



NATIVE AMERICAN FILMMAKER AND JOURNALIST MYRON DEWEY DIES
PG 08

COLLABORATING TOWARDS A BETTER TOWN
pg 04

REOPENING OF 'ALADDIN' ON BROADWAY HALTED BY COVID-19 CASES
pg 08



Summit Summit TIMES

Vol 06 | Issue 251 | Gangtok | Friday | 01 October 2021

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | RS. 5

New cases remain under-50, no Covid deaths for three days in Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 SEPT:

Sikkim is opening up and the virus appears to finally be calming down. Not only have the daily new cases been coming in at under-50 per day, the State has now gone three days without any Covid deaths and the number of recoveries remain strong and Covid infections requiring hospitalization, low.

Sikkim's tally of confirmed cases of Covid-19 now stands at 31,451, with 39 new cases reported in the last 24 hours. As per the Daily Report of COVID-19 in Sikkim released by the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme of the Health Department on Thursday morning, these 39 cases were picked up from the test-

ing of 500 samples on Wednesday, giving Sikkim a daily test positivity rate of 7.8%. Of the 39 new cases, 24 were registered in East District, 06 in West District and 09 in South District. As mentioned, the Covid death toll continued to hold at 387 for the third straight day with no new COVID deaths reported.

While 24 samples returned positive in RT-PCR testing of 257 samples, 15 others were detected in rapid antigen testing of 241 samples. On the other hand, 26 people were discharged from home and facility isolations yesterday after making full recoveries to further improve the number of recovered cases here to 30,137.

There are currently 611 active Covid cases in Sikkim, of whom eight are currently admitted in ICU facilities at STNM Hospital and CRH. On the other hand, the state administered 6,279 doses of Covishield on Wednesday. Of these, 6,007 persons completed their vaccination schedule with their second dose and 272 received their first dose.

Darj marathoners and fashionistas conned

SMRITA KHAWAS
DARJEELING, 30 SEPT:

One Daniel Saint, claiming to be a representative of Club 7D of Mumbai, has fled after conning "volunteers" here to collect registration fee from marathoners and the more fashion-inclined of upwards of Rs 2 lakh. It is possible the con-artist was not event Daniel Saint from Mumbai but a Prakash Adhikari from Nepal. If the volunteers he rustled up to help organize a marathon and fashion contest as part of a proposed World Tourism Day celebration, this person claimed to be representing Club 7D which was hosting the event. The volunteers, whom he



had promised to pay for their services, were then sent out to register people for the relay marathon and fashion contest. The distraught volunteers informed a press conference here today that between them, they collected Rs 1,000 each from around a hundred

people who signed up for the marathon and Rs 5,000 from each of the 22 who registered for the fashion contest. The event we scheduled for 03 October and promotional material claimed that it was being organized in partnership with the

Gorkhaland Territorial Administration. Today, however, when the volunteers reached the place where he was residing, they discovered that he had fled. All that they found there was document revealing that the person they knew as Daniel Saint was actually

Prakash Adhikari from Nepal. What is more, many local businesses had also donated towards the proposed event. The volunteers have appealed to the administration to trace the conman and bring him to book.

Month dedicated to 'Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition' concludes

GANGTOK, 30 SEPT [IPR]: Minister for Social Justice and Welfare Department, Dr MK Sharma, graced the closing ceremony of POSHAN Maah 2021 here in the capital today. POSHAN - Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition - Maah is a month-long nutritional month celebrated every year in the month of September. The main objective of the programme is to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescents, pregnant women and lactating mothers by leveraging technology, a targeted approach and convergence. This year India also celebrates Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to ensure speedy and intensive outreach in remote parts of the country.

The programme was organized by Social Justice and Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim. The theme of this year's POSHAN Maah Abhiyaan "Converging towards a healthy walk-through life." Minister Dr Sharma, in his speech, said that the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was an aggressive reach out during the POSHAN Maah but it should not be limited to the month of September but be consistent over a long period of time.

He applauded the field activities of Aaganwadi workers and hoped for improvement in three areas which are anaemia detection, immunization and anti-na-

tal check-ups. He stressed on the importance of consuming local healthy foods for holistic nutrition which will always be available throughout the year for the Sikkimese people and such choice will also have a sustainable effect on the long run. The Minister said that this is POSHAN Kranti through Jan Andolan which means there should be participation of all sections of society but moreover the need of the hour is the co-ordination of all the line departments of the Government to make this campaign a huge success. He further requested zeal, enthusiasm, and active participation of all the concerned officials in the upcoming POSHAN Abhiyaan programmes. Secretary, SJ & WD, Tshewang Gyachho, in his brief address said that the POSHAN Abhiyaan will be successful only if it continues throughout the year. He also stressed on the importance of Aaganwadi workers towards primary children. In conclusion, he said that our responsibility towards malnourished children, pregnant mothers and lactating mothers is not over until each house is free of malnutrition and it should continue throughout the year. Principal Director, Social Justice and Welfare Department, Phuchung Bhutia, gave a brief highlight on activities of POSHAN Maah through a power point presentation. Assistant Director, Nutrition



Cell, Social Justice and Welfare Department, Smt. Jyotsna Khatiwada, talked about ingredients and composition of special food for SAM (Severely Acute Malnutrition) children. Brand Ambassador, Olympian, Padmashree and Arjuna Awardee, Tarundeep Rai, expressed heartfelt gratitude on being the brand ambassador of POSHAN Maah. He congratulated all the members of ICDS centres and SJ & WD in Sikkim. At the onset of the programme, a short video on key message on nutrition was given through audio and video display, Distribution of token to the Minister and guest from line department by Secretary, SJ and WD. A recipe booklet named "Healthier Today" was also released. During the programme, Awards were also handed out to various individuals for their participation on POSHAN Maah events throughout the year. The individual awards for innovative ideas undertaken by functionaries of ICDS are as follows: CDPO, Chungthang, Sonam

Lhaden Lachungpa, for paragliding activities during open ceremony of POSHAN Maah and spreading awareness of POSHAN Maah in the concerned area; Assistant Director, Nutrition Cell, SJ & WD, Jyotsna Khatiwara for formulation of Poshilo Pithe and Documentary on POSHAN; Principal, AWTC, Sangay Tshering Bhutia, for POSHAN Ki Baat, (Short video and audio); District Co-ordinator, POSHAN Abhiyaan, East, Pranay Sharma, for Food Donation Drive; AWW, Rabong, AWC, Smt. Sarala Gurung, for Poshilo Aadhar Initiative. The Team Awards for Innovative Ideas were as follows: Chungthang Tribal Project for leadership, convergence, innovation, interventions, use of technologies and digital platform, identification of SAM and MAM; Urban Slum Project for the same; Jorethang Rural Project for the same. The programme had the presence of Zilla Adhyaksha, East, Samsher Rai, Deputy Mayor, GMC, Tshering Palden Bhutia, and other dignitaries.

Namdapha Butterfly Meet spots 212 species in 3 days



PRITAM LAMA
GYALSHING, 30 SEPT:

Sikkim's "Butterfly Whisperer" Nawang G Bhutia, and butterfly expert Dr Monsoon Jyoti Gogoi, teamed up a chief resource persons to guide enthusiasts from eight states who had signed up for the 4th edition of Namdapha Butterfly Meet held in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh earlier this week. They hosted a successful meet, and when it ended on 28 Sept, 212 species of butterfly had been spotted and documented. Students from RGU, JNC Pasighat, IGGC Tezu, Arunachal University of Studies Namsai, Namdapha Degree College Miao and NERIST, were among the participants, it is informed. This time, more students from Changlang and other districts of Arunachal

attended, which is being seen as a major success since one of the driving ideas behind the meet was to generate wider awareness at the local level to reinforce conservation efforts. From nature walks, to talks on butterflies and conservation were held over the three days at the Deban Camp of Namdapha Tiger Reserve in Changlang. Organizing secretary, Minom Pertin, and his teammate, Roshan Upadhaya, have expressed happiness with the response to the meet which had participants from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Sikkim, West Bengal, Chattisgarh, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The event concluded with a cleanliness drive, jointly organised by Namdapha Butterfly Meet organising team, NEIFM Pasighat and Namdapha local authority.

Sikkim girls start U-19 cricket tournament on winning note



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 SEPT:

The Under-19 Women's One Day Tournament has begun, and Sikkim played its first match today against Jammu & Kashmir at the Railways Stadium, Bhubaneswar, winning the match by 3 wickets in just 28 overs, earning 4 points. J&K won the toss and elected to bat first and were all out for 78 runs in 35.4 overs. Sikkim's attacking bowling line-up tore through the J&K team with Dikcha Gurung scalping three, Samayita Roy Proddhan taking 2 wickets and Nur Pandi Lepcha bagging one more. "Special congratulations to our under-19 women's team who won against a big team like J&K. Brilliant performances by Samayita and Dikcha. SICA family is delighted with your magnificent triumph," Sikkim Cricket Association president, Lobzang G Tenzing, has conveyed. In the chase, Sikkim batters made short work

of total and won the match in 28 overs, losing 7 wickets. Samayita scored 30, Dikcha 10 and Pranita Chhettri 9. Sikkim will be playing

a total of five matches in Odisha in the Plate Division - against Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

APPEAL OF CHIEF MINISTER PREM SINGH TAMANG ON SAFAI ABHIYAAN ON THE OCCASION OF GANDHI JAYANTI

अपील

हाम्रो देश भारतले अंग्रेजको दासत्वबाट स्वतन्त्रता प्राप्त गरेको 75औं वर्षगाँठको अवसरमा राष्ट्रव्यापी रूपमा "आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव" पालन भैरहेछ। यस महत् कार्यमा सिक्किम राज्य पनि देशसित सम्पूर्ण स्तरबाट सहभागी भइरहेछ। हामीलाई हाम्रो देशप्रति गर्व छ अनि देशभक्तिको अटुट भावनालाई सदैव अटल राख्ने प्रतिबद्धताका साथ हामी राष्ट्रको उन्नती र समृद्धिको दिशामा योगदान पुर्‍याउँदै अघि बढिरहेछौं। महात्मा गान्धीले भन्नुभएको छ, स्वच्छता राजनीतिक स्वतन्त्रताभन्दा अधिक जरुरी विषय हो अनि यदि कोई व्यक्ति स्वच्छ छैन भने उ स्वस्थ रहन सक्दैन।मानव जीवनलाई स्वच्छ अनि सुन्दर राख्नका निम्ति स्वच्छता अत्यन्त आवश्यक अनि अनिवार्य कुरा हो। घर-परिसरको स्वच्छताले वातावरणमार्फत नभएर प्रत्येक मानिसको शारीरिक साथै मानसिक सोचमा परिवर्तन ल्याउँदछ। राज्यलाई स्वच्छ अनि प्लास्टिक मुक्त बनाउन हामी सबै सचेत र सजग हुन आवश्यक छ। विवेकशील भएर हामी यस अभियानमा अघि बढौं र यत्रतत्र छरिएका प्लास्टिकहरु बटुलेर एकत्रित गर्ने अभियानमा सहभागी बन्न म सर्वसाधारणलाई अपील गर्दछु। त्यसैले, आदरणीय सिक्किमेली जनसमुदाय म सबैसित आगामी 2 अक्टोबर राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गान्धीजीको जन्म जयन्तीको अवसरमा वाईदेखि ब्लक, ब्लकदेखि महकुमा अनि महकुमादेखि मुख्यालय स्तरसम्म सबै कार्यालय, संस्थान, सामुदायिक परिसर, बजार, नाला, झोडा, चोक तथा गल्लि सबै स्थानलाई यथा-सम्भव सफा र स्वच्छ राख्ने अभियानको निम्ति सामुहिक रूपमा निःस्वार्थ भावनाका साथ अघि आउने आह्वान गर्न चाहन्छु। किनकि, स्वच्छ वातावरण, व्यवस्थित रहनसहन र विकसित समाज आरोग्य अनि स्वस्थ जीवनशैलीको पहिलो खुड्कीलो हो। स्वस्थ जीवनशैलीलाई हामी प्रत्येकले हाम्रो दैनिक जीवनमा अपनाउन सक्दौं भने हामी निरोगी बन्नका साथै लामो आयु जीउन सक्दौं। स्वच्छ समाज साथै समाजको पहिचान हो। यसर्थ, म पुनः एकपल्ट सबैसित आगामी गान्धी जयन्तीको अवसरमा राज्यव्यापी सफाई अभियानमा सामेल भएर आफ्नो मातृभूमि सिक्किमलाई स्वच्छ, सफा अनि सुन्दर बनाउने दिशामा समर्पित बन्न आह्वान गर्न चाहन्छु।

Poshan Maah by AYUSH

GANGTOK, 30 SEPT: Poshan Maah was observed by AYUSH Stand-alone Hospitals, AYUSH Co-located facilities at all District Hospitals and at PHCs and CHCs on the theme, "Yoga and AYUSH for Nutrition," an official press release informs. AYUSH Doctors gave talks on importance of Nutrition for healthy living and how Yoga can help bring balance at mental, physical and spiritual levels. Yoga sessions were also held. The target group for this event included pregnant ladies, adolescent



girls and college students. Along with the observation at various AYUSH facilities, Doctor for Yoga

and Naturopathy was deputed as resource person for the Poshan Abhiyan programme organized

by the Social Justice and Welfare Department and by Regional Ayurveda Research Centre, Tadong.

