. Everywhere, at home in Romania and here in Italy, we are having difficulties finding people,” said Florisan, who has lived in Italy for 14 years. “They are not coming because they are afraid of COVID, and they are afraid that they will have to do two weeks of quarantine and when they go home, their pockets will be emptier than they were before.”

He estimated more than half his workers are Romanian, but the numbers are down by 25% this year. Across the country, wineries are down 36,000 workers, which means not all the fruit will be harvested in time and many will stay home, unpaid.

All who came from Romania had medical checkups, Florisan said, but he said not everyone had the nasal swab test.

As many as a million seasonal workers cross EU borders every year, according to the guidelines put in place in July by the European Commission. When the virus first broke out, Romania’s president asked citizens not to return from their jobs abroad but was widely ignored by people who either needed or wanted to return home for what promised to be weeks of confinement. Back in Romania, suspicious neighbors called authorities to report returnees from Italy or Spain or France.

Romania’s first coronavirus case was traced to Lombardy, the northern Italian region that suffered Europe’s first devastating wave of death, according to Gabriel Hancean, a sociologist who led a team of researchers that traced the country’s early infections. Now it’s eastern Europe where the virus is spiking to unprecedented highs, with Romania enduring the continent’s highest weekly death rate after Spain.

Hancean said few seem to care now about travelers from elsewhere in Europe, Romanian or not.

“You have community spread of the virus, and it doesn’t matter who is entering the country or not,” he said.

Ichim and her boyfriend, Dennis Sirca, were already planning the trip back to Arad, not knowing if they would face quarantine there. It didn’t really matter to either of them, because they made two to three times as much during the harvest as they could have in their “real” jobs. She’d do it again. “In Romania we do not make money, we cannot make money working so we came here to do the grape harvest,” she said.

Back in Romania, her factory job evaporated and no prospects for work in sight, Ichim has no intention of doing the harvest there, although farms face similar labor shortages as their Western European counterparts.

What they lack is the flexibility of their own government, said Carmen Avram, a Romanian member of the European Parliament who has been an advocate for seasonal workers.

Even as borders closed last spring, there came the dawning realization in Western Europe that without them, there wouldn’t be enough people to bring in the fruits and vegetables or work the slaughterhouses. The rules that governed movement around Europe melted away.

Inflation slump in Europe could presage more stimulus

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP): Annual inflation in the 19-country eurozone sagged further below zero in September, bolstering expectations that the European Central Bank will add to its emergency stimulus efforts aimed at cushioning the impact of the pandemic on the economy.

The consumer price index was down 0.3% in September, even lower than the minus 0.2% figure in August, according to new figures released Friday by the European Union statistics agency.

Excluding volatile food and fuel prices, the inflation rate was 0.2% in September, down from 0.4% in August. The so-called core inflation figure is often considered the better measure of price movements in the economy as a whole.

Low inflation is a major reason why analysts predict the ECB will add to its 1.35 trillion-euro (\$1.6 trillion) program of regular bond purchases, which push newly printed money into the financial system. The pandemic emergency purchases are credited with keeping borrowing costs down and preventing turmoil on financial markets that would have worsened the recession caused by the virus. The ECB’s goal is to have annual inflation of just under 2%. Economists say the pandemic is contributing to low inflation as merchants keep prices down in hopes of attracting customers amid restrictions on travel and activity.

While low inflation can benefit consumers up to a point, weak prices over a period of time can be a sign of too much slack in the economy. Weak inflation can also make it harder for indebted countries in the eurozone to improve their competitiveness compared with the other members of the currency bloc. The recent string of low inflation figures has been attributed to one-time factors such as the late start of summer sales in France and Italy affecting the prices of clothes and shoes. But it is also being attributed to businesses like hotels and airlines, which have been among the hardest hit by the coronavirus outbreak, slashing their prices to entice buyers.

At the ECB’s Sept. 10 meeting President Christine Lagarde gave little indication that more stimulus was coming but said the bank stood ready to adjust its programs if needed. The bank’s 25-member governing council next meets on Oct. 29 and Dec. 10, although it can enact new measures at any time.

Pentagon okays \$90 mn sale of spares, support for C-130J Super Hercules aircraft to India

WASHINGTON, Oct 2 (PTI): The Pentagon has approved India’s request to buy USD 90 million worth of equipment, spare parts and logistical support for its fleet of C-130J Super Hercules cargo aircraft.

In its notification to the Congress, the Defence Security Cooperation Agency said the proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the US by helping to strengthen the US-India strategic relationship and improve the security of a major defence partner, which continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia region.

The items ordered by India are aircraft consumable spares and repair/return parts; ground support and equipment; Cartridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD) fire extinguisher cartridges; flare cartridges; BBU-35/B cartridge impulse squibs.

