



**SKM COORDINATION MEET AT NAMCHEYBUNG** pg02

**5 MORE DIE IN ASSAM FLOOD, TOLL RISES TO 12** Pg 05



**DREAM TOUCH GLOBAL CONDUCTS HEALTH AWARENESS** PROG pg02

# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Pages 8 | ₹ 5



## The Tourists are still here!

**GANGTOK, 17 JUN:** While locals are finding it difficult to make it to home by dinner time due to shortage of taxis too busy on tourist duty, the number of tourists in the capital continues to grow despite the incessant rainfall and unreliable roads. Compared to last year, when the flow of tourists dwindled due to the Gorkhaland Agitation in West Bengal, this year, the hoteliers and taxi drivers are making up for the losses with most of the hotels and taxis already pre-booked and packed. **[REBYNA RANA]**

## Young Orchid is Sikkim C-Division champion

**SAGAR CHHETRI**  
**GANGTOK, 17 JUN:**

Young Orchid emerged champions of the Sikkim Football Association C-Division Football Tournament 2018 here today, stunning Dzongri Football Club 06-01.

Young Orchid is a Sikkim Police team made up of new and young footballers.

In the final match of the league played here at Paljor Stadium on Sunday, started strong from the kick-off whistle itself and the floodgates opened in the 26th minute when Bishal Chhettri scored the lead for Young Orchid.

Soon his teammate,



Lacho Tshering Lepcha doubled the lead in the 32nd minute. With another goal by Ongchuk Sherpa in the 36th minute,

Young Orchid finished the first half 3-0 ahead.

In the early minutes of the second half, Pahal-

man Rai further extended the lead for Young Orchid to 4-0 in the 49th minute.

Dzongri FC played its heart out to bounce back into the match and a goal by Rappay Lepcha in the 53rd minute gave some hope, but it was not enough to stop Young Orchid.

Ongchuk Sherpa com-

pleted his brace in the 80th minute and soon Lacho Tshering Lepcha also completed his brace in the 83rd minute to seal a 06-01 victory for Young Orchid.

Tshering Dorjee Lepcha of Dzongri FC was adjudged the Man of the Match. Both teams were awarded trophies and individual medals.

Both finalists have been promoted to SFA Second Division State League 2019.

The C-Division League had started on 06 June with 12 clubs which were divided into four groups. The top-per of the each group entered the semi-final round. In the first semi-final, Young Orchid defeated Chujachen FC 4-2 to enter the finals while Dzongri FC edged past Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club 3-2 in the second semi-final match.

## Octogenarian couple passes on fading traditional knowledge



**THREE-MONTH TRAINING ON TRADITIONAL EXTRACTION AND WEAVING OF NETTLE FIBERS WRAPS UP IN DZONGU**

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**DZONGU, 17 JUN:** A 3-month long training on traditional

methods of nettle fibers (kuzu dhum) extraction and weaving (kuzu ki) wrapped up in Upper Dzongu in North Sikkim on 14 June.

The training, organized by Sakyong-Pentong Gram Panchayat Unit and sponsored by National Innovation Foundation, Honey Bee Network and Society for Research and Initiatives

for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions [SRISTI], Ahmedabad, had kicked off on 14 Mar.

The main idea behind conducting the training was to learn and propagate traditional Lepcha weaving style from a couple - 86 year old Kinchok Lepcha and Pitmu Lepcha, 84 - in Pentong who excel in the weaving and **turn to pg02**

## Nepal, China to sign pact on Tibet-Kathmandu railway line

**KATHMANDU, JUN 17 (PTI):** Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli's upcoming five-day visit to China, his first after re-election, will see the two countries sign a number of agreements including one on energy cooperation and construction of a railway line connecting Kerung in Tibet to capital Kathmandu, a senior NCP leader said today.

Oli will be in China from June 19 to 24. During his visit, a host of projects under the Belt and Road Initiative as well as China's plans for an India-Nepal-China economic corridor are expected to be discussed.

The visit will further strengthen bilateral ties and promote cooperation between Nepal and China, said Ganesh Shah, member of Communist Party of Nepal (NCP) Standing Committee.

Half a dozen MoUs will be signed between Nepal and China during the official visit to China by Prime Minister Oli, he said.

Nepal will sign an MoU on constructing a railway line connecting Kerung of Tibet to Kathmandu. A feasibility study will be conducted for the railway line, which is expected to complete within **turn to pg02**

## LGBTQ struggles to find its standing in a homophobic society

**DAMINI MEHTA**

**NEW DELHI, JUN 17 (PTI):** As the world celebrates 'Pride Month' this June, the LGBTQ community in India continues to lead a life fraught with dangers and neglect.

From abuse, constant fear of being persecuted, hiding of one's sexual preference and humiliation in public sphere, the community sees it all-every day.

LGBT stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. A popular variant added the letter Q for those who identify as 'queer' or are questioning their sexual identity.

June is celebrated worldwide as the Pride Month, but the community members and activists feel that the month's significance is limited to marches and panel discussions without any concrete steps on the ground.

LGBTQ activist Mohnish Malhotra, who has been organising Pride Parade in the city, said violent incidents against the community members have become a common sight.

On May 22, a 22-year-old cross dressing orphan was reportedly killed by seven persons, including three juveniles. He was stabbed multiple times in the chest, face and head with a Swiss knife. **turn to pg02**

On June 6, a woman alleged on Twitter that her gay friend was physically assaulted and verbally abused by police personnel in south Delhi's Hauz Khas village. The police, however, termed the incident a "misunderstanding".

These incidents have happened time and again. The situation is such that the daily routine of the people of the community has become a struggle. We are equally as much the citizens of this nation, and must be treated same under the Constitution. What we ask for is the right to exist without the constant fear of being persecuted," Malhotra said.

Activists feel that the community has to face homophobia on a daily basis, with people refusing accommodation and other basic needs to the LGBTQ members.

The LGBTQ members have to keep their sexual preferences hidden so that they are able to live a normal life," said lawyer-activist Anand Grover, who is a founder-member of Lawyers Collective.

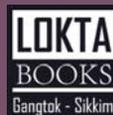
"The mindset of the people can only be changed through interaction with the community. The only way we can move forward is when we remove the tag of 'criminals' by curbing section 377 **turn to pg02**

**NOW OUT ON THE BOOKSTANDS!**

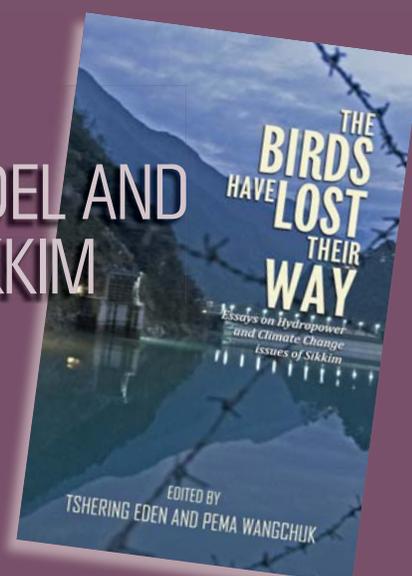
**ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM**

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## LGBTQ struggles to find its standing in a homophobic society

contd from pg01  
of IPC, he said.

The section refers to "unnatural offences" and says whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 10 years, and shall also be liable to pay a fine.

The Supreme Court had earlier this year decided to reconsider its 2013 verdict which criminalised gay sex between two consenting adults.

Anjali Gopalan, executive director, May India Foundation, said the community is often subjected to name-calling, and in some instances, has even driven some to take their own lives.

She, however, said social change was coming, slowly but surely, and that they must be aided with legal measures.

The Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS) had recently said that homosexuality was still viewed as a mental illness.

"We founded a taskforce last year for dealing with queer issues. We had said that homosexuality is not a mental illness," IPS president Ajit V Bhide said, adding that section 377 needed to be amended.

## Octogenarian couple passes on fading...

contd from pg01  
extraction of nettle fibers.

The training was taken by seven women of the area.

The trainees were also provided with honorarium of Rs 3,000 per month.

The valedictory function on 14 June was attended by Deputy Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Dzongu MLA Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, along with District Collector [North], Karma R Bonpo, Sub Divisional Magistrate [Dzongu], Tshering Dorjee Bhutia and other officials including panchayat members.

The trainees were awarded with certificates.

Coordinator, Tshering Gyatso Lepcha extended his gratitude to National Innovation Foundation, Honey Bee Network and SRISTI, Ahmedabad for sponsoring the training.

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# SKM coordination meet at Namcheybong

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 17 JUN:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha convened a constituency-level coordination meeting at Namcheybong today.

The meeting was attended by the party's chief coordinator, Sangha MLA Sonam Lama, former MP, Nakul Das Rai, zonal president, Danish Sharan Rai, Constituency Level Committee president, Ganzay Bhutia and executives under the constituency level, a press release from the party informs.

The meet was also attended by a large number of party supporters from the constituency and 21 families from the constituency, including a former panchayat vice-president and active SDF party workers, officially joined SKM, the release adds.

The new members were welcomed by party



executives with khadas and primary membership cards.

Mr Lama, in his address, challenged SDF president, Chief Minister

Pawan Chamling, to prove his statements of the oppositions in the State being an 'outside force'.

He argued that the CM, also being the Minis-

ter-in-charge of Home Department, should authenticate his statements with factual data and evidence.

"The CM's statements regarding us being an

outside force are baseless and without proof. We believe in safeguarding harmony and peace in Sikkim," he added.

Mr Lama further in-

formed that he had raised the same question at the recently concluded Sikkim Legislative Assembly session which was left unanswered by the CM.

