



ONE OF YODA'S MOST ICONIC LINES MAY GET A WILD NEW MEANING IN 'STAR WARS 9'

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LITERALLY NO ONE WANTS TO TALK TO GIULIANA RANCIC

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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Ops on to rescue incapacitated birds at Sambhar lake

SAMBHAR (RAJ), NOV 12 (PTI): Operations were carried out to rescue the migratory birds that were found incapacitated at the Sambhar Salt Lake in Rajasthan, days after thousands of them were found dead around the water body, officials said on Tuesday.

A team consisting of Chief Conservator of Forest Arun Prasad, Divisional Forest Officer Kavita Singh and a panel of doctors from the State Disease Diagnostic Centre also visited the spot for examination, they said.

Sources said that since Monday, 2,338 dead birds were found by forest teams combing the area, however, the official toll stood at 1,500.

While the cause of death is yet to be ascertained, the team ruled out the possibility of bird flu (H5N1) and noted the birds showed symptoms of paralysis leading to death.

"Paralysis before death is a symptom of toxicity in the water. The deaths could also be due to overconsumption of salt. However, we'll be able to confirm the exact reason once we have the results," Prasad told PTI after consulting with a team of doctors.

"We are ruling out bird flu, there is no secretion in the birds, no laceration either. Also, bird flu usually affects 80 per cent of the bird population and becomes an epidemic, which is not the case here," he added.

The sources said that forest teams were combing the boundary of the lake and since Monday, they had found 2,338 dead birds in the area who were later buried.

The boundary of the lake is 15 km in length and the teams have covered 3 km so far, the sources said.

Locals have claimed the number of dead birds could be as high as 5,000. They said operations are also underway to rescue the incapacitated birds.

The number of affected bird species increased to 28 from the earlier reported number of 10, the sources said.

The affected bird species were Pallas's Gull, Pied Avocet, Ruff, Common Red Shanks, Marsh Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Lesser Sand Plover, Little Ringed Plover, Kentish Plover, Common Coot, Green Bee-eater, Black winged Kite, Ruddy Shelduck, Black-winged Stilt, Temmink's Stint, Gadwalls, Black/brown headed Gull, Gull-Billed Tern, Greater Flamingo, Lesser Whistling duck, Creak, Silverbill, Knob-billed

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Mohammedan Sporting wins Gold Cup for third time

SAGAR CHHETRI GANGTOK, 12 NOV:

Kolkata giants, Mohammedan Sporting Club, has become the champion of the 39th edition of All India Governor's Gold Cup Football Tournament 2019 played here at Paljor Stadium. A brace by Vanlalbiaa Changte helped Mohammedan SC to edge past the home team, Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club 2-1 to lift the champions' trophy of the tournament for the third time.

Mohammedan SC has played the finals of the tournament ten times so far, while Sikkim Himalayan SC has become the second home team from Sikkim to reach the finals of the tournament after a gap of 39 years.

In the finals today, Vanlalbiaa Changte opened the score board for Mohammedan SC in the early minutes of the first half taking the Himalayans as well as the home crowd by surprise. The home team got some good opportunities to equalize but failed to convert them.

The breakthrough for



Sikkim Himalayan came in the second half when Eugene Nimaco scored the equalizer. The stadium roared with applause for the home team putting life back into the Himalayans who seemed to pick up their pace after the equalizer.

As the match inched

closer towards the end, Vanlalbiaa Changte completed his brace to extend Mohammedan Sporting's lead to 2-1. Shortly after, the home team scored what could have been the equalizer but for the offside call. The crowd had erupted again with loud

cheers only to be disappointed when the linesman shot up the flag.

Sikkim Himalayan most certainly could have scripted history today but it was the Kolkata giants who took home the Gold Cup and deservingly so.

The final match had

Chief Minister, PS Tamang as the chief guest, who was accompanied by Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs Department, KN Lepcha as guest of honour among other dignitaries.