India has also ordered for one spare AN/ALR-56M Advanced Radar Warning Receiver shipset; spare AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispenser System shipset; ten Lightweight Night Vision Binocular (F5032); ten AN/AVS-9 Night Vision Goggle

(NVG)(F4949); GPS and Electronic Warfare.

It is also seeking instruments and lab equipment support; joint mission planning system; cryptographic device spares and loaders; software and software support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training and training equipment; contractor engineering, technical and logistical support, and other related elements of programme support.

According to the notification, the proposed sale ensures that the previously procured aircraft operates effectively to serve the needs of the Indian Air Force, Army and Navy transport requirements, local and international humanitarian assistance and regional disaster relief.

This sale of spares and services will enable the Indian Air Force to sustain a higher mission-ready status fleet, it said.

India will have no difficulty absorbing this additional sustainment support, it said, adding that the proposed sale of this equipment and support worth USD 90 million will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

Notification of such major sales is mandatory under the Arms Export Control Act. Lawmakers

have 30 days to review the proposed sale. The sale would be executed by defence major Lockheed-Martin.

India is one of the 17 countries to whom the US has sold its C-130J Super Hercules aircraft. The Indian Air Force currently operates a fleet of five C-130J-30s. India has placed order for additional six C-130J-30s Super Hercules aircraft.

From the highest landing strip in the world to austere runways almost destroyed by natural disasters, the C-130J goes where other airlifters can’t, won’t or don’t go. It’s a workhorse that’s in operation around the world, flying in every environment and mission scenario required every day and everywhere, Lockheed says on its website.

In the summer of 2013, Indian Air Force performed the highest landing of a C-130J at the Daulat Beg Oldi airstrip in Ladakh at the height of 16,614 ft. The aircraft was used extensively by the US in Afghanistan and Iraq.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com

summittimes.com

VIDEO NEWS SECTION

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at

BANGKOK: For circulation details Contact: +91-9749897695, +91-964702642 / 6 for advertisement booking at +91-9932427809 or at office no 03592-208496. Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com

SILIGURI: Mr. Mani Rai, H/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor, Opp. Ganga Hotel, Hill Cart Road, Siliguri - 03. Ph. +91-9832318644/ 9806682989/ 9150351000 or mail at manirai_siliguri@yahoo.co.in

KOLKATA OFFICE: Irshad Ali/ Intextext, Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine - 2, 2nd floor, Kolkata - 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. +91-9830547774/ +91-98398397. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com / irshad.ali123@gmail.com

Phone: 03592-208496 / +91-9832556698 / +91-9832080753

www.summittimes.com

news@summittimes.com
summittimes6@gmail.com
advertise@summittimes.com

Address: Santa Bhawan Complex, Church Road Near Diesel Power House (DPH) Gangtok, East Sikkim, 737101



SWEET! The TikTok star, Addison Rae celebrates her brother's 7th birthday with a King Kong Sundae at Sugar Factory Westfield Century City in LA.

French Montana and Doja Cat Are Hanging Out But It's Not What You Think

Doja Cat and French Montana's recent hangouts sparked rumors they were dating, but the "Say So" artist took to Twitter to say that it's not what it looks like.

Doja Cat and French Montana were spotted together twice this week, and relationship rumors are already spreading.

According to HotNewHipHop, the musicians were seen hanging out and dancing on a yacht this week with a small group, which seemed innocent enough. Nonetheless, the sightings had some on social media wondering if there could be something more between the stars. And they weren't totally wrong. Technically, the artists have joined forces, but for purely professional reasons.

On Thursday, Oct. 1, the "Say So" singer tweeted, "Me and French got a song coming out. F--kin relax."

But there might be even more tea... The artist liked a tweet that read, "THE ONE WITH MEGAN?????" Get the TikTok dances ready!

Megan Thee Stallion, a.k.a. Hot Girl Meg, has yet to respond to the music speculation, but she's busy pumping up her fans for tonight's release of her and Young Thug's single, "Don't Stop." Both Meg and Doja have had a wild year, with both artists being nomi-

nated for their work at the 2020 MTV VMAs. For the virtual award ceremony, Doja gave Haley Sharpe's TikTok dance for "Say So" an extraterrestrial twist, with the artist and



her backup dancers performing from outer space's Planet Her.

But Doja's rise to fame almost came to an abrupt halt in May, when a 2015 song containing a racist slur resurfaced online. Additionally, the artist was accused of taking part in racist online chats in the past.

Doja went on to address the allegations and apologized, explaining, "That's not my character, and I'm determined to show that everybody moving forward. Thank you."