## Man and woman booked under SADA at Majhigaon

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 17 JUN:

Jorethang Police on 16 Jun arrested two persons under Sikkim Anti Drugs Act, 2006 for allegedly possessing contraband substances.

A 35-year-old woman from Nepal, presently residing at Majhigaon, South Sikkim, and a 35-year-old man also from the same area, were reported to the police by a 'credible source' who claimed that the accused persons had a huge stock of contraband substances hidden in their house.

Upon searching the house, the police recovered 574 spasmoproxyvon, 410 spasmodom and 79 N-10 tablets.

The recovered items were seized and sent for chemical analysis while both the accused were brought in police custody and sent to Boomtar District Prison in South Sikkim.

## Man accused of raping a differently-abled girl at Ramthang

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 17 JUN:

A 60-year-old man from Darjeeling presently residing in Phodong has been accused of raping a 15-year-old differently abled girl on 16 Jun at Ramthang in North Sikkim.

The incident was reported to the police by the victim's mother who claimed that she caught the accused red-handed.

The complainant further revealed that she was out of the house when the incident happened. Upon returning home, she reportedly heard her daughter scream and caught the accused committing the crime.

The victim was sent for medical examination while the accused has been arrested and booked under Protection Of Children Against Sexual Offences Act, 2012.



## PM didn't say anything when we raised Delhi crisis with him: Mamata

NEW DELHI, JUN 17 (PTI): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said today that the prime minister did not give any assurance when she, along with three other chief ministers, raised the political crisis in Delhi with him.

Banerjee, Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan, Andhra Pradesh's N Chandrababu Naidu and Karnataka's H D Kumaraswamy had a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Rajnath Singh on the sidelines of the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting and urged the Centre to re-

solve the issue.

"We have raised the issue with the prime minister as well as the home minister. We told them that the deadlock should be resolved for the sake of the people. The prime minister did not say anything, but Rajnath Singh said that he would look into the matter. We said what we had to, now they have to sort it out. It is their matter now," Banerjee said after the meeting.

The chief ministers belonging to the Trinamool Congress, CPI(M), TDP and JD(S) had expressed solidarity with their Delhi

## SKM's women's and youth wings convene meetings

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 17 JUN:

The Nari Ekikaran Yatra of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha conducted a programme at Rangpo under West Pendum constituency on Sunday.

During the programme, the women's wing of the party interacted and conferred on various women-related issues and also discussed suicides and depression among women.

An SKM press release informs that another team of the yatra conducted an interaction programme with women of Rinchenpong constituency.

A meeting of the SKM youth wing was also held for Rumtek-Martam constituency today, chaired by party advisor and former Minister, TM Rai. The meeting discussed various youth related issues, mainly on the scourge of gambling.



## Dream Touch Global conducts health awareness prog

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 17 JUN:

Dream Touch Global, an advertising company, organised a daylong health awareness programme with scientists Dr AR Raja and VK Sharma as resource persons at Gangtok today, a press release informs.

Area MLA, Pincho Chopel, attended the event as the chief guest.

The resource persons spoke on the recent advancements in modern medicine and emphasized on clean environment to prevent diseases.

Mr Chopel, in his address, congratulated the organizers for conducting the event in the capital and urged them to conduct similar programmes in the future as well.

## Four arrested in minor girl gangrape case in Bihar

BIHAR SHARIF (NALANDA), JUN 17 (PTI): All four persons, who allegedly gangraped a minor girl in the district yesterday, have been arrested, police today said.

The four had allegedly gangraped a 14-year-old girl at an abandoned building in Ahiyapur village of Sarmera police station area of the district late last evening, Superintendent of Police (SP) Sudhir Kumar Porika said.

"All the four accused, who have been named in the FIR, have been arrested today," the SP said. The incident occurred when the girl was on her way to catch a bus to reach her aunt's place after she was scolded by her mother last evening, the SP said.

A man, who the girl knew, met her at the bus stand and tricked her to accompany him. The man also took three friends along with him, the SP said.

The four men then took the girl to an aban-

doned building near Ahiyapur village and raped her, he said adding that they also made a video of the incident.

The girl informed her family about the incident today following which an FIR was lodged with Sarmera police station.

The police swung into action immediately and arrested all the four accused, said the SP, who himself visited the spot.

It may be noted that police had taken suo motu action after a video of a girl, who was accompanied by a male friend, being molested in Nalanda district had gone viral on social media on June 12.

In a similar incident, a group of armed youths tied a man to a tree and raped his wife and 15-year-old daughter near Sondiha village of Konch Police Station area of Gaya district in the night of June 13.

The family was waylaid while they were crossing the area on a motorcycle.

## Nepal, China to sign pact on Tibet-Kathmandu...

contd from pg01

four years. An agreement will be signed for energy cooperation between the two countries, Shah said.

An agreement will be made to form a permanent government to government mechanism between Nepal and China to look after different projects being constructed under Chinese assistance.

Oli, during his earlier brief tenure as premier in 2016, had widened China-Nepal ties by signing the transit trade treaty with China to reduce the dependence of his landlocked country on India at the height of the Madhesi agitation and had sought expansion of road links through Tibet besides extension of China's railway network to Nepal through the Himalayas.

However, since his re-election, he made his first foreign visit to India promising to follow a more balanced policy between India and China.

His visit was also followed by a high-profile visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Nepal highlighting steady development in relations between the two countries.

China will also extend assistance to the Nepal government for

## BJP meets in Singtam, welcomes new members

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 17 JUN:

A meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Sikkim unit was held at the Singtam party office on Sunday and featured 37 families from different political parties joining the BJP.

A BJP press release informs that more youth are likely to join the party in the near future due to the increasing popularity of BJP in Sikkim.

The release adds that the meeting also resolved that workers will not tolerate any threats or attacks on BJP youth president, Laten Sherpa.

The release informs that Sikkim-BJP, DB Chauhan, stressed that everyone needs to come forward to fight for their rights and seek justice.

He alleged that students were losing out on education because they were taken to listen to long speeches by the CM and that the CM's ongoing tour was not in the interest of students or even concerned them.

He also accused the SDF for spreading misinformation among people. He contended that the youth have understood the politics of the ruling party and that the government will be changed in 2019.

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post-earthquake reconstruction, Shah said.

Only one third assistance has so far been materialised and Beijing will extend the remaining assistance during the visit, he said.

Agreements will be signed between six Nepalese and six Chinese private companies for promoting collaborations in different sectors, Shah said.

Oli, who is also NCP's Chairman, told party Standing Committee that his official visit to China will be historic.

Oli's visit comes at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang. This will be the first visit to China by the Prime Minister since he assumed power in February.

Ahead of his visit, China has aired concerns over reports of cancellation of Chinese companies' agreement to build the West Seti hydropower project in Nepal.

China has been investing heavily in Nepal in the last few years to enhance connectivity and infrastructure.

It has suggested to the Nepal government to build an India-Nepal-China economic corridor through the Himalayas.

**Gangtok on Monday, 18 June**

**Temp:** 26°C/16°C  
**Forecast:** Intervals of clouds and sun, a couple of thundershowers; watch for flooding.  
**Sunrise:** 04:40 AM  
**Sunset:** 6:32 PM

**Berger paints 3 FIFA 2018 World Cup venues**

**KOLKATA, JUN 17 (PTI):** Among the 12 stadiums that are holding FIFA 2018 World Cup matches in Russia, three of them got their colour from an Indian paint company.

Rostov Arena, Volgograd Arena and Kaliningrad have been painted with material supplied by Berger Paints Russia, a fully-owned subsidiary of Berger Paints India headquartered in Kolkata, a company statement said here today.

Kaliningrad Stadium, also called Arena Baltika, is a football stadium on Oktyabrsky Island and will host four games. The Rostov Arena is a recently opened stadium in the city of Rostov-on-Don and will host five games. The Volgograd Arena in Volgograd, Russia, will host four games of the World Cup.

It took almost 20-24 months and 200 kilo-litres of Berger Paints to complete the iconic project, the company said.

It involved a long thought process in the selection of the appropriate colours for painting these stadiums and finally, the creamy grey colour was used. Berger Paints Russia completed this project in association with its local business partner Picante Paints & Varnishes, the company said.

The weather-proof paint was used for both interiors and exteriors of all the three stadiums, it said.

**CONTACT SUMMIT TIMES REPORTERS**

**SINGTAM 8170070813**

**MANGAN/DIKCHU 9832612485/9434011213**

**GANGTOK 8116388176**

**9832424750 8016270440**

**news@summittimes.com**



**KASS PAINTING DRIVE AT SARASWATI VIDYA NIKETAN**

**SINGTAM, 17 JUN:** Krypton Arts Society Singtam [KASS] today conducted a beautification/ painting drive at Saraswati Vidya Niketan, Malbaisey, in South Sikkim. The school, established in 2015, is a unit project of Vidya Bharati Sikkim. The drive was led by KASS working president, Kripesh Singh. However, due to absence of some artists, only 40% of beautification process was completed today. Rest of the work will be done next week, informed Mr Singh. Till now, more than eight schools have invited KASS to beautify their school premises with their artwork. [Yogen Thatal]

**Singtam's Siloh Church celebrates Father's Day**

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 17 JUN:**

**S**iloh Church, Singtam, celebrated Father's Day with a special programme at Singtam today. The church also released its official website during the occasion.

Singtam Nagar Panchayat councillor, Rajni Singh, attended the function as chief guest.

The event included cultural presentations and felicitation of church member Abner Tamang for social contributions, a press release informs.