Farewell prog for retiring officers at Sumbuk



BIKASH CHETTRI NAMCHI, 30 SEPT: School staff from Education Department under Sumbuk BAC organized farewell programme for Joint Director In-charge and Deputy Director of Education Department, South District, who are proceeding on retirement and ap-

preciation events for the best-performing ad-hoc teachers and CRC Coordinator at Turuk Secondary School Auditorium Hall today.

Joint Director Gyan Prasad Sharma was present as chief guest accompanied by DB Subba, JD, retired, as special guest, Bipen

Chandra Rai, Deputy Director, retired, principals, headmaster as well as teachers of different schools of the BAC.

Additional Director, Education Department, Sumbuk BAC, TB Rai, briefed the gathering about how the best-performing adhoc teachers were selected.



GANGTOK, 30 SEPT [PIB]: Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, is undertaking a 'Clean India' programme as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' with a view to create awareness, mobilize people and ensure their active participation leading to people's movement in respect of making India

Mangan ends Poshan Maah with appreciation and awareness

MANGAN, 30 SEPT [IPR]: The closing ceremony of Rashtriya Poshan Maah was organised by the Social Justice and Welfare Department on the theme, "Converging towards a healthy walk through life," at conference hall, Mangan, today. Dzongu MLA, Pintso Namgyal Lepcha, was present as the chief guest. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Renamit Lepcha, Tshering Pintso Lachungpa, Eden Lepcha, Gyalmu Tamang, LS Recording Studio and Tashi Lachungpa for their outstanding con-



tribution during Poshan Maah celebrations. Mangan Tribal Project, Dzongu Tribal Project and Chungthang Tribal Project were also felicitated.

The event also had

a Poshan Stall, Poshan Video, Poshan Song performed by Aanganwadi workers and Eden Lepcha and a Nepali dance presentation.

NYK to organize month-long 'Clean India' prog in Sikkim

Clean and Safe.

The programme comprising of three phases would start from 1st October and would continue till 31st October, 2021.

The major activities to be undertaken include collection & disposal of waste particularly single use plastics, village beautification including cleanliness & mainte-

nance Statues, Community Buildings, monuments etc. and cleanliness of water sources/bodies.

This programme will be organized in each district across the country during the period covering all the villages and municipalities and collecting waste particularly single used plastic materials.

On an average 5484 kg of wastes per district will be collected through this drive with the mantra of Clean India: Safe India. It is expected to become a people's movement through people's participation (Jan Bhagidari, Jan Aandolan).

Since Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, which has got presence of affil-

iated clubs in most of the villages, has been entrusted upon by the Department to implement the programme in coordination and cooperation with State & Central Govt. Departments and Agencies including Panchayati Raj Institutions, NSS, NCC, Scouts & Guides, Self Help Groups and all other stake holders.

Poshan Maah concludes in South Sikkim

NAMCHI, 30 SEPT [IPR]: The closing ceremony of Poshan Maah was held at the Namchi Municipal Council conference hall today. The program was graced by the Additional Political Secretary, Anjita Rajalim, alongside various officials.

Addressing the gathering Child Development

program Officer (South), Laxuman Tamang presented a brief report on Poshan Maah, which, he said, is a month-long program held from 01 to 30 September 2021. He added that this year, a total no of 1,197 activities were conducted successfully and competitions were held under Poshan

Maah which included essay-writing and painting.

During the program Dr Neelima Thatat (Ayush) spoke on the importance of nutrition for healthy living. She also said to practice yoga as this can help an individual to be mentally and physically fit.

Speaking during the occasion, ADC (South)

Anant Jain highlighted the various activities conducted during the Poshan Maah in the state such as Online yoga, Reduction in low birth child and various other important nutritional education.

A painting competition was also organized by the department the winners are as follows: 1st-Navin Lakhana-

dri (Namchi Boys SSS); 2nd-Hemant Pradhan (Damthang SS); 3rd-Rashmi Pradhan (Kitam SSS)

The winners of essay competition are as follows: 1st -Deepesh Tamang (Namchi Boys SSS); 2nd-Shahin Akhtari Ansari (Namchi Girls SSS); 3rd-Unish Rai (Nandu Goan SSS).

SLSA-Sikkim announces legal awareness progs from 02 Oct to 14 Nov

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 30 SEPT: Under the directions of the Acting Chief Justice of High Court of Sikkim, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, who is also Executive Chairperson, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, the SSLA, working under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), will be organizing awareness programmes on the occasion of the pan-India awareness and outreach campaign from 02 Oct to 14 Nov, 2021 as part of the "Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav" and Legal Services Week from 08 to 14 Nov, 2021.

The campaign will be launched at the National level by the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind in the presence of Chief Justice of India & Patron-in-Chief, Justice NV Ramanna, National Legal Services Authority, Judge, Justice UU Lalit, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority and Union Minister for Law & Justice, Kiren Rijiju at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 02 Oct, 2021 in the presence of Executive Chairpersons, SLSAs, Chairpersons of the High Court Legal Services Committees and Member Secretaries of all the SLSAs.

The Sikkim State Legal Services Authority has formulated a Plan of Action for one and a half month long period at the State, 04 Districts (East at Gangtok, West at Gyalshing, South at Namchi and North at Mangan) by the District Legal Services Authorities and 09 Talukas (East at Gangtok & Rangpo, West at Gyalshing & Soreng, North at Mangan & Chungthang and South at Namchi, Jorethang & Yan-

gang) by the Taluk Legal Services Committees.

Legal Aid Stalls are being set up at MG Marg Gangtok (throughout the entire above period) while at the District and Taluka level during the "Haat" days. Temporary Legal Aid Clinics are being set up in District Collectorate Offices in the 04 (four) Districts and Sub-Divisional Magistrate Offices in the 16 Sub-Divisions. Front Help Desks at the District Court premises of the 04 Districts and 09 Talukas, are also being set up. These Stalls/Clinics/Front Help Desks will be manned by the Panel Lawyers of the Sikkim SLSA, Para-Legal Volunteers of Sikkim SLSA and Officials from the Social Welfare Department and Sikkim SLSA.

The purpose of the Legal Aid Stalls will be to create general awareness about free legal aid, Lok Adalats, Mediation and assisting people who are in need of legal counseling by giving appropriate advice, preparation of relevant applications filling up legal aid forms, drafting Petitions, to guide applicants to the nearest DLSA/SLSA and for getting people connected to the Welfare Schemes of the Central/State Government. Apart from the above, various training programmes for stakeholders under the State Legal Services Authority and Panchayats through Physical/Virtual mode have been chalked out during the above period. Display of messages on free legal aid in the Variable Message Display Sign Board (VMS) in Zero Point, Near Technical Institute, Opposite Metro Point, New STNM Hospital, Paljor Stadium

and Ranipool and in Smart Pole Screen (SPS) at MG Marg, Vajra, Bojoghari and Secretariat, are also being carried out, while stickers containing messages on free legal aid is displayed in all the State Transport Buses, Bus Stops, Taxis, Taxi Stands, COVID-19 Vaccination Centres, Fair Price Shops all over Sikkim and Boards containing messages on free legal aid in the 209 Post Offices of Sikkim.

As part of other activities the Sikkim SLSA shall be providing talks in All India Radio and Doordarshan on Special Days specified by NALSA on 02 Oct, 2021 (Gandhi Jayanti), 10 Oct, 2021 (Mental Health Day), 11 Oct, 2021 (International Day of Girl Child), 15 Oct, 2021 (World Students Day), 24 Oct, 2021 (United Nations Day), 09 Nov, 2021 (Legal Services Day) and 14 Nov, 2021 (Children's Day) will be imparted by the Member Secretary, Sikkim SLSA and Panel Advocates, Quiz Competition, Debates, Walkathon and Sensitization Programme for Senior Citizens are on the cards. For anyone who desires to avail free legal aid and services (free Advocate) for conducting any Civil/Criminal cases and providing legal counseling, and also, for any queries relating to Welfare Schemes of the Central/State Government, they are requested to kindly take advantage of the various Legal Aid Stalls set up at MG Marg, Gangtok and in the Districts and Sub-Divisions, Legal Aid Clinics in the Offices of the District Collectors and SDMs and the Front Help Desks in the District Court Premises, during the above period.

SGAY review meetings conclude for East Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 30 SEPT: Meetings to review progress of Sikkim Garib Aawas Yojana (SGAY) were held at the Rhenock and Regu BACs on 29 and 30 September, a press release from Additional Political Secretary to the CM [East], Tshering Wangchuk

Lepcha, informs. With these, review meetings for SGAY in the 10 BACs under East District concluded today.

The meetings had Rhenock MLA, Bishnu Khatiwada, as chief guest accompanied by area MLA Shri KB Rai, Zilla Adhakshya [East], Shamsher Rai and other

officials, public representatives and the beneficiaries.

Apart from thanking the Chief Minister for the scheme, the beneficiaries also apprised the meeting about their grievances pertaining to connectivity and transportation, the release adds.



VIT-Vellore holds 36th annual convocation



SUMMIT REPORT Vellore, 30 Sept: Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Vellore conducted its 36th annual convocation virtually on Tuesday (28 Sept, 2021). Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthy, Director, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras took part in the convocation as chief guest and delivered the convocation address virtually.

A total of 7,569 undergraduate, postgraduate students, and research scholars graduated this year.

In his speech, Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthy urged students to dive deep into at least some of the subjects if not all during their formal education and learn how to get to the core of the concepts involved in them.

"To use a familiar Indian description, one should aim for vidwat in at least a few subjects. But how do we know which ones to do this in, which subjects are likely to be useful in one's career? Well, one cannot know this, and the curi-

ous thing is - it does not matter. What the effort itself does, irrespective of the subject is to teach one how to delve deep, how to know when one has understood the core underlying concepts well, and how to recognize when one is slowly but surely becoming a vidwan," he said.

Delivering his Presidential address, Founder and Chancellor of Vellore Institute of Technology, (VIT) Dr G Viswanathan said that out of the eligible 14 crore youth in India only 4 crores get the opportunity to go for higher education.