Why Ana de Armas Almost Passed on Starring in Knives Out

Ana de Armas said she almost passed on playing Marta in Rian Johnson's *Knives Out*, and it was for good reason.

When *Knives Out* was released in November 2019, it was an immediate hit.

With a cast that included Daniel Craig, Chris Evans, Jamie Lee Curtis, Toni Collette, Michael Shannon and more, it was guaranteed to be a blockbuster. But it was Ana de Armas that the audience fell in love with, and the crazy thing is she almost didn't audition for the role.

The *Flaunt* cover star revealed that upon reading the description ("Latina, caretaker, pretty") of her character Marta, she felt it wasn't the project for her. "I really pay attention to what that little description is," she explained. "I'm sure whoever did it wasn't thinking about what that meant but for me, I was just like, 'Oh no, I'm not doing this!' What do you mean—caretaker, Latina, pretty?"

She noted that, "Things could have been very different," had the film's author, Rian Johnson, not sent a more accurate vision of who Marta is.

"My character was a diamond," she recalled. "When they sent the whole script and I read the whole thing I realized 'oh my gosh I have to do this.'"

Ana, who is dating Ben Affleck, went on to secure the role and acted alongside stars who she always admired, one

of whom is now a good friend. That person, one may ask? Well, it's Jamie Lee Curtis. The actress said that Jamie was one of the people to encourage her to go for the role of Marilyn Monroe in *Blonde*, a role that she ultimately nabbed. Ana

Hollywood's most anticipated biopics, which Ana acknowledged, saying, "I'm not going to let anybody or anything tell me I cannot dream of playing Marilyn Monroe... Things need to change [in the industry] but you have to actively push



shared, "She is my biggest cheerleader... I showed her my screen test for Marilyn and of course I had on like a random wig they found which didn't fit me, so-so make up and so-so wardrobe but even then, seeing me in the part like that, she got very excited."

And Jamie was rightfully excited for the Cuba native.

It's not every day that a person of Latinx origins becomes the star of one of

for change too... you have to present your version of the character in a different way. You have to challenge." And a challenge presented itself when she was asked to be a Bond girl alongside her former co-star Daniel Craig. Unlike other roles, this required more grueling action scenes, which she said she enjoyed.

Fans can see her as Bond's sidekick when *No Time to Die* is released in November.

Nicki Minaj is a Mom! Relive Her Journey to Parenthood with Kenneth Petty

Nearly one year after getting married at the courthouse, Nicki Minaj and Kenneth Petty become parents. Look back on their relationship in a romance rewind. The Barbz have a big reason to celebrate!

In case you missed the big news, E! News confirmed that Nicki Minaj welcomed her first child with husband Kenneth Petty on Wednesday, Sept. 30 in Los Angeles.

While the new parents aren't revealing the sex or name of their baby just yet, it's a huge milestone for a couple that has continued to captivate pop culture fans. After months of romance rumors, Nicki made her relationship with Kenneth Instagram official in December 2018.

And although the rapper may be known for her massive hits and unfor-

gettable fashion, Nicki chose a simple wedding at the Beverly Hills courthouse in October 2019. "Onika Tanya



Maraj-Petty 10•21•19," the bride wrote on Instagram when confirming her new relationship status.

In recent months, Nicki has tried to keep a low-profile as she prepared to become a mother. But through her journey, the hit maker always expressed her gratitude for the fans and the life around her.

Shia LaBeouf charged with misdemeanor battery, petty theft

LOS ANGELES (AP): Shia LaBeouf has been charged with misdemeanor battery and petty theft.

Prosecutors allege that the 34-year-old actor fought with a man named Tyler Murphy and took his hat, according to a criminal complaint obtained by The Associated Press on Thursday from the Los Angeles city attorney.

The charges were filed on Sept. 24 for the June 12 incident.

A representative for LaBeouf did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment. LaBeouf, who first

gained fame as a teenager on the Disney Channel show "Even Stevens," is known for his roles in 2007's "Transformers," 2008's "Indiana Jones and the Crystal Skull," and last year's "Honey Boy," a film he also wrote about his relationship with his father.

He has had several run-ins with the law during his career, including a 2017 New York arrest for public drunkenness and disorderly conduct that was captured on a livestream video. He was sent to court-mandated rehabilitation for the incident.

ARIES:

The full moon in your sign has been rather intense, Aries. A time of dealing with your demons within and without. Friday may or may not bring with itself a sense of respite. Word for the wise: lay low and allow this storm to pass. Dealing with painful endings could also be a theme around here. You've seen this coming for a while, haven't you? A graceful exit is what is being asked of you right now.

Tip: Let it go.