The programme was



also attended by Station Head Master [Singtam], Roshad Rai, as special guest, Ram Naresh Prasad and Bhumi Subba, as special guest and councilors.

**Mt Everest, the high-altitude rubbish dump**

**KATHMANDU, JUN 17 (AFP):** Decades of commercial mountaineering have turned Mount Everest into the world's highest rubbish dump as an increasing number of big-spending climbers pay little attention to the ugly footprint they leave behind.

Fluorescent tents, discarded climbing equipment, empty gas canisters and even human excrement litter the well-trodden route to the summit of the 8,848-metre (29,029-foot) peak.

"It is disgusting, an eyesore," Pemba Dorje Sherpa, who has summited Everest 18 times, told AFP. "The mountain is carrying tonnes of waste." As the number of climbers on the mountain has soared -- at least 600 people have scaled the world's highest peak so far this year alone -- the problem has worsened.

Meanwhile, melting glaciers caused by global warming are exposing trash that has accumulated on the mountain since Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay made the first successful summit 65 years ago.

Efforts have been made. Five years ago Nepal implemented a 4,000 rubbish deposit per team that would be refunded if each climber brought down at least eight kilogrammes (18 pounds) of waste.

On the Tibet side of the Himalayan mountain, they are required to bring down the same amount and are fined 100 per kilogramme if they don't.

In 2017 climbers in Nepal brought down nearly 25 tonnes of trash and 15 tonnes of human waste -- the equivalent of three double-decker buses -- according to the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC).



This season even more was carried down but this is just a fraction of the rubbish dumped each year, with only half of climbers lugging down the required amounts, the SPCC says.

Instead many climbers opt to forfeit the deposit, a drop in the ocean compared to the USD 20,000-USD 100,000 they will have forked out for the experience.

Pemba shrugs that many just don't care. Compounding the problem, some officials accept small bribes to turn a blind eye, he said.

"There is just not enough monitoring at the high camps to ensure the mountain stays clean," he said.

The Everest industry has boomed in the last two decades.

This has sparked concerns of overcrowding as well as fears that ever more inexperienced mountaineers are being drawn by low-cost expedition operators desperate for customers.

This inexperience is exacerbating the rubbish problem, warns Damian Benegas, who has been climbing Everest for over two decades with twin brother Willie.

Sherpas, high altitude guides and workers drawn from the indigenous local ethnic group, carry heavier items including tents,

extra oxygen cylinders and ropes up the mountain -- and then down again.

Previously most climbers would take their own personal kit like extra clothes, food, a sleeping bag as well as supplemental oxygen.

But now, many climbers can't manage, leaving the Sherpas to carry everything.

"They have to carry the client's gear so they are unable to carry down rubbish," Benegas said.

He added that operators need to employ more high-altitude workers to ensure all clients, their kit and rubbish get safely up and down the mountain.

Environmentalists are concerned that the pollution on Everest is also affecting water sources down in the valley.

At the moment the raw sewage from base camp is carried to the next village -- a one-hour walk -- and dumped into trenches.

This then "gets flushed down" during the monsoon into the river," said Garry Porter, a US engineer who together with his team might have the answer.

They are considering installing a biogas plant near Everest base camp that would turn climber poo into a useful fertiliser.

**17 killed after nightclub brawl in Caracas**



**CARACAS, JUN 17 (AP):** Venezuela's government says 17 people were killed early yesterday after a tear gas device was set off during a nightclub brawl in the capital, triggering a stampede among hundreds of people gathered for a graduation celebration.

Interior Minister Nestor Reverol said eight minors were among those killed. Another five people were injured.

He said one of those involved in the fight set off the tear gas device during a celebration at "Los Cotorros" club in the middle-class neighborhood of El Paraiso, triggering the stampede of more than 500 partygoers who fled in a mad, choking frenzy.

Images circulated on Twitter showed shoes scattered outside what

apparently to be the club and people embracing one another, some wiping away tears.

Reverol did not give any motive behind the brawl.

"The establishment has been ordered closed, and we are investigating in coordination with the public ministry, which is directing the criminal investigation," Reverol said.

He also said seven people were arrested, including the owner of the club and the person who is believed to have launched the explosive device.

He said the owner had permitted weapons into the club that threatened the "integrity" of the establishment.

Most of the injured were being treated at nearby hospitals, and one minor was in serious condition.

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Dunhi, Begusarai (Bihar) required female teacher for all subjects', candidates must be excellent communication skills. Attractive salary with accommodation and meal at school campus. Fresher can also apply. Interview will be held on 19th June 2018 from 10:30am to 5 pm at Mejhore restaurant alongside Hotel Norphel Gangtok road, Namchi, South Sikkim.

Interested candidates may send their resumes at [Drurmilapublicschool@gmail.com](mailto:Drurmilapublicschool@gmail.com).

For, more information contact: 62036-20698, 89694-54886

**SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENT AREA, GANGTOK**  
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"EXPRESSION OF INTEREST"

The Sikkim State Legal Services Authority invites "Expression of Interest" from interested registered local firms for preparation, installation, transportation, fixing & fittings etc. all complete of 308 hoardings (each board will contain message in English on one half and in Nepali on the other half) with the message of Free Legal Services, to be installed in the following locations:-

1.	District Collectorate Offices	East, North, South & West Districts.	04 Nos.
2.	S.D.M. Offices	East, North, South & West Districts.	17 Nos.
3.	Block Administrative Centres	East, North, South & West Districts.	32 Nos.
4.	Police Stations	East, North, South & West Districts.	29 Nos.
5.	Hospitals	East, North, South & West Districts.	06 Nos.
6.	Gram Panchayat Units	East, North, South & West Districts.	185 Nos.
7.	Legal Services Clinics	East, North, South & West Districts.	30 Nos.
8.	SNT booking Offices	Gangtok, Jorethang, Rangpo & Mangan	05 Nos.

**WORK SPECIFICATIONS:-**

- Earnest Money @ 2.5% - Rs.1,25,800/-
- Size of the hoardings - 8' x 6'
- Background colour - Maroon & Front colour - White
- Should be iron framed and in iron sheet.
- Installation should be done fixing with iron angle supported by cemented base.
- Last date and time for submission for E.O.I - 18.07.2018 (12 noon)
- Date & Time of opening of E.O.I - 18.07.2018 (02:00 pm)
- Date of completion of the work - Three months after the receipt of Work Order.
- Venue - Office of the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok.

Interested parties may submit their "Expression of Interest" addressed to the Member Secretary, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:-**

- No E.O.I. shall be entertained after the scheduled date and time.
- The successful bidder shall obtain details of places/locations for installation of hoarding throughout the State from the office of Sikkim SLSA.
- The successful bidder shall collect the sample of hoarding from the Office of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority within two (2) days of receipt of the Work Order.
- Earnest money to be deposited @ 2.5% in the State Bank of Sikkim in the form of TDR/Demand Draft in favour of Member Secretary, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok. Cost of Tender Documents if Rs.5,000/-. The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (Non-Refundable) can be obtained from the Office of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok on production of Bank Receipts of Rs.5,000/-(Rupees five thousand) deposited in Bank Account No. 11018606748 in State Bank of India, Gangtok Branch under the name and title "Sikkim State Legal Services Authority- Legal Aid Fund".
- Bidder shall submit Registration Certificate, Valid Trade License and GSTIN Number.
- E.O.I. submitted by the Firms should be inclusive of all taxes, transportation and labour charges.
- Once the Work Order is issued, the successful party should submit the proof copy of message of the hoarding to be installed within 7 (seven) days for approval of the Authority before actual installation.
- If the party fails to execute the work after accepting the Work Order, the Earnest Money deposited will be forfeited. He / She will be liable to pay the penalty to the quantum of 5% of total value of work.
- Sealed Tenders may be deposited in the Office of the Member Secretary, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok on the date and time indicated above.
- Tenders shall be opened by Tender Opening Committee constituted as per Rules in the presence of the Bidders on the date and time indicated above.
- The Authority reserves full right to accept or reject any or all the "Expression of Interest" (E.O.I) or modify the term thereof without assigning any reasons and reserves the right to award the work, to any party / bidder found competent and competitive.

Sd/- MEMBER SECRETARY,  
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# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Save the Minors

*POCSO started a process, but saving children will require more*

Cases booked under the POCSO Act come with unnerving frequency in Sikkim. And before anyone jumps to the conclusion that this is a recent phenomenon, take a pause and take stock - minors have always been at risk in the hands of sexual predators. Such violations had been occurring so often that the country now has a specific law to deal with such crimes, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

Data on child sexual abuse also reveals that in most of the cases, 94.8% as per the Crime in India Report of 2015, the perpetrator is someone known to the child. People in this circle have not developed sexual deviance in recent years, there have always been predators in our mix. What has happened instead is that the "circle" around children has changed. Where they used to earlier fall victim to relatives, it is now neighbours and teachers. This change in the profile of who we surround our children with has probably made the decision to file police complaints easier, because the vileness is not from within the family. This higher degree of separation also perhaps makes it slightly easier for children to report the violations since it is not an elder in the family they are pointing fingers at. Hopefully these speculations are inaccurate and the reason why more complaints are being filed nowadays is instead because parents and families have become more responsible and aware. That is probably not the case though, but let us hope for the sake of our children that we are evolving towards it, because unless there is genuine empathy and awareness about how such cases need to be handled and pursued, the children will not be secured a safe childhood.