Listing out the challenges in higher education, Dr G Viswanathan said that shortage of teachers, low input for research, and inadequate industry linkages had made India lag behind other countries like Japan, China, South Korea, etc. "Higher education system in India is crippled with the lack of financial, academic, and administrative autonomy granted to institutions," he said.

Registration opens for Gorkha Singing Sensation

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 30 SEPT: Darjeeling-based Khoj Media Production today announced plans to organize a singing competition, Gorkha Singing Sensation Season-1, the registration process for which will begin 01 October and close on the 31st.

Addressing a press conference here this

afternoon, Khoj Media Production head, Lalit Baraily, urged all interested singers from Sikkim, the neighbouring hills and other parts of the country and abroad to take full benefit of this platform to showcase their talent. Interested participants can register at Khoj Media Production website. Mr Baraily

informs that auditions will be held in different parts of the country and the best from different regions selected for the mega audition. The organizers are offering Rs 2.5 lakh and contract for one music video to the winner, Rs 1.5 lakh for the first runner-up and Rs 1 lakh for the second runner-up.

SAATHI bolsters students with training on life-skills

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 30 SEPT: SAATHI [Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India] organized an online training on various Life Skills for government school students from 28 to 30 Sept, a press release informs. Hundred students from nine schools viz Rumtek Senior Secondary School, Sir Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School, Mangan Senior Secondary School, Damthang Secondary School, Dentam Senior Secondary School, Kaluk Senior Secondary School, Rhenock Senior Secondary School, Deorali Girl's Senior Secondary School & Burtuk Secondary School attended the training through virtual platform. "In everyday life, the development of life skills helps students to find new ways of thinking and problem solving. Rec-

ognize the impact of their actions and teaches them to take responsibility for what they do rather than blame others. Build confidence both in spoken skills and for group collaboration, cooperation, focus and Self-Control, perspective-taking, communication, critical thinking, taking on challenges and self-directed, engaged learning," the release explains. Day-One of the training featured sessions on Social Media Usage & Awareness Media by Dilu Sharma, founder/proprietor of OMG Zindagi (an entertainment media firm), and Dr Kuljan Lama, MO School Health, who conducted a Group Counseling session in which he shared case studies to help students understand different situations.

The second day cov-

ered the theme Coping with emotion, stress & Anger Management by Capt Praveen Chhetri, Mental Health Counsellor & Clinical Hypno therapist, who shared processes by which students can manage their emotions and anger. Prashant Sharma, Coordinator, Sikkim Drugs Users Forum, in turn, discussed real life cases related to substance abuse and prevention methods.

Sessions for the last day were taken by founder of Namchi Designer Candle, Smita Rai, who spoke about hobbies & interests and why everyone should have one, and founder of Maatri Disha, Ritika Chhetri, on Basic Communication Skills.

The training concluded with feedback taken through Google Form and an e-certificate was provided to the students.

Poshan maah concludes with felicitations in Soreng

GYALSHING, 30 SEPT [IPR]: The month-long Rashtriya Poshan Maah came to a cheerful end with a closing ceremony organized by the Women and Child Welfare Department at the Swarna Jayanti Ranga Manch, Soreng, today.

The program included felicitation of Anganwadi Workers for their relentless efforts in bringing awareness, es-



pecially during the pandemic. The felicitated Anganwadi workers are: Soreng (1) - Aita Maya Subba; Soreng (2) - Aruna Pradhan; Mangalbaria - Laxmi Thapa; Sombar-

ia - Kamal Maya Gurung; Rinchenpong - Kritika Kharka; Nayabazar - Saraswati Sharma, while the Best Supervisor was awarded to Chandra Kala Lucksom.

Sisters Leezum and Leepandi return from singing and acting assignments in Nepal

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 30 SEPT:

Sisters Leezum and Leepandi Lepcha are back from Nepal after wrapping up individual music videos projects there. Addressing a press conference here today, they shared that their respective assignments were wonderful learning experiences, having received as they did, the opportunity to work with Uday Sotang, Dayahang Rai and Aryan Sigdel, respected and popular names in the Nepali music and film industry.

Leezum Lepcha, who recently debuted here with the music video for Ojhal Timi, featured with popular Nepali artist, Dayahang Rai, in a new music video for, Jogi, by Uday Sotang.

While in Nepal, she also worked with another popular Nepali artist,

Aryan Sigdel, on another music video song for Uday Sotang, Oye Mori. Both music videos have been directed by Rajesh Puma Rai.

Leepandi, on the other hand, made her debut not only in the music video sector but also as a singer, having recorded with Uday Sotang for his latest song, Euta Kura. She also acted in the music video alongside Uday Sotang to go with the song. Leezum mentioned that they had met Uday and Manila Sotang during their programme in Namchi some time back where Uday Sotang expressed his desire to work with them in the near future. A month after the music video for Ojhal Timi dropped, she received a call from Uday Sotang inviting the sisters to work on his new music video projects.



She gushed that it was a dream come true to work with such an eminent and established singer like Uday Sotang.

“It was shocked when I learned that I have to work with Dayahang Rai in Jogi and I was somewhat nervous initially but he created a comfortable environment for me to give my best,” Leezum said.

She mentioned that immediately after the completion of this project, she received an offer for another music video, Oye Mori, of Uday Sotang,

where she acts with another popular artist Aryan Sigdel.

“It was really a learning experience for me to work with such established artists. This has further boosted my confidence,” she said.

Likewise, Leepandi expressed that it was an amazing learning experience for her to work with Uday Sotang and other professionals.

She mentioned that she too has received offers for singing assignments in Nepal.

Get started on the path to health!

SANJAY THAPA

Introducing “PHAMPHAL”, a brand that is dedicated to bringing the natural taste of Avocado fruit to the Indian table.

Avocado Darjeeling or Phamphal (PHAMPHAL) is a highly reputed company involved in producing a wide range of healthcare Spread, Jam & Juice products. Avocado fruit also called “superfood”. Its content twenty vitamins and minerals and have more potassium. We promotes traditional farming methods to grow and natural processing to retain their natural qualities. We are a Darjeeling based company adhering to the stringent quality control methods as well as following set standards while manufacturing our assortment. All the offerings are prepared under supervision of experts who have been associated with the industry since many years. After Darjeeling tea, the second item that is fast growing in popularity and has started dominating garden and kitchen of farmers in the hills is avocado. We work with the farmers directly to get the best quality. With a mission to make Avocado a part of consumers’ everyday Healthy life. We are focusing on building a logistics network that will help supply Darjeeling avocado fresh Jam & Spread across India.

Now more than ever, it’s important for your immune system to stay in tip-top shape during the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the best ways to stay healthy is by maintaining a nutritious diet. The coronavirus outbreak has transformed the way the world eats. During the pandemic, many have started paying more attention to their diet and looking for food to strengthen their immune system. Avocado, combined with a balanced diet and an active lifestyle, is the best ally for our body and meets our new habits.

Health-conscious consumers are eating avocados like never before during the pandemic.

We are glad to inform you about the good quality and reputation of our products. It will be our pleasure to provide you product that meet needs of consumer during the pandemic time.

Phmaphal Benefit Nutrient-rich/improved immune system/lowering cholesterol

Great for vision/heart healthy/good for skin/improved digestion/controls blood sugar/lowers blood pressure

Our mission is to make Phamphal as a world renowned product like Darjeeling Tea.

Phamphal is available at Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal, Bigbasket, Spencers and all leading retail shop in India.

You can reach me directly at 9830058408 or info@avocadoarjeeling.com.

Rotary youth launch Defeat Diabetes campaign

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 SEPT:

The Rotaract Club of Gangtok Hills, the youth wing of the Club, carried out simultaneous initiatives as part of their Defeat Diabetes campaign across the State on 29 Sept, a press release informs.

The Rotaract Club of Gangtok Hills organized the camps in partnership

with local organizations. While Tingmoo Loop Society partnered at Kabi in North Sikkim, Voice of Society Lalshore Youth Club of South Sikkim hosted the event at Tinik Chisopani under Poklok Kamrang constituency and West Genics at Gyalshing, West Sikkim.

In East Sikkim, the Club hosted the event

at MG Marg Staff Nurse Priyanka Sharma and Dr Reena Subba, both Rotarians themselves, were present as resource persons, the release adds.

Glucose Testing Camps were held at all the venues and a total of 568 samples tested on the day - 340 in East, 89 in West, 40 in North and 99 in South Sikkim.

The Glucose Test-

ing Camp is an initiative of Rotary International and RSSDI for an all India Mega Test, Track and Treat program for diabetes awareness and prevention.

The Campaign is executed all over India at the same day via different Rotaract and Rotary Clubs present in that specific geographical location.

KVK-East organizes Farmers-Scientists interaction on Climate Change

GANGTOK, 30 SEPT (PIB): Krishi Vigyan Kendra, East Sikkim, organized a Farmers-Scientist Interaction on Climate Resilient Varieties, Technologies and Practices on 28 Sept. The programme saw 86 farmers from Aho, Rumtek, Upper Lingtam, Talkharka (Regu), Rhenock villages interact with scientists and subject-experts from ICAR Sikkim Centre and KVK-East.

The programme had Joint Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Sikkim Centre, Dr Ravikant Avasthe, as chief guest.

Climate Resilient Agriculture for Ensuring Food Security comprehensively deals with important aspects of climate resilient agriculture for food security using adaptation and mitigation measures.

Climatic changes and increasing climatic variability are likely to aggravate the problem of future food security by exerting pressure on agriculture. Climate-resilient agriculture contributes to sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes, adapting and building resilience to climate change. Of the multitude of diverse abiotic and biotic stresses faced by plants in the field, water availability is widely accepted to be one of the most important constraints to crop yields.

Exposure to extreme temperatures causes detrimental effects on plant productivity and crop yields.

During the inaugural programme Joint Director, Dr Ravikant Avasthe, ICAR-Sikkim Centre, Tadong highlighted one of the critical challenges for a country’s food security is climate change and its impact in the form of extreme weather events.

Natural resource-based farming systems are the foundation for the economic growth of the farmers

and needs an integrated and multi-dimensional approach for overall sustainable agriculture and food systems in the country to minimize the risk of climate change.


Principal Scientist (Veterinary Parasitology), Dr Ram Gopal Laha, ICAR Sikkim Centre spoke on the effect of climate change and variability on the human being which seriously threatens the livelihood of farming community who depend on land for most of their needs. The Chief Guest also distributed seeds of different Rabi (winter season) vegetables to farmers.

Head In-charge, Dr JK Singh, KVK-East Sikkim gave a presentation on availability of climate resilient varieties and technologies and the related practices.

All the farmers, farm-women, rural youth and other dignitaries, staff of the Centre and KVKs

also participated in the live webcast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which he dedicated 35 numbers of climate resilient crops varieties and ICAR-National Institute for Biotic Stress Management, Raipur to the nation and distributed Green Campus Awards to the four different Agricultural Universities for the development of green campus. PM also interacted with farmers of different parts of the country. In his address, he appealed to the agriculture scientists, farmers and other stakeholders to do cumulative work to mitigate the challenges of climate change on agriculture. After the live webcast a Farmers-Scientist Interaction on “Climate Resilient Varieties, Technologies and Practices” session was also conducted.

The programme was ended with vote of thanks presented by SMS (Agronomy), Dr Manoj Kumar, KVK-East Sikkim.