TAURUS:

The Friday mood in the Taurus HQ brings a famous Yves Saint Laurent quote to mind: "Fashion fades, style is eternal." Rules be damned, Taurus, including the ones you've made for yourself. Consider your sartorial statement as an outer expression of your goddess nature. While you're at it, embrace vibrant colours with a newfound passion—and yes, there is such a thing as too much black. Remember, you don't have to spend a tonne of money to look like a million bucks. Consider upcycling what you already possess, or browse through your favourite vintage store.

Tip: Your sartorial statement as an outer expression of your goddess nature.

GEMINI:

It's easy to play out the script handed down to you by Society. But you know what takes an insane amount of courage? Questioning what you have grown up with. We're not talking about rebellion for the sake of rebellion. We're talking about rebellion as a way to align with your true path. Reinventing yourself may seem daunting from where you're standing. Take the first step nevertheless, and trust yourself to figure it out as you go along. A new love interest may also be on the cards for some of

you. Shamelessly flirting your way into their heart is a big mood around here.

Tip: Question the norm.

CANCER:

Life—death—rebirth. Such is the cycle of life in the earthly realm. But, death as a concept is not something to be feared. It is meant to be honoured as an essential step of the creation process. Friday finds you contemplating the things that have served their purpose, and releasing the unhealthy attachments with loving awareness. Lay your trust in the mysterious forces, Cancer, and trust that you will be guided to a better place.

Tip: You're honouring death as an essential part of the creation process.

LEO:

Small talk be damned. You're in the mood for raw and honest conversations. To nurture the ties that allow you to be your most authentic self. Coming as you are promises to facilitate deeper intimacy in all of your relationships. Who says coupled lions are the only ones having fun? Single Leos will find that there is a line of suitors outside their door. Prepared to be showered with attention and adulation.

Tip: Come as you are.

VIRGO:

It's a cup-hath-runneth-over kind of day in the Virgo HQ, and you'll find your familial ties are taking centre stage. It's a time to get to know your relatives and your ancestors better. The elders in the tribe will be more than happy to let you in on many secrets. There's good news for those who are in the family business too. Both wealth and prosperity are indicated. Take a moment to acknowledge everybody's contribution and honour the many gifts they're bringing to the table.

Tip: Your familial ties are taking centre stage.

LIBRA:

Baby, you're the gold standard, and you will accept nothing less than what you deserve! Friday sees you reclaiming the reins and rewriting the script of your life. If realising your highest potential requires you to conclude certain chapters in your life, so be it. You're done trying to please everybody around you, and you're done apologising for taking up 'too much' space. The next move will require an insane amount of courage, as letting go of all things familiar usually does. Remember, you are a living, breathing manifestation of Spirit, and Spirit is working with and through you in every moment.

Tip: It's time to rewrite the script.

SCORPIO:

Life is the perfect balance between 'doing' and 'being'. However, it seems as if you are dangerously tipping over to one side. Finding that metaphorical balance is going to be a big theme for you, Scorpio, an act that sometimes requires you to say no to the unrealistic demands of other people. On the upside, a new work project may be on the cards for some of you—and with it, the opportunity to sync forces with somebody whose work you admire greatly.

Tip: Strike a balance.

SAGITTARIUS:

Meditation and contemplation will be big themes in the Sagittarius HQ—and sometimes this requires you to actively disengage from the noise and commotion of the outside world. Listening to your inner guidance will come in handy at this time. Some of you may be stepping into the role of a mentor or guide. What you need to keep in mind when imparting wisdom is that you cannot control the actions of other people. Share what's coming

through from the space of divine wisdom as you practice the art of non-attachment.

Tip: You cannot control the actions of other people.

CAPRICORN:

This weekend, you're in the mood to put your rubber gloves on and adult like a boss. There are corners of your house that have been calling for your attention for a while now. Channel your inner Marie Kondo and assess what your material possessions are telling you. Letting go of the dated script (and the objects attached with it) will free you in more ways than one. On the upside, you'll find yourself spending a lot of time with the women in your life, and supporting each other in more ways than one.

Tip: Let go of the old script.

AQUARIUS:

What makes a guru, a guru? What makes a student, a student? What if we learned to play both the roles interchangeably, letting go of our inherent sense of hierarchy? The weekend sees you honouring everybody you cross paths with as a divine teacher who is initiating you into the ways of the spirit world. Some of you may feel inspired to seek knowledge in a traditional manner. The cosmic climate is supporting you to find the right mentor.

Tip: Honour everybody who crosses your path as a teacher.

PISCES:

Fears related to money could catch up with you this weekend—fears you have dealt with a long time ago. It's easy to go into a downward spiral given the state of the world. But you've been doing good so far, haven't you? What makes you think you won't survive this storm? Addressing the abundance blocks you have been carrying within you could be the secret to bringing about radical change on this front.

Tip: It's time to confront your fears related to money.