What is also noticeable is that while one reads often about cases being booked under POCSO Act and pedophiles being taken into custody, one does not hear often about them being convicted. Agreed, the POCSO Act itself is barely six years old, but it should have delivered much more given the fact that it was drafted to address a situation which was not getting enough attention and leaving too many minors scarred for life. National data on POCSO cases reveals that in as many as 85% of the cases, the victims turn hostile, retracting their allegations. This is obviously not because they were mistaken about the crime committed against them but because their families could not withstand the pressure to "compromise" and "settle" the matter. Once the family collapses, the child cannot stand up either. One needs to go back to all POCSO cases in Sikkim and verify how many cases have led to acquittals. Only in the rare case will the investigators or prosecutors weaken such cases on their own, but would do so in a small State like Sikkim if the victim's side settles the matter with the other side. This cannot be allowed to happen because then all institutions that a child would have trusted - the family, the police, the law and courts - would have failed them.

Let no one be surprised if these children then grow up to become antisocial. This is not a matter that can be taken lightly. Not only is the harm enormous, but even the scale is frighteningly large. A top Delhi police official, while speaking at the launch of a new campaign - "It Takes Every Indian to End Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation"- by World Vision India that 50 per cent of children in our country have suffered some form of sexual abuse. That is too much suffering without any healing.

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

# Palestinians are not powerless— they can take the initiative

YASER ALASHQAR  
*theconversation.com*

Donald Trump's recent policy towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been unambiguous, to put it mildly. His administration is increasingly aligned with one of the most right-wing governments in Israel's history. Most radically of all, it reversed a longstanding US policy by recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and relocating the US embassy there from Tel Aviv. But, while the US policy has been the subject of furious debate, there's been relatively little discussion about how the Palestinian leaders can respond.

It's very important not to see the Palestinians and their leaders as passive actors or helpless victims. This is an evolving situation, and the Palestinian people are far from powerless. In fact, the current US-Israeli alliance presents Palestinian leaders with new opportunities to formulate counter-policies and preserve the Palestinian issue's status as a just cause.

There's plenty to do on the home front, and high up the list is achieving national unity among the different Palestinian political factions - Fatah and Hamas - and also the wider Palestinian communities in the homeland and the Shatat (diaspora).

Shatat communities have been marginalised in Palestinian political life ever since the Oslo Accords were signed in the early 1990s. While the leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) returned to the occupied territories, the vast majority of the Palestinian refugee and displaced communities in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan were left waiting for an end to the displacement that began in 1948. They are still waiting today.

The PLO's existing institutions need to be reformed and reinvigorated, and Palestinian communities within the homeland and the Shatat given a true voice in them. More than that, if Palestinian leaders want to put Israel under pressure, they need to think seriously about engaging in national campaigns of nonviolent popular resistance and civil disobedience.



## CHANGING COURSE

One of the Israeli military and political leadership's biggest fears is the emergence of an unarmed and non-violent movement in the occupied Palestinian territories, one that could attract international support and the attention of the world's media. The possibility of Palestinian refugees marching towards their confiscated land and demanding their national rights has haunted Israel for 70 years, and the last thing the Netanyahu government wants to see is an organised peaceful mass resistance movement that the wider world might feel comfortable supporting.

Along these lines, there's another radical option the Palestinian leaders should consider: to shift its focus from the failing two-state solution to the pursuit of full and equal rights for all its citizens.

Palestinians in Israel face severe everyday discrimination, and Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank including East Jerusalem are living under oppressive military occupation. Both are subject to complex and unjust legal structures that accord full rights to Israelis and settlers while denying protection and national rights to indigenous Palestinian communities.

Seeking equal rights and justice in

all of Palestine is not only a democratic question, but a challenge to exclusive ideologies that have maintained separation and conflict. Among Palestinian intellectual and political representatives, the discourse of citizenship and equality is regaining currency as a primary means of conflict transformation - largely because of the failure of the two-state solution.

## THE HIGH GROUND

Another option is to keep pursuing international recognition of Palestinian statehood. This may not make much impact on Palestinians' everyday lives, but it will certainly help enhance Palestine's international status and foreground the Palestinian issue in international law. And that in turn will put Israel under increasing pressure to accept Palestinian national independence.

The most recent breakthroughs on this front came at the UN, which in 2012 effectively recognised Palestine's statehood and granted it membership as a "non-member observer state". That move has granted the Palestinians access to international justice mechanisms; today, the International Criminal Court is investigating potential war crimes committed by Israel since June 2014 in Palestinian territories, particularly in Gaza.

The Palestinian political leadership can also do more to leverage the

PLO's recognition of Israel. Whereas the PLO has recognised Israel's right to live in peace and security since the 1993 Oslo Accords, Israel has never reciprocated and recognised Palestinian statehood. Instead, in the words of Sara Roy, the Oslo process saw the Israeli military occupation of Palestinian territories become "formalised" and "institutionalised". Yet despite repeated statements bemoaning the Oslo framework's failure, the Palestinian Authority has yet to capitalise on this obvious political inequality. Instead, it is still firmly committed thanks to the political, economic and security interests of its ruling elites.

To change the calculus, the Palestinian Authority leadership needs to put the issue of equal state recognition back on the agenda and consider the merit of its dogged commitment to the Oslo Accords. Options like this might not reverse the damage created by Trump's alignment with the right-wing Israeli leadership, but they will prove that the Palestinians are serious and capable of developing policies that can lead to genuine change and win over international public opinion.

*[The writer is Adjunct Assistant Professor and Lecturer in conflict studies and Middle East politics, Trinity College Dublin]*

# You're eating microplastics in ways you don't even realise

CHRISTINA THIELE & MALCOLM DAVID HUDSON  
*theconversation.com*

We're increasingly aware of how plastic is polluting our environment. Much recent attention has focused on how microplastics - tiny pieces ranging from 5 millimetres down to 100 nanometres in diameter - are filling the seas and working their way into the creatures that live in them. That means these ocean microplastics are entering the food chain and, ultimately, our bodies.

But fish and shellfish aren't our only food sources that can contain microplastics. And, in fact, other sources that don't come from the sea might be much more worrying.

A portion of consumer-grade mussels in Europe could contain about 90 microplastics. Consumption is likely to vary greatly between nations and generations, but avid mussel eaters might eat up to 11,000 microplastics a year.

It's harder to know how many microplastics we might be consuming from fish. Most studies to date have only analysed the stomach and gut content of these organisms, which are usually removed prior to consumption. But one study has found microplastics in fish liver, suggesting particles can get

from digestive tissues to other body parts.

Microplastics have also been found in canned fish. Numbers identified were low, so the average consumer might only eat up to five microplastics from a portion of fish this way. The particles found might also come from the canning process or from the air.

Another marine food source of microplastics is sea salt. One kilogram can contain over 600 microplastics. If you eat the maximum daily intake of 5 grams of salt, this would mean you would typically consume three microplastics a day (although many people eat much more than the recommended amount).

However, other studies have found varying amounts of microplastics in sea salt, possibly because of different extraction methods used. This is a widespread problem in microplastics research that makes it hard or impossible to compare studies. For example, one study seems to only have looked for microfibrils (tiny strands of artificial materials such as polyester) while a further study only looked for microplastics larger than 200 micrometres.

The sea salt study mentioned above didn't attempt to remove and count all the microplastics

from its salt samples and instead gave an estimate based on the proportion of particles that were recovered. This means it showed 1 kilogram of salt contained at least 600 microplastics - but the actual figure could be a lot higher.

## NON-MARINE SOURCES

Despite these findings, other research demonstrates that far more microplastics in our food are likely to come from other sources than the sea. Land animals also eat microplastics although - as with fish - we tend not to eat their digestive systems. There's limited data about this part of the food industry, but a study of chickens raised in gardens in Mexico found an average of 10 microplastics per chicken gizzard - a delicacy in some parts of the world.

Scientists have also found microplastics in honey and beer. We might be swallowing tens of microplastics with each bottle of the latter.

Perhaps the biggest known source of microplastics that we consume is bottled water. When researchers examined a variety of types of glass and plastic water bottles, they found microplastics in most of them. Single-use water bottles contained between two and 44 microplastics per litre, while returnable bottles (designed for collection under a deposit scheme) contained between 28 and 241 microplastics per litre. The microplastics came from the packaging, which means we could be exposing ourselves to more of them every time we fill up a plastic bottle in order to reduce waste.

There is also evidence that microplastics in food come from indoor dust. A recent study estimated that we could get an annual dose of almost 70,000 microplastics from the dust that settles on to our dinner - and that is only one of our daily meals.

So, yes, we are eating small numbers of microplastics from marine products. But it may only take drinking a litre of bottled water a day to consume more microplastics than you would from being an avid shellfish eater. And the other question scientists have yet to answer when it comes to microplastics in our food is how much harm they actually do.

*[Christina Thiele is PhD Candidate in Marine Microplastics, University of Southampton; Malcolm David Hudson is Associate Professor in Environmental Sciences, University of Southampton]*



# 5 more die in Assam flood, toll rises to 12

**GUWAHATI, JUN 17 (PTI):** The flood situation in Assam continued to deteriorate with five more people losing their lives during the past 24 hours, while 4.5 lakh people have been affected in the deluge across six districts.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), five persons lost their lives in flood-related incidents in three districts during the last 24 hours.

With this, the death toll has climbed to 12 in the first wave of flood in Assam this year.

While two persons died at Udharbond and one in Sadar revenue circles in Cachar district, one each lost their lives at Hailakandi and Sadar revenue circles in Hailakandi and Karimganj districts respectively, it added.

The ASDMA said over 4.48 lakh people have been affected in Hojai, Karbi Anglong West, Golaghat, Karimganj, Hailakandi and Cachar districts.

Till yesterday, 4.25 lakh people



were affected across seven districts in Assam.