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
CULTURE DEPARTMENT
MANAN KENDRA
GANGTOK- 737101, SIKKIM**

NIT No: 07/SE/CD/2021

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Superintending Engineer, Culture Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok, invites sealed tenders in percentage rate from Class II-B Contractor within the Constituency for the work detailed as under:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Value put to tender (in Rs)	Completion time (in months)	Amount of Challan/ Bank receipt for cost of tender documents (in Rs)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit @ 2.5% for issue of tender form (in Rs)	Jurisdiction of tenderers for competitive bidding
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of New Gurung Gumpa, South Sikkim.	3,18,89,020/-	24 months	50,000/-	7,97,225/-	Rangang-Yangang Constituency
2	Construction of Limboo Cultural Heritage Centre cum Mangkhim at Lower Rangang, South Sikkim.	3,20,73,001/-	24 months	50,000/-	8,01,825/-	..do..
3	Construction of Semechung Bhawan at Lamathang, West Sikkim.	2,30,93,689/-	24 months	30,000/-	5,77,342/-	Yoksam-Tashiding Constituency

TIME SHEDULE

1.Date of issue of tender documents: 04.10.2021 to 01.11.2021 (10:30 am to 4:00 pm)
2.Date of issue of tender form: 02.11.2021 (10:00 am to 04:30 pm)
3.Date of bidding and submission of tender forms & documents: 03.11.2021(10.00 am to 12:30 pm)
4.Date of opening of tender: 03.11.2021 (1:30 pm onwards)
5.Place of submission of tender and openingof the tender: Office of the Superintending Engineer, Culture Department, Manan Bhawan, Gangtok

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

1. Tender is open only to Class II-B Contractor within the territorial jurisdiction of Constituency where the works are to be executed.
2. The intending tenders/ contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The applicants would invariable be signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender documents will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDERER.
3. The applicants should enclose attested copies of the following documents along with the application.
(a) **GST Registration Certificate or relevant ARN number,**
(b) **Income Tax Clearance Certificate,**
(c) **Valid Contractor Enlistment Certificate,**
(d) **Professional Tax Clearance Certificate and**
(e) **PAN Card**
It is mandatory to produce the original validated/updated Enlistment Certificate during issue of the Tender Document for verification.
4. The prescribed non-Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the tender form) can be obtained during the period specified in “**Time schedule**” on production of **Bank receipt/challan for the given cost of tender documents from the State Bank of Sikkim** towards the cost of tender documents (non – refundable) under the receipt **Head “Cost of Tender Form”** to the Chief Accounts Officer, Culture Department.
5. Tender form will be issued on specified “**Time Schedule**” to the Contractors who have obtained the tender documents, on production of Earnest money deposited @ 2.5% of tender value **in the form of FDR/TDR/DD from any Nationalised bank within Sikkim/State bank of Sikkim** in favour of Chief Accounts Office, Culture Department, Gangtok.
6. The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the **name of the Tenderers and the name of the work** superscripted on it.
7. **The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as acceptance of the general Direction and Conditions of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST and all other Taxes. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.**
8. **Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the office of the Superintending Engineer, Culture Department, Gangtok, on the date and within the time indicated in the “Time Schedule”.**
9. In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender Documents, rate as per approved Schedule of Rate of 2020 will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
10. The work value, scope and quantum of work are subjected to change and the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. If any extra claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.
11. The Contractor shall establish a field laboratory at the construction site. It shall be mandatory to test material by the contractor at site to any other fixed by the Government for quality control purpose. The Department reserve the rights to withhold payment to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
12. Expenditure involved for material testing, cube strength of concrete, at site or in laboratories shall be borne by the contractor. The contractor shall make necessary arrangement accordingly as and when instructed to do so.
13. The contractor shall engage a Graduate/Diploma Civil Engineer (s) at the project site during the period of execution of work as per the norms prescribed in the Enlistment Rules and grade of contractors as well as requirement at site determined by Engineer-in-charge.
14. Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labourer at site.
15. The offer shall remain valid for period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the date of issue of Work Order.
16. All the Conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be part of the agreement to be entered with the Contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bill of the contractor @ 5% of the value of work done.
17. The Department reserved the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
18. The Contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e., beginning, middle and completion stage.
19. Quarrying of stone shall be allowed only from designated approval quarries.
20. **Damages to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any act of negligence and shall be made to make good of the damages.**
21. It is expected for the Tenderer/s to have inspected the site before submitting his bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
22. The contractor will have to pay all taxes and dues as applicable and notified by the State/Central Government and no claim shall be entertained in this regard whatsoever.

*Superintending Engineer
Culture Department
Gangtok*

R.O. No. 230/IPR/Pub/Classi./21-22 Date:. 30.9.2021

Collaborating Towards a Better Town

Gangtok might be clean by national standards, but it could be so much better

A massive, press release-inspired slew of safai abhiyans can be expected in about 24 hours from when this edition reaches the stands. No one can have any complaints against cleanliness, so let's all get the brooms out, iron out the khadi, and clean up that neighbourhood which should be sparkling clean already, given the gusto with which the sarkari-types have taken to safai as we celebrate Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav. And while we are at it, let us also spare an honest thought on making the towns and villages sustainably clean. Let's start with Gangtok for now.

When they experimented with MG Marg as the capital's centerpiece, the policy-makers had hoped that the litter & spit free zone would eventually encompass all of Gangtok, and if that happened, dream even bigger and extend it to all of Sikkim. The mission has succeeded to the extent that Sikkim went on to become the first Nirmal Rajya (open defecation free state) and has also bagged a Safaigiri award for its obviously better garbage management credentials than the other states of the country. But that is hardly a comparison to boast about or be satisfied with since Sikkim has the benefit of its small size and abundant finances to devote to waste management, a luxury, which say a Bihar does not enjoy. So, while the State, its government and its people deserve credit for being better, they should now aim to become really good as well.

What better place to begin than the capital itself. Gangtok remains a town of contradictions where the residents continue to live comfortably in the company of stinking jhoras which they themselves have clogged with all types of household refuse and even the occasional sewage release. Instinctive cleanliness around public spaces is thus perhaps too much to expect. Gangtokians might live in pine-wood paneled houses that they themselves rub with mansion polish every day, but are oblivious to their civic duties as they prove with clockwork regularity as the corners and roadsides continue to mimic public dustbins and the jhoras have become a study of consumption patterns. This, despite a functional garbage collection service being in place. This is unfortunate because with even a few collaborative efforts, this town could be much better. A keener sense of responsibility towards public spaces would help and the right awareness at the school level could easily address the problem of irresponsible littering. It is after all not enough to reach a garbage bag to the UD&HD trucks in the morning and then spend the rest of the day littering the town with wrappers and other refuse or surreptitiously empty septic tanks into neighbourhood jhoras.

What is required is an attitudinal shift which displays more collective consideration. Gangtok is not really a city yet, but it is already overflowing with brash disregards; house-owners are lavish with their own accommodations but cramp the floors below with pigeonholes and common toilets and bathrooms; Gangtok drivers are among the most impatient and insensitive, as are their VIP vehicles. Such mindsets, which disregard common intent or pursuits, continue to rear up in all engagements and personal aggrandisement thus becomes a driving force. An immediate fall out of this has been the noticeable rollback in aesthetic nuances. Aesthetic appeal is after all for public consumption and extravagance for personal indulgence. No prizes here for guessing which option Gangtok takes on a daily basis. Bigger cars, higher buildings and increased consumption have left Gangtok an ugly town. Take any back-lane and one will be confronted with innumerable case-studies of how private greed has encroached upon public space and convenience. The capital is exploding with private decisions thumbing their collective noses at public courtesies.

With too much ugliness already permanent in the form of concrete, the least that can be done is to leave the open spaces [which are mostly the roads and shortcuts now in Gangtok] free of litter. Maybe starting with this conscious effort, Gangtok could begin the process of becoming and town more becoming of its hill station status and more true to its cleanliness credentials.

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at **GANGTOK:**

For circulation details Contact: (Sandeep) 9734152451 & for Advertisement booking at 9933427505 or at office no 03592 208698. Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com

SILIGURI:

Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor. Opp. Ganga Hotel. Hill Cart Road.

Siliguri – 03. Ph. 9832318644/ 9800682989/ 9153035100

or mail at mani_siliguri@yahoo.co.in.

KOLKATA OFFICE:

Irshad Ali/ Imteeyaz. Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine – 2, 2nd floor. Kolkata – 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. 9830547774/ 983108397. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/ irshad_ali123@rediff-mail.com

North Korea: The Rise and Rise of ‘First Sister’ Kim Yo-jong

SOJIN LIM
THECONVERSATION.COM

When the South Korean president, Moon Jae-in, called for an end to the war on the Korea peninsula recently, the initial response was a rebuff from North Korea's vice foreign minister. This has been the standard response from Pyongyang whenever the idea has been raised of turning the 1953 armistice between the two warring Korea into an actual peace treaty.

So it was something of a surprise when, the following day, a rather warmer message emerged from Kim Yo-jong, the sister of North Korea's supreme leader, Kim Jong-un, who declared the idea “admirable”. She specified a number of pre-conditions which would need to be met, though:

“What needs to be dropped is the double-dealing attitudes, illogical prejudice, bad habits and hostile stand of justifying their own acts while faulting our just exercise of the right to self-defence.”

This is the sort of message one would usually expect to come from Kim Jong-un himself, so it prompted a round of discussion from the media's Korea watchers as to how much weight the world can give a statement from his younger sister.

WHO IS KIM YO-JONG?

The supreme leader's sister first came to international attention in 2018, when she became the first member of North Korea's Kim dynasty to visit South Korea in an official capacity. She was part of the nation's delegation to the Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, at which the two countries competed as one team. She held a meeting with President Moon and appeared in photo opportunities alongside US Vice President Mike Pence and the Japanese prime minister, Shinzo Abe.

Footage of her dominated coverage in North Korea.

Following what was reported as her diplomatic triumph at the Winter Olympics, her profile grew as she met with the Chinese president, Xi Jinping, and was present at all three face-to-face meetings between her brother and US President Donald Trump.

Little is known about Kim Yo-jong's childhood, though – even her date of birth is clouded in uncertainty. She is the youngest child of former supreme leader Kim Jong-il's relationship with Ko Yong-hui, who was originally from Japan and thus would have been regarded as being from a lower caste in Korea's complex “songbun” system if Kim Jong-il had not removed the official record about her origin. Kim Yo-jong is understood to have attended the same private school with her elder brother in Bern, Switzerland, after which she attended Kim Il-sung University in Pyongyang, where she studied computer science.

By 2009, Kim Jong-il's ill-health made the succession a matter of urgent debate and it became increasingly clear that Kim Jong-un was being groomed to take over the leadership on his death. But at Kim Jong-il's funeral, Kim Yo-jong was photographed alongside senior family members.

She has twice been elevated to the politburo, in 2017 to 2019 and 2020 to 2021. In addition, she is also a leader of the Propaganda and Agitation Department, in which capacity she has boosted the cult of personality surrounding her brother as well as making regular statements about North Korean foreign relations.

She is believed to be married to Choe Song, the younger son of the

Korean Workers' Party secretary, Choe Ryong Hae, which gives her another source of political power. HEIR APPARENT?

How much power does Kim Yo-jong actually wield? One incident from June 2020 shows the extent to which she can exercise her will in North Korea. In retaliation for South Korean defectors' use of balloons to drop propaganda leaflets into the North, she warned that she had ordered the department in charge of inter-Korean affairs to “decisively carry out the next action”, adding that: “Before long, a tragic scene of the useless north-south joint liaison office completely collapsed would be seen.”

The following day the building was blown up, suggesting that when Kim Yo-jong orders something, it happens.

Another interesting episode can cast some light over power relations between herself and her brother. In March 2020, Kim Yo-jong issued her first official statement, lashing out at South Korea's presidential office, the so-called Blue House, which had called on the North to halt its live fire exercises. She referred to the leadership as “a mere child” and “a burnt child dreading fire”.

Two days later Kim Jong-un sent a message of condolence over the outbreak of COVID-19 in the South. This “underlined his unwavering friendship and trust toward President Moon and said that he will continue to quietly send his best wishes for President Moon to overcome”. The message had Korea watchers confused as to whether the siblings were at loggerheads over North-South relations or whether this was a display of “good cop-bad cop” diplomacy.

This is a family where many of

the possible male contenders for power have been executed or assassinated – including Kim Jong-nam, Kim Jong-un's half brother who was murdered with the nerve agent VX at Kuala Lumpur airport in Malaysia in 2017; and his uncle, Jang Song-thaek, who was reportedly executed by firing squad in 2013 after being accused of being a counter-revolutionary. So the status of Kim Yo-jong's relationship with her brother is as scrutinised as Kim Jong-un's physical health when it comes to if – and when – she might be in a position to challenge for ultimate power in North Korea.

In North Korea, it seems that to achieve the leadership it's necessary to seize the grip of the trinity power of the military, party and people. Both Kim Jong-il and Kim Jong-un became leading figures of the National Defence Commission (NDC) – the military – as well as the party through the Korean Workers' Party (KWP). They had both developed their cult of personality, giving them access to the people.

Kim Yo-jong may have achieved name recognition in her capacity as a spokesperson on foreign relations and has access to power in the KWP. But she has not yet been appointed to a position at the NDC. If that happens any time soon, it might be a sign that North Korea is preparing for its first woman leader.

[The writer is Senior Lecturer in Korean Studies, North Korean Studies MA & Asia Pacific Studies MA Courses Leader, Deputy Director of the International Institute of Korean Studies, University of Central Lancashire]

Being Good at Maths Might Help You Become Great at Sports – Emma Raducanu Showed Us Why

LAURENCE SHAW
THECONVERSATION.COM

Following her triumph in the recent US Open tennis tournament, Emma Raducanu was interviewed by Chinese media outlet CGTN and revealed that maths was her favourite subject at school. Raducanu told the interviewer she was “a numbers person” and really enjoyed the problem-solving aspect. The tennis player, who recently received an A* at A-level, said she loved working on maths puzzles which, she said, gave her a thrill to solve.

Her passion for maths follows in the footsteps of Britain's last US Open winner in the women's singles, Virginia Wade. Wade is also a keen mathematician, picking up a maths degree from the University of Sussex in 1966. This coincidence may spark questions about whether mathematical ability is useful for elite sportspeople, especially in tennis.

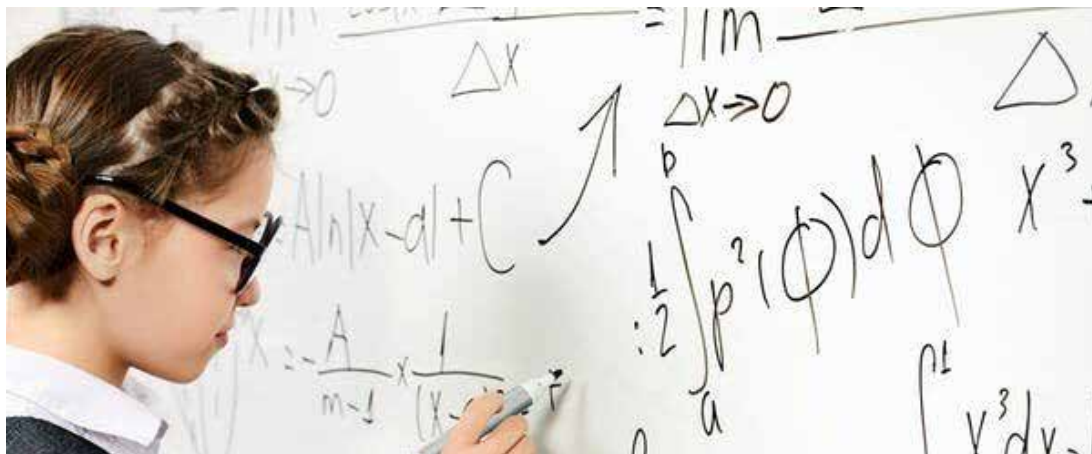
Sport and maths are very different activities, but some aspects of the mindset required to be successful in maths or sport can certainly help you to achieve success in the other.

Let's consider the hard skills that we may associate with both maths and tennis. Hard skills can be thought of as the technical, physical, or knowledge expertise that we bring to a given task. In this case we may think of mathematicians (as well as physicists) as being good with angles or able to understand how spin may affect a tennis ball.

This often is the case, – but calculating angles or calculating how a tennis ball may spin or bounce on different court types while in the comfort of a classroom or office is quite a different beast to the split-second decisions that tennis players have to make about angle and spin as the ball comes hurtling towards them at speeds of over 100mph.

There are certainly interesting aspects in a game of tennis for mathematicians to study and it is important for players to understand how spin and bounce may be affected in different conditions. But the way in which the mathematician and tennis player go about their work here is very different and the crossover of skills seems minimal in this sense.

Instead, we may wish to think about the soft skills that studying maths may provide us with. Soft skills are harder to define but loosely relate to personality traits such as creativity, communication, leadership, and mentality that contribute to our success. They are also an increasingly im-



portant part of the higher education curriculum, in mathematics and beyond, as educators try to prepare students for the job market after their degree. Two soft skills in particular stand out as connecting mathematicians to elite athletes, especially tennis players.

PROBLEM SOLVING

Problem solving is listed in almost every list of soft skills, be that from the job market or in education literature, and is the most obvious connection between maths and tennis. Maths is essentially a series of problems that mathematicians try to solve, and this can help with our problem solving skills in life. This could be simple arithmetic at a young age, going all the way up to the Millennium Prize Problems that the very best modern mathematicians are desperately trying to solve in order to claim a \$1 million prize.

In tennis, problem solving truly is a buzz phrase and there are countless interviews with players, such as this example from the recent US Open, in which players discuss their efforts in trying to solve the problem or puzzle set by their opponent. Raducanu even mentions it herself in the CGTN interview. This is not just limited to tennis though, almost all sports contain a problem-solving aspect, as shown in this research highlighting examples in combat sports and rugby.

RESILIENCE

This is the big one. In maths this has been defined as a stance “that enables pupils to continue learning despite finding setbacks”. At almost any level in maths, we will eventually come across a problem that we struggle to solve or get wrong first time. The ability to persevere and try new techniques and to not simply give up is fundamental in becoming a successful mathematician.

This is a huge issue on a global scale, with studies on Welsh A-Level students and Indone-

sian high school students providing just two of many examples from 2021 alone of research looking to further understand how to develop resilience among maths students. From a sporting perspective, developing resilience and understanding what affects resilience among athletes is also a major area of current research interest.

In this sense, Radacanu has truly excelled. Winning the US Open in the aftermath of her early exit in her first Wimbledon tournament and the subsequent criticism that came her way showed a level of resilience that is far beyond the capabilities of almost all of us.

CROSSOVER SKILLS

Previous research has suggested that early achievements in physical activity and mathematics are related at a young age. The evidence given above of how problem solving and resilience are vital to both higher level mathematics and professional sport indicates that this relationship continues to some extent as we get older.

These crossover skills have brought Raducanu success in both fields. She does not just possess the ability to problem solve and the resilience to overcome adversity, she has honed those skills to an incredibly high level. Raducanu may have the ingredients needed to become a great mathematician (although we may never know), but she also has so much more than that.

Physical fitness, a strong work ethic, and the ability to make decisions within a second or two of her opponent making their play put her skill set on a completely different level to a mere mathematician like this author. Being good at maths has not made her a great tennis player, but it's possible that some of the skills she has learned through maths have helped her along, in small ways.

[The writer is Lecturer in Mathematics, Nottingham Trent University]

Odisha logs 602 fresh COVID-19 cases, 6 new fatalities

BHUBANESWAR, SEP 30 (PTI): Odisha's COVID-19 caseload on Thursday surged to 10,26,476 as 602 people, including 96 children and adolescents, tested positive for the virus while six new fatalities pushed the coronavirus death toll to 8,198, a health department official said.

The state on Wednesday, Tuesday and Monday had reported 565, 545 and 585 cases respectively.

The rate of infection among children and adolescents in the age group of 0 to 18 years now is 15.94 per cent, he said.

With detection of 602 new cases from 68,254 samples tested on Wednesday, the test positivity rate (TPR) dropped to 0.88 per cent from 0.96 per cent the previous day. The TPR was 1.03 per cent on Tuesday.

While 353 cases were reported from quarantine centres, the remaining 249 were local contacts. Khurda district reported the highest 283 cases followed by Cuttack at 54. These two districts



accounted for 50.33 per cent of the fresh infections. Six districts reported zero cases.

The Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said of six new deaths - Khurda and Kendrapara reported two fatalities each while Angul and Jagatsinghpur one each.

This apart, 53 other COVID-19 patients have also died in the state

due to comorbidities. Odisha currently has 5,642 active COVID-19 cases while 10,12,583 patients including 467 on Wednesday, have recovered from the highly infectious disease.

Odisha has thus far conducted over 1.99 crore sample tests including 68,254 on Wednesday. The state's positivity rate stands at

5.14 per cent, he said.

As the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to continue for some more time, the Odisha Government has planned to develop 6, 20 and 50 bedded pre-fab structure at different health care facilities across the state under the Emergency COVID Response Plan-II, to deal with future exigencies, official sources said.

The state's Works

Department has written to Chief Engineer (Buildings) to take immediate steps for execution of the project in consultation with National Health Mission (NHM) Odisha and Health and Family Welfare Department.

NHM, Odisha Director Shalini Pandit has maintained that the project should be completed well before March 31, 2022.

Odisha's Pipili records 7.8 per cent voting till 9 am



PIPILI (ODISHA), SEP 30 (PTI): Around 7.8 per cent voting was recorded in the by-election to the Pipili assembly seat in Odisha's Puri district, till 9 am on Thursday, Election Commission sources said.

People were seen standing in queues outside the polling booths, where markings have been drawn on the

ground to enable voters to maintain social distancing.

Polling will continue till 6 pm.

The administration has deployed close to 2,000 security personnel to ensure peaceful voting in Pipili, which has a history of poll violence.

Nearly 2.30 lakh voters will decide the

fate of 10 candidates, including the ruling BJD's Rudrapratap Maharath, Ashrit Pattnaik of the BJP and Congress nominee Bishwakeshan Harichandan Mohapatra.

The by-election was necessitated following the death of BJD MLA Pradeep Maharathy in October last year.

Votes will be counted on October 3.

COVID batters Mizoram, active cases shoot to 16,481

AIZAWL, SEP 30 (PTI): Mizoram reported 1,741 new coronavirus infections on Thursday, taking the number of active cases to 16,841, officials said.

Among the new patients were 304 children, they said.

One more person died of COVID-19 in the state in the last 24 hours, pushing the toll to 307.

Mizoram, one of the worst affected states during the second wave of the pandemic, has so far reported 93,660 COVID-19 cases. The state's total population is around 11 lakh (2011 census).

The single-day posi-

tivity rate was 18.44 per cent as the fresh cases were detected after testing 9,440 samples, officials said.

Aizawl reported the highest number of new cases at 915, followed by Champhai district (388) and Lunglei district (117), they said.

So far, 76,512 people have recovered from the infection in the state.

Aizawl also has the highest number of active cases at 11,649, followed by Siaha (1,078) and Lunglei (925).

A total lockdown was imposed in Saitual town amid a rising number of cases. The lockdown, imposed on Wednesday



evening, will be in place till 7 pm on October 6, as per a notification issued by the district magistrate.

Saitual district has the least number of active cases at 32.

Mizoram's recovery rate is 81.69 per cent and the death rate is 0.32 per

cent.

According to immunisation officer Dr Lalzawmi, 4.36 lakh people have been fully vaccinated in the state till Wednesday. Health Minister R Lalthangliana said that RT-PCR laboratories would be set up in all the

districts of the state.