According to the report issued today, Karimganj has been the

worst-hit with nearly 2.15 lakh people affected followed by Hailakandi where over 1.93 lakh people have been suffering in the deluge.

Currently, 673 villages are under water and 1,512 hectares of crop areas have been damaged, the ASDMA said. It said authorities are running

481 relief camps and distribution centres in five districts, where 1,73,245 people have taken shelter at present.

Over 6,150 persons have been evacuated to safer places during the last 24 hours by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel from Karimganj, Hailakandi and Cachar.

The flood has damaged embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructures in Hojai, Karimganj, Dima Hasao and Cachar districts.

As of now, Brahmaputra at Nimatighat in Jorhat, while Barak at AP Ghat in Cachar and Badarpurghat in Karimganj are flowing above the danger mark.

Other rivers like Dhansiri at Numaligarh in Golaghat, Jia Bharali at NT Road crossing in Sonitpur, Kopolli at Kampur in Nagaon, Katakhal at Matizuri in Hailakandi and Kushi-yara at Karimganj town are also flowing above the danger mark.

## Kpg police books man under POCSCO Act

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**KALIMPONG, 17 JUN:**

Kalimpong Police today arrested a 42-year-old man from Rangpo in Kalimpong for allegedly being sexually involved with a 17-year-old girl for almost two years and getting her pregnant.

The victim reportedly lodged a complaint against the accused saying that the man had promised to marry her during their interactions.

The victim further revealed that the accused refused to take responsibility of the unborn child.

A case under Protection Of Children Against Sexual Offences Act has been registered against the accused. The victim was sent for medical examination.

# North-east beckons tourists; footfalls to grow 12% in 2019

**MUMBAI, JUN 17 (PTI):** Improved infrastructure and air connectivity are drawing a large number of tourists to India's North-east and looking at the current traction, footfalls in the picturesque region are expected to grow by 10-12 per cent in 2019, industry experts said.

"The bookings for North-east have gone up by 18 per cent as compared to the same period (April-June) last year.

Tourism in the North-east region is expected to grow by at least 10-12 per cent even in the next year," Cox & Kings head, relationships, Karan Anand, told PTI here.

He said improved infrastructure and air connectivity have played a major role in driving tourism growth in the vast region which consists of

eight states.

"Air connectivity has tremendously improved with new routes opening in the region last year. New flights have been introduced using Shillong as a hub to travel to other prominent tourist destinations of Meghalaya like Cherrapunji and Mawlynnong.

"The new airport at Pakyong (Sikkim) will further make reaching the northern part of the state, especially to tourist attractions such as Nathu La Pass, easier," Anand added.

The region is mostly preferred by holiday-makers aged between 25-50 years and hailing from metros such as Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, besides Guwahati and nearby areas who flock there to explore its wildlife, rivers and

culture, he said.

However, the second or third-time travellers, who are now discovering the attractions of the North-east, embark on their journey to understand the lifestyle and also the culture and the cuisine of the region, he added.

Echoing a similar view, a MakeMyTrip spokesperson said high growth of travellers opting for the North-east sector can be attributed to not only to better road infrastructure and rail connectivity but also to direct flight connectivity from New Delhi and Mumbai.

"Apart from this, more number of hotels are opening up in this region, making it easier for travellers to find accommodations in places which were earlier not very

connected.

"At MakeMyTrip, we have seen over 100 per cent growth in the number of travellers opting for North-east destinations such as Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya since the time we started offering holiday packages in the region," he added.

He said overall, the sector, including Darjeeling (a hill station which falls in West Bengal), is growing by 35 per cent for summer travel. The MMT platform has witnessed 30 per cent growth in travel bookings to Gangtok, 120 per cent each to Shillong and Meghalaya.

The Assam, Meghalaya sector is increasingly becoming popular among the top metro markets, the MMT spokesman said.

Manmeet Ahluwalia, marketing head of Brand Expedia in India, said for a very long period, the north-eastern part of the country had been largely unexplored due to poor connectivity and infrastructure.

However, tourism in the region is now witnessing a substantial growth thanks to a slew of government initiatives, better connectivity, infrastructure development and a variety of experiences on offer for voyagers, he added.

"We have seen a year-on-year growth of 25-30 per cent over the past five years. We are expecting the growth to continue with new government policies focusing on better infrastructure and connectivity," he added.

Ahluwalia said besides

young adults, including college pass outs and first-time earners to families, there has been a rise in queries from all segments.

"People who like exploring nature and its serenity are attracted by most of the destinations to the North-east. We have also seen an increase in women solo travellers who feel comparatively safer in the environment.

"Adventure seekers enjoy the place for its challenging treks, kayaking, angling and rafting," he added.

There has been an increase in queries and bookings from all over the country, but residents from Delhi, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Ahmedabad and Jaipur top the list of people wanting to travel to North-east, he said.



# Bengali film industry on a new high

**KOLKATA, JUNE 17 (PTI):** The success of contemporary Bengali films in the recent times has inspired directors and actors of Tollywood industry to toy with diverse genres and unexplored subjects.

Despite big-banner Bollywood releases and the onslaught of digital media platforms, Kolkatans were seen queuing up for 'Uma', 'Haami' and 'Gup-todhoner Sandhane' over the past few weeks.

Actor Prosenjit Chatterjee, who recently received acclaim for his performance in box-office hit 'Drishtikone', feels fresh content, backed by good direction, are drawing audience to the theatres.

"We hope the trend encourages young talented directors. I would do my best to support them. The industry has to adapt with the changing tastes of audiences," he said.

Director-actor Shiboprosad Mukhopadhyay, who is busy shooting for his next outing 'Kantho', said the success of these freshly brewed films would not just boost the economy of the industry, but also widen its reach among audiences.

"If Bengali cinema fares well, and I am not only talking about my cinema here, every industry stakeholder would feel inspired to deliver better. It would help the industry grow."

His last venture 'Haami', co-directed by Nandita Roy, did well at the box-office at home and abroad.

Undoubtedly, Netflix and Amazon Prime are delivering great content, but the theatrical experience is what sets the cinema apart, Roy, who has also produced shows for Television, stated. "You can not overlook the impor-

tance of single screens and multiplexes. Films are after all special because of their cinematic experience, larger-than-life imagery, something that you can only enjoy in a theatre," she claimed.

Director Srijit Mukherjee, who described his last film 'Uma' as an "emotional experience", said there is a "whiff of change" blowing through the industry.

'Uma' recorded 80 per cent occupancy across 70 theatres in West Bengal in the third week of its release.

"The success of films like Uma will help in furthering the cause of the Bengali film industry. It has received acclaim in film festivals abroad, thus increasing its reach among audiences abroad," Mukherjee said.

Actor Paoli Dam, whose last year's film 'Machher Jhol' dealt with family ties and food, said "unconventional subjects" are doing good business over the past few years.

"The success of Bengali films, both made by reputed and new directors, shows that audiences favour mature content," she noted.

Sharing similar views, actor Abir Chatterjee, who plays a history professor in adventure fantasy 'Guptodhoner Sandhane', said Tollywood films have become popular not just among Kolkata audiences, but elsewhere too.

He, however, cautioned that the trend has to continue to avoid Hindi and English films eating into its business pie.

"Just one or two successes a year are not enough for the industry to survive, the number of hits has to multiply.

The box office collection of recent films, however, has raised our hopes to a great extent," he added.

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# Belgium determined to live up to great expectations

**SOCHI (RUSSIA), JUNE 17 (AFP):** Roberto Martinez can't wait to lead an outstanding Belgium side into the World Cup as they prepare to take on Panama in their opening game on Monday.

A team who sit third in the FIFA rankings and who boast what is frequently labelled a golden generation featuring the likes of Eden Hazard and Kevin De Bruyne have come to Russia with a considerable weight of expectation on their shoulders.

They are strongly fancied to progress to the knockout phase as winners of Group G, despite being drawn alongside England, and so it would be a major upset if they slipped up in Sochi against a side making their World Cup debut.

"I would like to see that the team can play a game and not play the World Cup, to see a team where they enjoy the responsibility that they carry," Martinez said at the Fisht Stadium here on Saturday.

"I'm excited. I see the players work, I see them in training, and they are just desperate to perform for the fans back in Belgium." Belgium's results under Martinez have been excellent, with last Monday's 4-1 friendly win over Costa Rica in Brussels meaning they are unbeaten in 19 matches going back almost two years, to the very start of the Spaniard's reign.



"I think we know how strong we are and I hope we can show it in this tournament," said the Napoli forward Dries Mertens, who along with his teammates trained in the shadow of the Sochi stadium on Saturday.

The prospect of facing England in Kaliningrad on June 28 is a mouth-watering one.

All going to plan for these sides, first place will be up for grabs. Then there are Martinez's past links to the Premier League and the presence of Thierry Henry and Englishman Graeme Jones on his coaching staff.

The majority of his squad either play or have played in England, but for now Martinez is only thinking

about Panama.

"Getting to the World Cup has been a great result for Panamanian football. I am not expecting an easy game," he said.

The Belgians came to Russia's Black Sea coast early from their base near Moscow to adapt to the warmer, and more humid, conditions here that

could suit the Panamanians better.

Improving on quarter-final exits at both the 2014 World Cup and Euro 2016 has to be the aim, but Belgium's preparations have not been aided by defensive injury problems.

Both Thomas Vermaelen and Vincent Kompany are struggling for fitness, and Martinez can make a change to his 23-man squad as late as Sunday. However, Los Angeles FC defender Laurent Ciman left Russia on Saturday having been with the squad as a standby option.