Mizoram has only one RT-PCR laboratory at Zoram Medical College (ZMC), the lone dedicated COVID hospital in the state, near Aizawl.

Arunachal Pradesh reports 128 new COVID-19 cases

ITANAGAR, SEP 30 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh reported 128 fresh COVID-19 cases, the highest single-day infection in the past one month, pushing the virus tally in the northeastern state to 54,572, a senior health official said here on Thursday.

Lohit district reported the highest number of fresh cases at 44, followed by Tawang (35) and Lower Dibang Valley (15), the official said.

The COVID-19 death toll in the state increased to 276 after an 89-year-old man from West Kameng district succumbed to the disease on Wednesday while undergoing treatment at a health facility here, State Surveillance Officer Dr Lobsang Jampa said.

Twenty-five more people recuperated from the disease on Wednesday taking

the total number of COVID-19 recoveries in the frontier state to 53,856, the official said.

Arunachal Pradesh currently has 440 active COVID-19 cases.

The COVID-19 recovery rate in the state remained at 98.69 per cent while the active percentage stood at 0.81, the SSO said.

Lohit district has the highest number of active cases at 79, followed by Tirap (66), Tawang (62),

West Kameng (46) and Lower Dibang Valley district (45).

As many as 11,43,159 samples have been tested for COVID-19 so far, including 2,714 on Wednesday, Jampa said adding, the positivity ratio in the state stands at 4.71 per cent.

According to State Immunisation Officer Dr Dimong Padung, a total of 11,72,498 people have been inoculated thus far in the state.

Bhabanipur records 7.57 per cent polling till 9 am

KOLKATA, SEP 30 (PTI): Around 7.57 per cent polling was recorded in the by-election to the Bhabanipur assembly constituency, where West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is contesting, till 9 am on Thursday, Election Commission sources said.

During the first two hours, around 16.32 and 17.51 per cent voting was recorded in Samserganj and Jangipur seats in Murshidabad district, they said.

Polling began at 7 am

amid tight security.

A total of 6,97,164 voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in the three constituencies.

Votes will be counted on October 3.

Banerjee, who lost from the Nandigram constituency in the assembly elections earlier this year, has to win this by-poll to retain the chief minister's post.

Polls had to be countermanded in Jangipur and Samserganj in April following the death of two candidates.



Long queues were seen since early morning outside several booths across the constituencies. Voting will continue till 6 pm.

Banerjee, who is also the Trinamool Congress supremo, is pitted against BJP's Priyanka Tibrewal and CPI(M)'s Sri-jib Biswas in Bhabanipur.



SummitTIMES

Sikkim SCAN | CapitalTIMES | Neighbourhood WATCH | Sports & Specials | ElenWhere | EICETERA

*It's easy to relax...
When you can trust the News.*

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at

GANGTOK:
For circulation details Contact: +91-9749877693, +91-9647702692
& for Advertisement booking at +91-9933427908 or at office no 03592
200478. Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com
SILIGURI:
Mr. Mani Rai, H/o. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st
floor, Opp. Banga Hotel, Hill Cart Road, Siliguri - 03. Ph. +91-9832318644/
9806829891/9103035100 or mail at mani_silguri@yahoo.co.in.
KOLKATA OFFICE:
Irrahad Ali/ Irteeyaz, Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Marine - 2, 2nd floor, Kolkata -
700072. Ph. 033-22124144/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. +91-9030547774/ +91-
9037082977. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/irahad_a1123@rediffmail.com

Phone
03592-208698
+91-9832556698
+91-9832060753

www.summittimes.com
news@summittimes.com
summittimes16@gmail.com
advertise@summittimes.com

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

VIDEO NEWS SECTION



visit us at: www.summittimes.com

12 Indians make finals of ISSF Junior World Championship

NEW DELHI, SEP 30 (PTI): Twelve Indian shooters qualified for the final round in their respective events on the opening day of the Junior World Championship in Lima, Peru.

Qualification rounds of six individual events, all Olympic disciplines, took place on Wednesday and the finals are scheduled to be held later on Thursday, where India is expected to fetch at least four gold medals in the corresponding team events.

Rudranksh Patil, Dhanush Srikanth and Paarth Makhija made it to the junior men's 10m Air Rifle finals with scores of 630.2, 629.6 and 629.2 respectively in the qualification round, finishing overall second, third and fourth with top eight making the cut.

Similarly in the junior women's 10m Air Rifle event, Mehuli Ghosh led a trio of Indians into the finals. Her 630.9 was overall third while Ramita shot 629.8 and Nisha Kanwar 629.1 to make it through in fourth and fifth positions respectively.

In the junior men's 10m Air Pistol, Naveen topped the standings with a score of 584 to make the finals cut. Sarabjot Singh also shot the same score to finish second on lesser inner 10s. Vijayveer Sidhu was the third Indian to make it through, finishing fourth with a score of 581.

Rhythm Sangwan was the best Indian in the junior women's 10m Air Pistol event, finishing second with a score of 577.

Celebrated Manu Bhaker qualified in third place with 574 while Esha Singh shot 572 to qualify in overall fifth position.

In the junior men's and women's skeet competition, two round of qualification are yet to be played before the top six move into the finals.

DEAR READERS, IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING YOUR COPY OF THE SUMMIT TIMES IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD, PLEASE MESSAGE OR WHATSAPP US YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AT 9832556698 AND WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE NEWSPAPER REACHES YOU.

Record-breaker Ronaldo scores late winner for United in CL

MANCHESTER, SEP 30 (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo removed his Manchester United jersey, flexed his muscular physique and soaked in the acclaim of the fans after his winning goal in the fifth minute of stoppage time. Not a bad way for the Portugal superstar to mark another record-breaking night in the Champions League.

On his record 178th appearance in the competition, Ronaldo made his most decisive intervention with virtually the last kick of the game at Old Trafford to complete United's dramatic comeback in a 2-1 victory over Villarreal on Wednesday.

After winning a header from a hopeful cross into the area, Ronaldo showed his sprightliness at the age of 36 by then reacting to a loose ball after a touch by substitute Jesse Lingard and shooting underneath Villarreal goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli from a narrow angle.

"It's just what he has done throughout his career," United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said.

"He is so strong mentally. He stays in the game. I have seen him all day, the way he has worked, built himself up for this game and how focused he has been.

"And when he gets that one chance, it's a goal."

Old Trafford erupted, with sprint great Usain



Bolt draped in a red-and-white United scarf among the home supporters celebrating as chants of "Viva Ronaldo" swept around the stadium.

It was Ronaldo's fifth goal in five games since joining from Juventus for a second spell at United, and definitely his most important.

Oh, and make that 136 goals in the Champions League a record, naturally.

That Ronaldo had a quiet game, by his standards, might get overlooked because of his late goal.

"A true mark of a very, very good finisher that he keeps calm when the

chance arrives," Solskjaer said.

Where would Solskjaer be without Ronaldo? It was looking like another chastening result for the Norwegian coach, who was starting to come under pressure with United having started Group F with a shocking 2-1 loss at Swiss outsider Young Boys and then losing back-to-back games at Old Trafford on the domestic front one in the Premier League and another to get eliminated from the English League Cup.

Villarreal looked like handing United a second straight group loss by going in front in the 53rd through Paco Alcac-

er, who poked in a finish through the legs of United goalkeeper David De Gea following a cross by Arnaut Danjuma.

United had been outplayed by that point. Danjuma had the beating of right back Diogo Dalot time and again down Villarreal's left, and it was only the brilliance of De Gea who produced acrobatic saves to deny Alcacer and Danjuma in the first half that kept the Spanish team at bay.

"He saved us tonight, we have to be realistic about that," Solskjaer said of a goalkeeper he called "the best in the world."

It needed an outrageous strike by Alex Tell-

es to bring United level seven minutes after Villarreal's goal.

Picked out by a pinpoint cross from Bruno Fernandes at a free kick, the Brazilian left back took a step back at the edge of the area and struck a first-time volley that swerved inside the far post.

Away from the drama surrounding Ronaldo's winning goal, it was another below-par performance from United, with the makeup of its midfield again a big problem area. Scott McTominay was the holding midfielder with Paul Pogba and Fernandes ahead of him and he got isolated, unable to stop

Villarreal's incisive counterattacks in the first half.

There was no pattern or coherence to United's attacking play, with Jadon Sancho again disappointing.

Solskjaer also had to deploy a virtually second-string defense because of injuries to Harry Maguire and Luke Shaw and the suspension of Aaron Wan-Bissaka for a red card against Young Boys.

There were errors aplenty at the back, and it was a night to forget, in particular, for Dalot the replacement for Wan-Bissaka.

"When you look back, you have to separate the final result and how well we played," said Villarreal coach Unai Emery, whose team opened the group with a 2-2 home draw against Atalanta.

"It's a results game," he added.

"It's the result that counts."

The result broke a run of four straight 0-0s between the teams in Champions League play, dating back to pairs of group matches in both 2005 and 2008.

The teams also met in the Europa League final in May, with Villarreal winning a penalty shootout following a 1-1 draw.

Ronaldo wasn't playing for United then, though. Now he is already proving a difference-maker.

We don't play blame game in our franchise, says RR Team Director Sangakkara

DUBAI, SEP 30 (PTI): Kumar Sangakkara doesn't believe in blame game as both success and failure is collective in nature, Rajasthan Royals Team Director said after another disappointing performance from his team which seriously dented their IPL play-off hopes.

Royals after the Delhi Capitals game put up another shoddy batting performance that saw Royal Challengers Bangalore cantered to victory. Royals are now seventh in eight-team table.

"We don't play the blame game in our franchise. We win together, we lose together. We haven't done well enough, haven't been smart enough with our batting and we all know that. The players know it. So, we'll try to keep things simple, focus on training and how we plan to execute what we've spoken about," Sangakkara said at the post-match media conference.

"We always keep things simple. There's a lot of pressure on players that they put on themselves. In the game itself, there's a lot of pressure," Sangakkara added.

For Sangakkara, his job is to guide the team rather than putting more burden on them.

"My job is not to add to that but guide them (on) how to deal with it and come up with their best performances," he said.

To manage highs and lows require different perspective feels Sangakkara.

"There's many ways that you manage the highs of wins and disappointments of a loss and be able to keep yourself calm and focus on what needs to be done.

"At times like this, it's very easy to be dejected and break up into little groups where murmurings can start but our group has held together really well," added the Sri Lankan batting great.

The former Sri Lankan wicket-keeper also praised skipper Sanju Samson, saying he will be selected in the national team for a longer run

"Yeah, we do have one-on-one chats on a lot of things. And when we do talk cricket, India aspirations come at a time when the IPL is over. And our chats are very-much IPL-focused. Not just his (Samson's) batting but about captaincy, about the team and how we are playing," Sangakkara added.

Samson, who has scored 452 runs this season, is the leading run-getter for his franchise.

"He (Samson) is a very good player, a very special player. He has done exceptionally well for us this season. And I am sure that he has aspirations to play for India and, at some point, I think he will be selected for a longer run. He is good and ready at any-time that he is picked, Sangakkara signed off.

Mandhana scores fluent fifty as India reach 101/1 vs Australia at Dinner break

GOLD COAST, SEP 30 (PTI): Smriti Mandhana was elegance personified during her sublime unbeaten half-century as India made a solid start, reaching 101 for 1 at the dinner break on the first day of their one-off Day/Night pink ball Test against Australia here on Thursday. Mandhana, who peppered the off-side field repeatedly with some gorgeous shots to reach 64 off 112 balls with 13 boundaries, added 93 for the opening stand with Shafali Verma (31 off 64 balls), who played the second fiddle during their partnership.

The Australian team's decision to field first after laying a green strip for the visitors did seem to backfire as Mandhana attacked them straightaway during the first hour of play.

In fact, it was a case of role reversal which perhaps caught the Aus-



tralians off-guard as Shafali was more intent on playing defensive game as her senior partner attacked with great gusto.

Debutant Darcie Brown got some special punishment as Mandhana hit her for a number of boundaries both on the off-side as well as a

few whip shots on the leg-side.

Ellyse Perry also took a few overs to find the right length as the elegant left-hander reached her run-a-ball fifty in no time with a cover drive of Tahlia McGrath.

Whenever Mandhana bisected between point

and cover or cover or mid-off, it was the most pleasant sight.

In case of Shafali, she did hit four boundaries but also looked a bit scratchy having offered a couple of chances -- one to McGrath at mid-off.

Mandhana's innings had two parts -- while the first fifty came at break neck speed, the

Annabel Sutherland stationed at mid-on.

Finally she was gone trying to hit left-arm spinner Sophie Molineux against the turn and offered a sitter to McGrath at mid-off.

Mandhana's innings had two parts -- while the first fifty came at break neck speed, the

next 14 runs took 62 deliveries as she played the defensive game till lunch in the company of Punam Raut (1 batting).

Brief Scores: India 1st Innings 101/1 in 33 overs (Smriti Mandhana 64 batting, Shafali Verma 31; Sophie Molineux 1/18) vs Australia.

IOC announce Beijing Olympics will not allow foreign spectators

BEIJING, SEP 30 (AP): A 21-day quarantine for non-fully vaccinated athletes, officials and workers will be in force at the 2022 Beijing Olympics, the IOC said.

Daily testing for vaccinated people and no tickets will be sold to anyone living outside China as Olympic venues open their doors again.

Restrictions imposed to

control the COVID-19 pandemic at the next Winter Games in February were announced on Wednesday by the International Olympic Committee.

While not imposing a vaccine mandate, organizers in Beijing plan stricter rules than applied at the Tokyo Olympics where vaccination was advised though not demanded within a strict regime of testing.

"Games participants who are not fully vaccinated will have to serve a 21-day quarantine upon arrival in Beijing," the IOC said in a statement.

Olympic athletes can ask to avoid quarantine, the IOC said, for a "justified medical exemption" - a phrase that appeared to exclude ideological objections to vaccines.

It will be the second



straight Olympics during the pandemic where families of

athletes cannot visit the host country to watch the events.

Ecuador declares prison emergency after 116 killed in riot

QUITO, ECUADOR (AP): Ecuador's president has declared a state of emergency in the prison system following a battle among gang members in a coastal lockup that killed at least 116 people and injured 80 in what authorities say was the worst prison bloodbath ever in the country. Officials said at least five of the dead were found to have been beheaded.

President Guillermo Lasso decreed a state of emergency Wednesday, which will give the government powers that include deploying police and soldiers inside prisons. The order came a day after bloodshed at the Litoral penitentiary in Guayaquil that officials blamed on gangs linked to international drug cartels fighting for control of the facility.

Lasso, visibly moved by the carnage, said at a news conference that what had happened in the prison was "bad and sad." He also said he could not guarantee that authorities had regained control of the lockup.

"It is regrettable that the prisons are being turned into territories for power disputes by criminal gangs," he said, adding that he would act with "absolute firmness" to regain control of the Litoral prison and prevent the violence from spreading to other penitentiaries.



ries.

Images circulating on social media showed dozens of bodies in the prison's Pavilions 9 and 10 and scenes that looked like battlefields. The fighting was with firearms, knives and bombs, officials said. Earlier, regional police commander Fausto Buenaño had said that bodies were being found in the prison's pipelines.

Outside the prison morgue, the relatives of inmates wept, with some describing to reporters the cruelty with which their loved ones were killed, decapitated and dismembered.

"In the history of the coun-

try, there has not been an incident similar or close to this one," said Ledy Zúñiga, the former president of Ecuador's National Rehabilitation Council.

Zúñiga, who was also the country's minister of justice in 2016, said she regretted that steps had not been taken to prevent another massacre following deadly prison riots last February.

Earlier, officials said the violence erupted from a dispute between the "Los Lobos" and "Los Choneros" prison gangs.

Col. Mario Pazmiño, the former director of Ecuador's military intelligence, said the

bloody fighting shows that "transnational organized crime has permeated the structure" of Ecuador's prisons, adding that Mexico's Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation cartels operate through local gangs.

"They want to sow fear," he told The Associated Press on Wednesday, urging the government to temporarily cede control of the prisons to the National Police. "The more radical and violent the way they murder," the more they achieve their goal of control, he added.

Ecuador's president said that care points had been set

up for relatives of the inmates with food and psychological support. He added that a \$24 million program to address the country's prisons will be accelerated, starting with investments in infrastructure and technology in the Litoral prison.

The former director of Ecuador's prison bureau, Fausto Cobo, said that inside penitentiaries authorities face a "threat with power equal to or greater than the state itself." He said that while security forces must enter prisons with shields and unarmed, they are met by inmates with high-caliber weapons.

In July, the president decreed another state of emergency in Ecuador's prison system following several violent episodes that resulted in more than 100 inmates being killed. Those deaths occurred in various prisons and not in a single facility like Tuesday's massacre.

Previously, the bloodiest day occurred in February, when 79 prisoners died in simultaneous riots in three prisons in the country. In July, 22 more prisoners lost their lives in the Litoral penitentiary, while in September a penitentiary center was attacked by drones leaving no fatalities.

NKorea's Kim seeks better ties with South, but slams US

SEOUL, SEP 30 (AP): North Korea leader Kim Jong Un expressed his willingness to restore stalled communication lines with South Korea in early October to promote peace while shrugging off U.S. offers for dialogue as "cunning ways to conceal its hostility against the North, state media reported Thursday.

Kim's statement is an apparent effort to drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington as he wants South Korea to help him win relief from crippling U.S.-led economic sanctions and other concessions. Pyongyang this month has offered conditional talks with Seoul alongside its first missile firings in six months and stepped-up criticism of the United States.

The U.N. Security Council scheduled an emergency closed meeting on Thursday at the request of the United States, United Kingdom and France on North Korea's recent tests.

During a speech at his country's rubber-stamp parliament on Wednesday, Kim said the restoration of cross-border hotlines which have been largely dormant for more than a year would realize the Korean people's wishes for a peace between the two Koreas, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

Kim still accused South Korea of being bent on begging external support and cooperation while clamoring for international cooperation in servitude to the U.S., rather than committing to resolving the matters independently between the Koreans.

Kim repeated his powerful sister Kim Yo Jong's calls for Seoul to abandon double-dealing attitude and hostile viewpoint over the North's missile tests and other developments, saying the fate of inter-Korean ties is at a critical juncture. Some experts say North Korea is pressuring South Korea to tone down its criticism of its ballistic missile tests, which are banned by U.N. Security Council resolutions, in a bid to receive an international recognition as a nuclear power.

South Korea's Unification Ministry responded that it'll prepare for the restoration of the hotlines that it said is needed to discuss and resolve many pending issues. It said the stable operation of the channels is expected because their restoration was directly instructed by Kim Jong Un.

On the United States, Kim Jong Un dismissed repeated U.S. offers to resume talks without preconditions, calling

them an attempt to hide America's hostile policy and military threats that he said remain unchanged.

The Biden administration is touting diplomatic engagement' and dialogue without preconditions' but it is no more than a petty trick for deceiving the international community and hiding its hostile acts and an extension of the hostile policy pursued by the successive U.S. administrations, Kim said.

He added: The U.S. remains utterly unchanged in posing military threats and pursuing hostile policy toward (North Korea) but employs more cunning ways and methods in doing so.

North Korea has long called U.S.-led economic sanctions on it and regular military drills between Washington and Seoul as proof of U.S. hostile policies on them. Kim Jong Un has said he would bolster his nuclear arsenal and not resume nuclear diplomacy with Washington unless such U.S. hostility is withdrawn.

U.S. officials have repeatedly expressed hopes to sit down for talks with North Korea anywhere and at any time, but have maintained they will continue sanctions until the North takes concrete steps toward denuclearisation. The diplomacy has been stalled for 2 years due to disagreements over easing the U.S.-led sanctions in return for limited denuclearization steps.

Prior to the launch Tuesday of what North Korea said was a new hypersonic missile, it also this month launched a newly developed cruise missile and a ballistic missile from a train. Both of those weapons could carry nuclear bombs to attack targets in South Korea and Japan, both key U.S. allies where a total of 80,000 American troops are stationed.

Kim said in his parliament speech that a spur has been given to ... developing a powerful new weapon system capable of thoroughly containing the military moves of the hostile forces. He accused the United States and its allied forces of creating a 'neo-Cold War and ordered officials to work out tactical measures on U.S. relations.

Kim Jong Un maintains a moratorium on testing a longer-range missile capable of reaching the American homeland, an indication he wants to keep alive chances for future diplomacy with the U.S.

Australian state's 50 per cent jump in COVID-19 blamed on sport fans

CANBERRA, SEP 30 (AP): Australia's Victoria state on Thursday reported a jump of more than 50 per cent in daily COVID-19 cases, which authorities largely blame on Australian Rules Football parties last weekend that breached pandemic regulations.

State capital Melbourne traditionally hosts the annual grand final which the football-obsessed city celebrates with a long weekend.

Because of Melbourne's lockdown, two Melbourne teams played for the national premiership on Saturday in the coronavirus-free west coast city of Perth.

Contact tracers found a third of Victoria's 1,438 new infections reported on Thursday had broken pandemic rules by attending social gatherings on the Friday public holiday and on game day, officials said.

Jeroen Weimar, commander of Victoria's COVID-19 response, said time would tell whether the infection jump was one big rogue day or part of a grave new trend.

Today highlights the consequence of hundreds of people dropping



their guards, dropping their guard for very understandable reasons and we're all fed up with it, Weimar said, referring to Melbourne's lockdown.

But this is a direct consequence of hundreds of decisions made on Friday and Saturday last week and the question now is how we manage this going forward, he added.

Melbourne's lockdown is set to end on October 26 when 70 per cent of the state's population aged 16 and older is expected to be fully vaccinated. Residents are

becoming increasingly frustrated by the city's sixth lockdown of the pandemic.

Australia's second-most populous city will overtake Argentina's capital Buenos Aires next week as the city that has endured the longest lockdown in the world, Melbourne's Herald-Sun newspaper has reported. Buenos Aires stay-at-home orders lasted 245 days.

Victoria's infection rate has overtaken neighbouring New South Wales where the spread in Sydney has plateaued with a rapidly

increasing vaccination coverage.

New South Wales reported 941 infections on Thursday and six deaths. The vaccination rate has also accelerated, with 63 per cent of its target population fully vaccinated according to government data, since the Australian delta variant outbreak was first detected in Sydney on June 16.

Only 49 per cent of Victoria's target population were fully vaccinated, partly because the state has delayed second doses to make more vaccine available

for first doses.

Victoria on Thursday reported five COVID-19 deaths in the latest 24-hour period. The state on Wednesday reported 950 new infections and seven deaths, which were both daily records.

Federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said his government remained determined to end lockdowns in Australia despite the worsening situation in Melbourne.

Frydenberg, a Melbourne resident, said the city had become despondent due to lockdowns, the latest beginning on

August 5.

Melbourne tragically and sadly has gone from being the most livable city in the world to the most locked down city in the world, he said, referring to an Economist Intelligence Unit index that ranked the city at the top of its livability table for seven consecutive years until 2017.

The government has said its payments to workers who had lost hours due to lockdowns would end two weeks after 80 per cent of a state or territory's target population were fully vaccinated.

Frydenberg said such payments were costing his government 1.5 billion Australian dollars (1.1 billion) a week.

State and territory leaders agreed in July that lockdowns would no longer be necessary after the 80% vaccination benchmark had been reached.