Barcelona centre-back Vermaelen will not play against Panama due to a hamstring problem, while Manchester City skipper Kompany is not expected to be available before the match against England due to a groin complaint.

However, Martinez believes the 32-year-old's experience is invaluable, even if he is unable to play against Panama or against Tunisia in Moscow next weekend.

"Vinny Kompany has been in this sort of situation for a long time now, and the decision is to use his know-how, and his experience, around the group.

"He did it with his club this season after not playing for four months, he performed against Chelsea in one of the most demanding games of the season. He is a player who with his experience can perform straight away.

## Salah to play in Egypt's next World Cup match

**ST. PETERSBURG (AP), JUNE 17 (AP):** Mohamed Salah celebrated his 26th birthday with a Chechen cake and the news that he will play in Egypt's next World Cup match.

A statement from the Egyptian soccer association gave no details about his fitness except that the Liverpool striker participated fully in training Saturday in Grozny, the team's base in Russia's Chechnya region.

Salah injured his left shoulder in the Champions League final last month, putting his World Cup in doubt. He was an unused substitute in Egypt's 1-0 loss to Uruguay on Friday his birthday.

"(His) condition is so much better," Egypt executive director Ihab Leheeta said Saturday. "He was very upset after the Uruguay game. He thought he could have played and made a contribution."

Fans and Chechnya's leadership tried to cheer him up, presenting Salah with a giant birthday cake. Salah smiled as he sang "Happy Birthday" with his teammates, team officials and hotel staff, but the brief celebration was visibly subdued and not everyone joined in.

"We could have celebrated more," Leheeta said, alluding to the loss to Uruguay.

The brief celebration took place upon the team's arrival back in their Grozny hotel after the flight from Yekaterinburg, where they played their opening match.

Perched atop the cake was what appeared to be a replica of the golden boot won by Salah as the Premier League's top scorer this season.

Egypt faces host Russia in St. Petersburg on Tuesday, and then takes on Saudi Arabia on June 25.

## Indian women's team lose to Spain 1-4, trail 1-2 in five-match series

**MADRID, JUNE 17 (PTI):** The Indian women's hockey team suffered a 1-4 defeat against hosts Spain in the fourth game to trail 1-2 in the five-match series.

Lola Riera (10', 34') continued her fine form with a double strike while the other goals came from Lucia Jimenez (19') and Carmen Cano (37'). India's only goal of the match was scored by Uditia in the 22nd minute.

While Spain beat India 3-0 in the opener, the second game between the two sides finished with a 1-1 draw. The visitors bounced back with a 3-2 win in the third match before being outplayed in the fourth game played yesterday.

Spain won two penalty corners within the first five minutes to put pressure on the away team.

But the Indian team was up to the task and kept out the two tries from the world no 11 side.

Spain looked in prime form during the opening 20 minutes of the match, which saw them score twice.

After the early setback, it was India's turn to put pressure on the hosts. The visitors focused on their defending and built some momentum, causing the Spanish side to play deep.

The pressure paid off for the visitors in the 22nd minute when Uditia found the back of the net after linking up with her teammates to score a field-goal. The visitors started to play expansive hockey in the closing few minutes of the second quarter



and could have equalised before the half-time break, but young striker Lalremisiami dragged her shot wide of the post.

The third quarter was a crucial one in context of the match, and Spain's attackers made sure that they stamped their authority by increasing their lead. The hosts scored their third goal on the back of a penalty corner in the 33rd minute when the drag-flick was adjudged to be blocked by the last Indian defender.

The umpire awarded Spain with a penalty stroke which was well converted by Riera in the 34th minute.

Another attack by the Spanish three minutes later saw Carmen Cano deflect a cross

from outside the striking circle into the back of the net, making the score 4-1 in favour of the home side. The visitors tried to pull a goal in the very next minute, but Lalremisiami saw her shot being saved by Spanish goalkeeper Melanie Garcia.

Spain won back-to-back penalty corners at the start of the fourth quarter, but the first rusher blocked the first try while India's goalkeeper Swati made a save on the hosts' second attempt.

India tried to build some attacks in the final quarter but Spain made sure that they were not successful.

The two teams will play their fifth and final match on Monday.

## MURRAY RETURN, DJOKOVIC WOES HOG SPOTLIGHT AT QUEEN'S

**LONDON, JUNE 17 (AFP):** Andy Murray will make his long awaited return from hip surgery at Queen's Club next week, while his old rival Novak Djokovic arrives at the Wimbledon warm-up hoping to end his wretched run.

Murray has not played a competitive match since he was knocked out of the Wimbledon quarter-finals last July as a hip injury brought a painful end to his season.

The former world number one underwent surgery in January after pulling out of the 2017 US Open and this year's Australian Open.

Murray made a tentative commitment to appear in the grass-court tournament in Rosmalen this week, before again pulling out at the last minute to spark fresh fears that he wouldn't make it back in time for Wimbledon.

But the two-time Wimbledon champion has been practising regularly for the past fort-

night and a final workout on Friday at Queen's Club with fellow Briton Cameron Norrie convinced him to return.

"I've been practising the last couple of weeks and obviously building up each day. I started playing sets about a week ago," Murray said on Saturday.

"So, I played probably seven or eight sets, and I wanted to feel how I felt the following day after playing a couple of sets with Cam Norrie.

"I got tested by my physios this morning to make sure I hadn't stiffened up and lost any range of motion in my hip which can happen when you're tired and the hip's a bit angry.

"That wasn't the case. That was all positive and I pulled up pretty well from that, so then I decided to go for it." Murray faces temperamental but talented Australian Nick Kyrgios in the Queen's first round as he builds up to the start of Wimbledon on July 2.

## India failed to emerge as football power by not quitting Commonwealth: Book

**NEW DELHI, JUN 17 (PTI):** Parochialism has been affecting Indian football over the years but things might have been different had India left the Commonwealth in 1950 to join the soccer world full time, a new book claims.

India won the Asian Games football gold in 1951, again in 1962 and came fourth in the Melbourne Olympics in 1956.

"Had soccer grabbed its chance, and Jawaharlal Nehru followed popular sentiment and left the Commonwealth, who is to say that today football, not cricket, would be the main sport of India," UK-based sports commentator Mihir Bose says.

"Had India left the Commonwealth in 1950, making Indian cricket a world outcast, and the Indian football gone to Brazil to play in the World Cup the same year, that by itself would have made India a football nation like Saudi Arabia which does not see playing in the World Cup an impossible dream," he argues in his book "Game Changer".

"Had India gone to the World Cup in 1950, it would have been playing the best of world football. In the 1950s, that was not possible for India in cricket. Matching wits against the best would have been a tremendous boost for the sport," Bose also told PTI.

"Football then was more popular than



cricket, had reached more parts of the country, had links with Indian nationalism in the way cricket did not and playing in the World Cup would have boosted the game," he adds.

He also says that football in India did not really follow the game as it was played in the rest of the world and has been "wretchedly" led.

"Cricket administrators are bad but football have been worse," he alleges.

"Game Changer", published by Palimpsest, is a critical take on the English Premier League and has a special chapter on Indian football titled "First Words". The foreword is written by veteran football commentator Novy Kapadia.

"The England team may not have

been a success but the Premier League is the most successful leagues in the world. It shows how English domestic football has reinvented itself in the last quarter of a century from being a league that was going nowhere and outclassed by La Liga and Serie A," Bose says about the EPL.

He says Indian clubs need to learn from

the sides in the English Premier League on how to market themselves.

"English clubs are very good at reaching out to their fan base and making their club's name well known and reaching out beyond the football public."

But to really develop the sport, Indian clubs need to set up academies which can nurture young players, he suggests.

"Also they need to make sure their coaches go out into remote rural areas to seek out young players who could be turned into stars. They also need to develop links with clubs in England and other European countries so their young players can come to Europe to learn about the game. Their coaches should also do the same," Bose says.

According to him, Indian sports followers do not seem to be interested in the grass roots of the game and their focus seems to be on celebrity sports, and cricket in India has all the celebrities.

"It is not easy for football to compete with cricket. This will have to be a long process," he says.

"FIFA thinks Indian football is a great underdeveloped story of world football. Indian football has a long, rocky road ahead but it is not an impossible one. They can learn from how the English Premier League reinvented the game," he hopes.

# International Yoga Day celebrations begin in US

**WASHINGTON/NEW YORK, JUN 17 (PTI):** Hundreds of yoga enthusiasts gathered to flex their body at historic monuments of the US, including the Capitol Hill, kick-starting a host of events planned to mark the fourth anniversary of the International Day of Yoga on June 21.

In New York, people gathered at the Governors Island in the backdrop of the iconic Statue of Liberty and the Manhattan skyline to participate in the Yoga Day commemoration organised by the Consulate General of India.

The two-hour event 'Let Yoga Govern Your Life' organised yesterday by the Consulate General of India in New York, included meditation and a guided yoga session based on 'Common Yoga Protocol' conducted with the help of yoga demonstrators and teachers.

People from various backgrounds, accompanied with their families, participated in the yoga sessions, performing the Surya Namaskar, Pranayama, various yoga asanas



and breathing exercises.

Among the highlights of the event was an impressive Mallakhambh performance by children. Specially designed yoga kits and T-shirts were distributed to those in attendance.

Addressing the gathering, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, the Chief Guest for the event, said yoga is a "unique way to approach an individual's health and well-being. A yoga practitioner herself, Maloney said she considers the ancient practice one of the best ways to exercise and

relax at the same time.

"Practicing yoga has been shown to decrease stress, fatigue, and alleviate chronic pains, as well as improving physical fitness. I know firsthand the benefits of practicing yoga. It is an essential part of my life, I practice it as often as I can, and it helps me to find balance and peace," she added.