But with the delta variant stretching hospital resources in Sydney and Melbourne, some leaders have suggested they might maintain border restrictions until 90 per cent of their populations are fully vaccinated.

France's Sarkozy faces jail term in campaign financing case

PARIS, SEP 30 (AP): Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy is facing a potential prison term in a verdict to be rendered on Thursday about campaign financing in his unsuccessful 2012 re-election bid a ruling that comes seven months after he was convicted in a corruption and influence peddling case.

Sarkozy, France's

president from 2007 to 2012, has vigorously denied wrongdoing during the May-June trial.

He is accused of having spent almost twice the maximum legal amount of 22.5 million euros (USD 27.5 million) on the reelection bid that he lost to Socialist Francois Hollande.

Prosecutors have requested a six-month

prison term, as well as a six-month suspended sentence and a fine of 3,750 euros (USD 4,354).

Thursday's verdict comes after Sarkozy, 66, was found guilty on March 1 of corruption and influence peddling in another case. He was given one year in prison and two years suspended in that case but is free pending appeal.

In the campaign financing case, prosecutors concluded that Sarkozy knew weeks before the 2012 election that his expenses which are strictly limited under French law were getting close to the legal maximum. They accused him of having ignored two notes from his accountants warning about the money issue.

Prosecutors argued

Sarkozy is the only person responsible for his campaign financing and that he chose to exceed the limit by organising many rallies, including giant ones.

During his hearing, Sarkozy told the court the extra money did not go into his campaign, but instead helped make other people richer. He denied any fraudulent intent. He also insisted

he did not handle day-to-day organization because he had a team to do that and therefore could not be blamed for the amount of spending.

In addition to the former president, 13 other people went on trial, including members of his conservative Republicans party, accountants and heads of the communication group in charge

of organizing the rallies, Bygmalion. They face charges including forgery, breach of trust, fraud and complicity in illegal campaign financing.

Some have acknowledged wrongdoing and detailed the system of false invoices that aimed to cover up the overspending.

Prosecutors have requested mostly suspended prison sentences,

and up to one year in prison for Bygmalion's co-founder.

Sarkozy retired from active politics in 2017, but is still playing a role behind the scenes. French media have reported that he is involved in the process of choosing a conservative candidate ahead of France's presidential election next year.

The Big Pic



QUEEN CHRISTINE! Actress Christine Quinn stunned while filming *Selling Sunset* in Hollywood Hills.

Reopening of 'Aladdin' on Broadway halted by COVID-19 cases

NEW YORK (AP): The hit Broadway show "Aladdin" was canceled Wednesday night when breakthrough COVID-19 cases were reported within the musical's company, a day after the show reopened following some 18 months of being shuttered due to the pandemic. It was a worrying sign for Broadway's recovery.

"Through our rigorous testing protocols, breakthrough COVID-19 cases have been detected within the company of 'Aladdin' at the New Amsterdam Theatre," the show announced on social media. "Because the wellness and safety of our guests, cast and crew are our top priority, tonight's performance, Wednesday, Sept. 29, is canceled."

It was the first Broadway COVID-19 cancellation since shows resumed with Bruce



Springsteen's concert returning in July and "Pass Over" as the first play to debut in August. "Aladdin" said the status of future performances "will be updated."

The pandemic forced Broadway theaters to abruptly close on March 12, 2020, knocking out all shows and scrambling the spring season. Several have restarted, including the so-called big three of "Wicked," "Hamilton" and "The Lion King."

**Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com
or call us at :03592-208698**

THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES:

You have a dynamic personality, Aries. With today's celestial energy, you should try to avoid expending your energy on pointless conversations. Try to be a little more pragmatic. Consider any possible compromises very carefully. If you stand strong, you will reach your objectives much more quickly.

TAURUS:

Today you could learn a lot from other people who are similar to you, Taurus. They have the ability to get involved easily and go straight to the heart of any problem. The world is in constant flux. You have to question yourself if you want to attain your objectives. Try to be open-minded, adapt to the situation, and act before it's too late.

GEMINI:

The stars will compel you to clarify your position within the collective, Gemini. You have a lot of power when you're part of a group, but you're sometimes clumsy about communication. You can't always succeed. The planets' positions will have a beneficial impact, and you will tend to put your life under the microscope.

CANCER:

Your mind is extra clear today, Cancer. Make sure you're helping yourself as well as others. Take care of any tasks that require a great deal of brainpower. You have a tremendous ability to figure out any mental problem. Communicate with confidence. Contact people you haven't heard from in a while. They will be pleasantly surprised to hear from you.

LEO:

You have the tendency to plan everything, Leo. You need to feel in charge of things. Today you should try to listen to others around you. Let yourself go for a while, even though you aren't used to it. Furthermore, you need to develop your personality. You can do this by opening up to others.

VIRGO:

You're attracted to eccentric individuals with very strong personalities. But realize that behind this attraction lies a very strong need for freedom, Virgo. In your life, freedom is more fantasy than reality. The time has come for you to do some soul searching. Try not to hide from the realities of your life.

LIBRA:

Today will destabilize you, Libra. You're trying to rebuild your life on new foundations. Perhaps should you try to change your point of view. Also, you need to preserve your perception, because it will allow you to adapt to all situations. You need to be fully alert and prepared at all times. Try not to become discouraged.

SCORPIO:

You have a tendency to get very involved in your projects, Scorpio. Today the stars will compel you to clarify your situation. It's already clear that you aren't afraid to work long hours to ensure that your projects end in success. But your entourage will probably have difficulties keeping up with you. You're too full of energy.

SAGITTARIUS:

Today the stars advise you to get back into the swing of things, Sagittarius. You will forget your past frame of mind and be able to prepare for a new adventure. Your vitality will be as strong as it has ever been. You will probably meet someone who has a beneficial influence in the days to come.

CAPRICORN:

There's a certain quality in your personal relationships that motivates you in life, Capricorn. This is one of the reasons why your emotions play an important role in the scheme of things. You're guided by your emotions. Today you will be in the best disposition to meet a lot of people who will give new impetus to your life.

AQUARIUS:

This period is full of difficulties and you will tend to question yourself, especially today. You will start thinking about your personality. Your ego risks bruising, and you will have the greatest difficulty turning your intention into real action. Your sensitivity prevents you from materializing your ideas.

PISCES:

It would be fair to say that you love being recognized, Pisces. Today will enable you to show off your leadership skills. You will organize the day. You will accept your responsibilities and your smarts will help you welcome the day's challenges. But stay humble and keep your actions simple, especially after intense emotions.

Native American filmmaker and journalist Myron Dewey dies

CARSON CITY (US), SEP 30

(AP): Myron Dewey, a filmmaker and journalist who help draw worldwide attention to the concerns of Native Americans fighting an oil pipeline near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, has died.

Dewey, a citizen of the Walker River Paiute Tribe, passed away Sunday when his car crashed in rural Nevada, the Nye County sheriff said. The 49-year-old had posted footage on Twitter a day earlier from a central Nevada military installation where he and other members of local tribes have long protested the proposed expansion of a U.S. Navy bombing range.

Dewey won acclaim for his live footage of the 2016 demonstrations over the Dakota Access Pipeline near the Standing Rock Reservation, which straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border. His visuals of Native Americans being sprayed with water cannons in freezing weather were viewed by hundreds of thousands after appearing online and in the news.

He later co-directed the documentary *Awake: A Dream from Standing Rock*, which outlined the demonstrators' motivations to preserve the environment and fight for clean water.

Friends and relatives said



they will remember Dewey for his commitment to advocating for Native Americans, for being a devoted friend and family member and for the authenticity of his work.

He was able to show a perspective and viewpoint that was simply being ignored because of the systemic oppression our people have encountered as long as we've been here, said Dewey's cousin Lance West. It was his story to tell, and only someone like him could share it in a manner that really spoke to us.

Dewey was among a group of Native journalists arrested during the Dakota Access Pipeline protests when he filmed employees of the company constructing the pipeline. The Morton

County sheriff accused him of stalking private security workers using a drone video recorder, but prosecutors ultimately dropped the charges.

His footage from the fight's front lines was one episode in a long career of chronicling Indigenous and environmental issues throughout North America.

Dewey founded the media production company Digital Smoke Signals, which produced work about schools on reservation land in Nevada and about tribal land management practices in the Pacific Northwest.

In recent months, he participated in demonstrations against a proposed lithium mine near the Nevada-Oregon border and the Fort Mc-

Dermitt Indian Reservation. Environmentalists and local Native Americans oppose the project, saying it would desecrate land the Northern Paiute and Western Shoshone consider sacred and have adverse environmental impacts on the region's residents.

Dewey, who primarily resided in Schurz, Nevada, on the Walker River Paiute Reservation, started his career as a wildland firefighter in Nevada. He also worked as a professor, teaching courses on film at Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies and on digital media at Northwest Indian College in Washington state. He leaves behind a wife, five children and a nephew whom he considered a son.

Judge suspends Britney Spears' father from conservatorship

LOS ANGELES, SEP 30 (AP): A judge on Wednesday suspended Britney Spears' father from the conservatorship that has controlled the singer's life and money for 13 years, saying the arrangement reflects a toxic environment.

Superior Court Judge Brenda Penny agreed with a petition from Spears and her attorney, Mathew Rosengart, that James Spears needs to give up his role as conservator. The move is a major victory for the singer, who pleaded in dramatic hearings in June and July that her father needed to be out.

The current situation is untenable, Penny said after hearing arguments from both sides. It reflects a toxic environment which requires the suspension of James Spears.

James Spears sought the conservatorship in 2008 and had been its primary controller and biggest champion. He reversed course in recent weeks, asking the judge to end the conservatorship.

Britney Spears and Rosengart agreed that the conservatorship should end and said in court documents that James Spears' removal was a necessary first step.

Spears' attorney has been aggressively pushing for the ouster of her father since moments after the judge al-

lowed her to hire Rosengart in July.

Hours before the hearing, a major street outside the courthouse was closed to vehicles, allowing about 100 Spears supporters to march and host a rally where they shouted Hey, hey, ho, ho, the conservatorship has got to go! and other pro-Britney chants. As the crowd grew, fans sang Spears hits Toxic and Baby One More Time, and speakers described abusive conservatorships that had affected their families.

We're making making history right now, said Martino Odeh, 27, who traveled from Phoenix to be at the courthouse. And the fact that we could change a pop star's life, who has been robbed of her rights for 13 years, is crazy. It's monumental.

We're hoping for a big change today, Odeh said.

Britney Spears and Rosengart emphasized in court papers the importance of removing her father, calling it a necessary first step toward her freedom and "ending the Kafkaesque nightmare imposed upon her."

Rosengart said in another filing this week that James Spears crossed unfathomable lines by engaging in illegal surveillance of her, including communications with her lawyer, as reported in *Controlling Britney Spears*, a documentary from The New York

Times and the FX network, one of two dueling documentaries released on the eve of the hearing.

Britney Spears was also engaged to her longtime boyfriend, Sam Asghari, earlier this month, which means putting together a prenuptial agreement that her father should not be involved in, her court filings said.

James Spears in 2019 stepped aside as the so-called conservator of his daughter's person, with control over her life decisions, maintaining only his role as conservator of her estate, with control over her finances. He and his attorneys have said that renders many of his daughter's complaints about his control over her life meaningless.

Jodi Montgomery, a court-appointed professional, now acts as conservator of Britney Spears' person, and Rosengart said in court documents that Montgomery also consents to ending the conservatorship so long as it can be done safely and smoothly.

James Spears has denied acting in anything but his daughter's best interest. He has said in court papers that he does not know of a single medical professional nor the report of a single probate investigator that concluded that his presence as conservator was harming his daughter or that he should be replaced.