She said about 15 per cent Americans, over 36 million people, practice the ancient Indian science today, a testament to both the immense benefits of practicing yoga as well as

the convenience and accessibility of the discipline to people of all ages and abilities.

She added that the long and productive friendship between India and the US has benefited both countries, lauding the Indian-American community for being a vital part of New York City.

India's Consul General in New York Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty highlighted yoga's universal appeal and the role of the ancient Indian practice in bringing together the cultures and people of America and India.

"Nothing better connects the two countries than yoga because it epitomizes and is a good example of our relationship, that something which originated in India is so popular here. Celebrating the 4th International Yoga Day sends out a big message of the importance of yoga in our daily lives in both the US and India and across the world, Chakravorty told PTI.

Chakravorty, who joined those present in performing various yoga and meditation exercises, said the extent to which yoga now permeates people's lives is tremendous. Referring to hour-long yoga sessions organized daily at the World Trade Centre buildings, he said yoga has now become part of the corporate culture. Yoga is a rapidly growing trend in the US with an 80% increase in practitioners between 2012 and 2015, according to estimates.

In Washington, hundreds of health enthusiasts gathered at the iconic US Capitol Saturday morning to flex their body under the guidance of a trained Indian yoga

teacher.

This venue at the Capitol Hill where presidential swearing in ceremonies are held every four years, this morning experienced one of the largest gatherings of yoga exercises in Washington DC.

"It shows that huge enthusiasm that yoga has gathered amongst all of us and all over the world," Indian Ambassador to the US Navtej Singh Sarna said in his brief remarks to the participants of the fourth International Day of Yoga who had gathered since early morning with their yoga mats at the Capitol overlooking the National Mall.

"I think, the day is not far that you will have the whole space between the monument and the Capitol filled up," Sarna told reporters thereafter.

Yoga was always a popular discipline, but "qualitative and quantitative change" has come since 2014 when under the guidance and inspiration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the United Nations recognized June 21 as the International Day of Yoga, he said.

"It recognised it through a resolution which had a record co-sponsorship of 177 countries. This is an endorsement like no other; that the world has accepted as the Prime Minister called it one of the ancient gifts of Indian sages to humanity," Sarna said. Welcoming the participants, Sarna noted that Yoga is widely embraced by the American people as a survey conducted in 2016 showed that there were 36.7 million Yoga practitioners in the US.

In his special message on the occasion, Senator Tim Kaine said that while the idea of International Yoga day is new, the art is built upon ancient Indian principles born of a desire to maintain inner well-being.

"Yoga symbolizes unity of mind, body and spirit," Kaine said.

Congressman Gerald E Connolly said that this celebration is a "testament to the transformative nature of yoga" and the Indian-American community's indelible mark on the cultural fabric of the United States.

## Death toll from suicide bombing in Afghanistan climbs to 36

**KABUL, JUN 17 (AP):** The death toll from a suicide bombing against a gathering of Taliban fighters celebrating a holiday cease-fire in Afghanistan has risen to 36, an official said today.

Najibullah Kamawal, director of the health department in the eastern Nangarhar province, said another 65 people were wounded in Saturday's attack.

The bomber targeted a gathering of fighters who were celebrating a three-day truce coinciding with the Eid al-Fitr holiday. No one immediately claimed the attack, but it was likely carried out by the Islamic State group, which was not included in the cease-fire and has clashed with the Taliban in the past.

After the attack, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani announced a nine-day extension of the cease-fire. There was no immediate word from the Taliban on whether they would observe the extension.

The three-day holiday and cease-fire ends Sunday.

The chairman of the High Peace Council, a government body charged with negotiating an end to the nearly 17-year war, called on the Taliban to accept the extended cease-fire and join the peace process.

"We hope that the extension of the cease-fire will be announced by the leadership of the Taliban," Mohammad Karim Khalili told a press conference in the capital, Kabul. He said there had been an "exchange of views" between the government and the Taliban over the past week, without elaborating.

The Taliban have steadily expanded their presence in recent years, seizing a number of districts across the country and carrying out near-daily attacks on Afghan security forces.



Two ships carrying hundreds of people who have become the focus of a Europe-wide disagreement over migration have docked in Valencia. The Italian coast guard vessel Dattilo arrived in the Spanish port just before 7am local time on Sunday, and was followed by the Aquarius migrant rescue vessel a few hours later. An Italian navy ship, the Orione, will follow. The total number of migrants being transported is 630.

## Malaysia power shift hits China infrastructure drive

**KUALA LUMPUR, JUN 17 (AFP):** Malaysia was once a loyal partner in China's globe-spanning infrastructure drive but a new government is now pledging to review Beijing-backed projects, threatening key links in the much-vaunted initiative.

Kuala Lumpur's previous regime, led by scandal-mired Najib Razak, had warm ties with China and signed a string of deals for Beijing-funded projects, including a major rail link and a deep-sea port.

But the long-ruling coalition was unexpectedly turfed out of power last month by voters disgusted at allegations of corruption and angered at rising living costs.

Critics say many agreements lacked transparency, fuelling suspicions they were struck in exchange for help in paying off debts from a financial scandal which ultimately helped bring down Najib's regime.

The new government, led by political heavyweight Mahathir Mohamad, has pledged to review Chinese deals seen as dubious, calling into question Malaysia's status as one of Beijing's most cooperative partners in its infrastructure push.

China's ambitious initiative to revive ancient Silk Road trading routes with a global network of ports, roads and railways -- dubbed "One Belt, One Road" -- was launched in 2013 and is the



economic crown jewel of President Xi Jinping's presidency.

Malaysia, along with Beijing ally Cambodia, were seen as bright spots in Southeast Asia, with projects in other countries often facing problems, from land acquisition to drawn-out negotiations with governments.

"Malaysia under Najib moved quickly to approve and implement projects," Murray Hiebert, a senior associate from think-tank the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told AFP.

Chinese foreign direct investment into Malaysia stood at just 0.8 percent of total net FDI inflows in 2008, but that figure had risen to 14.4 percent by 2016, according to a study from Singapore's ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

However, Hiebert said it was "widely assumed" that Malaysia was striking quick deals with China in the hope of getting help to cover debts from sovereign

wealth fund 1MDB.

Najib and his cronies were accused of stealing huge sums of public money from the investment vehicle in a massive fraud. Public disgust at the allegations -- denied by Najib and 1MDB -- helped topple his government.

Malaysia's first change of government in six decades has left Najib facing a potential jail term -- and appears to have already unsettled Beijing's plans in the country.

New prime minister Mahathir has announced a planned high-speed rail link between Kuala Lumpur and neighbouring Singapore will not go ahead as he seeks to reduce the country's huge national debt.

The project was in its early stages and had not yet received any Chinese funding as part of "One Belt, One Road".

But Chinese companies were favoured to build part of the line, which would have constituted a link in a high-speed route from China's Yunnan province to trading hub Singapore, along which Chinese goods could have been transported for export.

Work has already started in Malaysia on another line seen as part of that route, and which had received Chinese funding -- the USD 14-billion East Coast Rail Link, running from close to the Thai border to a port near Kuala Lumpur.

Mahathir has said that agree-

ment is now being renegotiated.

Other Chinese-funded initiatives include a deep-sea port in Malacca, near important shipping routes, and an enormous industrial park.

It is not clear yet which projects will be changed or cancelled but experts believe axing some will be positive.

Alex Holmes, Asia economist for Capital Economics, backed cancelling some initiatives, citing "Malaysia's weak fiscal position and that some of the projects are of dubious economic value".

The Chinese foreign ministry did not respond to request for comment.

But a recent commentary in China's Global Times, a nationalist state-run tabloid, warned Mahathir if he damaged the interests of Chinese companies, they had the right to seek compensation.

"The Chinese government will also take concrete measures to safeguard the interests and rights of Chinese enterprises," it said.

Adding to China's woes, Mahathir has a clear preference for Beijing's rival Japan, and last week went to Tokyo for his first foreign trip since taking office.

During the visit, the 92-year-old signalled ties with Beijing would cool: "We will be friendly with China, but we do not want to be indebted to China."

## Anthyesthi Kriya



Anthyesthi Kriya of Late **Phul Maya Khati** who left for heavenly abode on 07 June falls on **19 June**. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join for the prayer at our residence at Upper Syari, above co-operative, taxi stand.

Govind Khati, Ashok Khati ( sons)  
Sarita, Laxmi, Neelu, Munna Khati ( daughters)  
Suraj & Mukesh Khati ( grandsons)  
9732426291, 9476271747, 9832046831

## Zipchu Shegu



The 49 days Zipchu Shegu of Late **Lham Dupla Singhi Lama** son of Late Kam Chezung Lama who left for his heavenly abode on **3rd May 2018 falls on 19th - 20th June 2018 (Tuesday - Wednesday)**. All families, relatives and friends are requested to join us in offering prayers for departed soul at our residence at **Sang Phelong, East Sikkim**. We also like to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

**Family members:- Phum Chung Doma Lharipa(wife), Sonam Lendup Lharipa(son), Rinzing Choden(daughter), Karma Chopel Lharipa(grandson), Pema Wangdi Lharipa & Norzang Lharipa.**

Ph no. 8670409110,  
8170028292, 7797885087.

## MISSING



Name: **Munni**  
Age: **19 years (approx.)**  
Complexion: **Fair**  
Missing from: **Kazitar, Namchi, South Sikkim since 6th June 2018 (Wednesday)**

If seen please contact: **9647854249** or nearest police station.

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## BEYONCE AND JAY-Z DROP JOINT ALBUM

Beyonce and her husband Jay-Z have released a surprise joint album.

The singer delighted fans by dropping a clip from a music video for one of her new tracks on her Instagram.

The 36-year-old's nine-track album is called *Everything Is Love*.

The record is a collaboration with her husband Jay-Z, 48, and has been launched on his streaming service Tidal.

The clip for the new track called *APES\*\*T* was viewed almost 2.3 million times within an hour of being uploaded.

The full music video, which is more than six minutes long, shows the power couple at the Louvre museum in Paris. Published by Beyonce's YouTube channel, the track's artist is listed as The Carters - the couple's family name.

The stylised video includes shots of them standing in front of the Mona Lisa painting while wearing pink and mint suits.

Another frame shows dancers in skin-coloured tights and crop-tops performing on steps as the pair



look on dressed in white.

Dramatic shots of the museum's historic artworks are shown throughout.

At other points, shots of people in less glamorous surroundings or doing everyday things such as hair styling are included.

The artwork for the album has also been released and is a frame from the video showing a woman standing

over a man while she combs his hair. Leonardo Da Vinci's Mona Lisa painting hangs in the background of the picture.

The announcement came as the couple played their second night at the London Stadium as part of their *On the Run II* tour.

Speaking to the crowd on stage, Beyonce said: "Thank you for being the most incredible audience in London.

You give us so much love every time we come here." Because we love you all so much we have something special for you. We want you guys to be the first to experience this new project."

The video was then played on the stage's screens and ended with a black slate with the message 'ALBUM OUT NOW' written in white text across it.



**POSE!** Supermodel Kendall Jenner is seen backstage of the Versace show during Milan Men's Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2019.

## INSTAGRAM WON'T ALERT PEOPLE IF YOU SCREENSHOT THEIR STORIES

Instagram confirmed to thing for the first time: "Next time you take a screenshot or screen recording, the person who posted the story will be able to see it."

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## WONDER WOMAN 2 PHOTO: GAL GADOT IS BACK IN COSTUME!

Production recently began on *Wonder Woman 1984*, and now Gal Gadot has released the first photo of Diana in costume.

Where the first *Wonder Woman* was set in the First World War, the sequel will jump forward in time to 1984. It will set

the Amazonian goddess's adventures against the backdrop of the Cold War, with Chris Pine returning to the DCEU - even though his character, Steve Trevor, was actually killed off in the first film! The movie's main villain is Kristen Wiig's Cheetah, though it's not yet been revealed which version of Diana's feral foe will make her DCEU debut. Production officially began on June 13. Now, though, star Gal Gadot has decided to give viewers their first official glimpse of *Wonder Woman* in her solo sequel. The image doesn't exactly



give away any of the plot, but frankly it doesn't need to; it just needs to promote the title character. Audiences fell in love with Gadot's portrayal of *Wonder Woman* in *Bat-*

*man V Superman: Dawn of Justice*, with Hans Zimmer and Junkie XL's stunning composition giving Diana a theme tune of her own. 2017's solo *Wonder Woman* movie was one of the most popular entries in the DCEU to date, proving once and for all that a female superhero film could be both a critical and box office success. Nobody was surprised when Warner Bros. greenlit the sequel.

It will be fascinating to see how Diana deals with the Cold War. *Wonder Woman* ended on a gloriously triumphant

note, with the titular hero restating her faith in humanity. No doubt that faith will have been shaken by the horrors of the Second World War, but we don't need to see that; the first film already explored the idea of Diana on a battlefield. A Cold War setting will continue that challenge, with Diana surely horrified at the threat of all-out nuclear war between the United States and the U.S.S.R.

As exciting as *Wonder Woman 2* may be, Warner Bros. will need to tread a careful balance.

In *Batman V Superman*, it was clear that neither the *Dark Knight* nor the *Man of Steel* had ever heard of Diana before; in fact, director Zack Snyder actually implied she'd retreated from the world for over a century, disillusioned by the events of the First World War. *Patty Jenkins's* film took a totally different approach, and is now continuing Diana's superhero career over the course of the century, but the fact remains that Diana needs to have become somewhat obscure by the DCEU's present-day.

## JAMES WAN CONFIRMS AQUAMAN TRAILER WILL DEBUT AT SAN DIEGO COMIC-CON

Aquaman director James Wan has unveiled the new logo for the film and confirmed the first trailer will arrive during San Diego Comic-Con next month. It's been an exciting few weeks for fans of the DCEU. Though it's been awhile since a new film hit theaters, three are on the horizon. We still don't have much from *Shazam!*, but the first image from *Wonder Woman 1984* has debuted - along with his title confirmation. As for this year's underseas epic, the past two days have seen a flurry of announcements.

We've had a few looks at Aquaman over the past year, but this week saw the first reveal of *Black Manta*, *Queen Atlanna*, and *King Orm*. Each has provided a new look at Atlantis, its denizens, and what fans can expect from Wan's take on the classic character. Though the live-action Aquaman fully debuted in *Justice League* last year after a brief tease in *Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice*, all signs point toward his solo film being an entirely different beast. And now, we know when we'll get the first trailer for the upcoming DC film.

James Wan took to Twitter to share an updated logo for Aquaman, but that was hardly the most exciting news. In-



stead, he revealed that San Diego Comic-Con will include the debut of the Aquaman trailer. The reactions to the Aquaman trailer from those who saw it at CineEurope have been positive, and now the rest of us will get to weigh in when it inevitably pops up online after its debut next month. With Aquaman releasing in December, fans have been a little nervous that marketing for the film has waited so long. A teaser hasn't even been released, echoing the awkward marketing of *Solo: A Star Wars Story*, which also began quite late. Luckily, we've seen images from the film, heard details about it, and *Justice League* al-

most acted as a prequel thanks to its inclusion of Aquaman.

The DCEU has had a rocky time with critics and audiences, so there's no way to guess how Aquaman will do. For those who have seen an early cut of the film, Aquaman has had a positive reaction. So that should bode well for fans. But with the delay in marketing, there's no telling if the quality of the film will translate to success at the box office. It will help that Aquaman isn't going up against summer blockbusters, but with several superhero films still coming this year before it arrives, general audiences may be less inclined to head under the seas.

**ARIES:** You may be a little bit disappointed to find out that the people you think so highly of are in fact mere reflections of your own personality. The planetary alignment is trying to teach you to believe in yourself. You just lack confidence. After all, if they're admirable people, it's probably because they have great qualities - and you have them, too. Surprises are just around the corner.

**TAURUS:** There's a great day ahead of you, Taurus. You'll be blessed with the ability to solve problems, and others will come looking for you today. You'll listen, understand, and express empathy. You'll be wise enough to find solutions to any issues they present to you. After a day like this, you might ask yourself if you shouldn't work as a therapist.

**GEMINI:** Do you feel like your life hasn't changed a bit over the past few weeks? You feel that certain things need to change but you do nothing but sit there. Today, Gemini, there will be a lot of influences that could incite you to be a little more foolhardy. You don't usually like to take risks, but if you do it, you'll be greatly satisfied.

**CANCER:** There is a fire burning deep inside of you, Cancer. It gives you a lot of power and energy. People around you are receptive to this energy. Today a lot of your friends will thrive on your fire and be in the best of moods because of it. Don't try to hide your energy. If you do, it may disappear or it could even burn you.

**LEO:** Enthusiasm and energy will be your allies today, Leo. Something different is in the air and inciting you to move forward. You will make decisions and go in new directions for your own good and for the good of the people around you. Your dynamism will have a beneficial impact on your family. This newfound strength will give you a great boost.

**VIRGO:** You're organized and rigorous, Virgo. You plan everything. But with today's energy, you'll be inclined to let the day go by without keeping to a tight schedule. After all, not every day has to be a workday. You can worry easily, but don't let this get you down. Follow the people around you. They'll teach you to see the world differently. You'll even think about new ways to organize your life.

**LIBRA:** A lot of people around you might think that you are a strong individual, Libra. For example, you stand up against wrongs in the established social order. You can also be a very constructive person. You try to improve the world around you. Today, Libra, you'll have all the time you like to meditate about the changes this world needs.

**SCORPIO:** Scorpio, you are worried that some of the people close to your heart might change. You have been watching and paying attention to subtle signs and changes for quite some time now. Today you will feel like a guide, and you will help those who might need you. You will be able to show them the way, and help them to fulfill their needs.

**SAGITTARIUS:** You've always been a loner, Sagittarius. You tend

to act on your own and you don't trust outside help. Over the last few weeks, however, you've managed to find people who have accepted you the way you are. It's as if you've found a refuge where you can escape reality. But, you'll find that if you open your heart to others, there will be additional places of refuge.

**CAPRICORN:** You've always felt the need to create, Capricorn. The simplest tasks can fulfill this need. You're even happy if you sketch on a small piece of paper. Over the last month or so you've been finishing a project close to your heart. Don't be afraid to show it off to your friends. People will be thrilled by your work. You deserve to feel proud of what you've achieved.

**AQUARIUS:** Some people around

you might think that you have never really matured, Aquarius, that you still have the mind of a child. It might not seem obvious at first, but your lighthearted attitude is also a sign of great wisdom. As with those who have truly committed to long-term romances, you will find out that you'll never lose your lightheartedness.

**PISCES:** If you analyze your life, you'll see that it has completely changed over the past twelve months. Pisces. You've matured as an individual and your actions have been beneficial to yourself and those around you. Try to make changes as often as you can. Don't stop now. You need to feel that your life is evolving all the time. There is no time to rest.