The winning team received cash prize of Rs 2

lakh, while cash prize of Rs 1 lakh was given to the runners-up team. The CM has also gave cash prize of Rs 1 lakh each to both teams.

Before the match began it was announced that if Sikkim Himalayan SC won the final match,

Shiv Sena to file 2nd petition in SC if Prez's rule imposed

NEW DELHI, NOV 12 (PTI): The Shiv Sena will file a second petition in the Supreme Court if the President's rule is imposed in Maharashtra, a party lawyer said on Tuesday.

"We will file a second petition today itself if the President's rule is imposed in the state," Advocate Sunil Fernandes, who filed the first petition on behalf of Shiv Sena, told PTI.

He said the party lawyers have received no response from the apex court registrar for the request of giving urgent hearing Tuesday itself on its first petition in which the party has sought quashing of the Governor's Monday decision not to give three days time to submit letter of support for government formation in the state.

Inter Church football tournament Sikkim United Cup from 14 Nov



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK 12 NOV:

Sikkim Christian Sports Association [SCSA] is all set to host Sikkim United Cup, an Inter Church Football Tournament 2019, from 14 to 30 November here at Paljor Stadium. Twenty-nine teams from all four districts and one team each from Kalimpong and Darjeeling are participating in this 8th edition of Inter-Church Football Tournament. The theme for this edition of the tournament is 'Play for Glory'.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, SCSA chief coordinator, Suman Rai mentioned that SCSA has been organizing this tournament annually since its establishment in 2012.

The main objective of

the tournament is to provide a bigger platform and exposure to promising and talented footballers from different corners of the State, he said.

He added that the tournament has been successful in providing exposure to many promising footballers of different churches who are now have been playing for different professional clubs in and outside the State.

The tournament also aims to further strengthen the bond of love and brotherhood between members of different churches in the State, said Mr Rai.

Mr Rai mentioned that the organizing committee led by the Minister Lok Nath Sharma as chief advisor, Political

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CM's XI beat Chief Secretary's XI in Gold Cup exhibition match



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 12 NOV:

An exhibition match played between Chief Minister's XI and Chief Secretary's XI proved a highlight of the finals of the 39th All India Governor's Gold Cup Football Tournament here at Pal-

jor Stadium on Tuesday.

Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Golay] was present as the chief guest.

The CM's XI team was led by Health Minister Dr MK Subba, while CS XI was led by Thinlay P Shangderpa.

Regulation time of the match ended in a 2-2 draw. In the tie-breaker decided through penalty shoot-out, CM's XI managed to net four goals while CS XI converted three shots into goals. Finally, CM's XI won the match 6-5.

Over 44,000 dengue cases reported in West Bengal

KOLKATA, NOV 13 (PTI): As many as 44,852 dengue cases were reported from various southern districts of West Bengal and Kolkata, a report of the state health department has revealed.

The affected districts include North and South 24 Parganas, Howrah and Hooghly.

As per a government official, 25 people have been killed in the state since January.

"The number of dengue cases reported from different parts of West Bengal was 44,852," the report submitted to Chief Secretary Rajiva Sinha on November 9 said admitting a spurt in dengue cases in the state in the last fortnight.

Bangaon municipal area, Gaighata, Habra I

block, and Barrackpore municipal area of North 24 Parganas district, Falta, Mograhat I and II blocks, Mathurapur I and II blocks, Bhangaon I block of South 24 Parganas district were also affected by the disease, the report said.

It also mentioned places like Howrah Municipal Corporation area, Domjur and Amta blocks of Howrah district that witnessed high incidence of dengue.

"There is a surge in the number of Dengue cases in Kolkata Municipal Corporation areas of Parnasree, Picnic Garden, Dhapa, Tiljala as well as in Chowberia I and II under Bangaon block, Hajinagar, Garia under Naihati municipality, Rahara under Khardah

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Kindness drives Bengal woman raise bank loan, sell gold ornaments to feed street dogs

KALYANI (WB), NOV 12 (PTI): Driven by compassion towards street dogs, a woman in West Bengal's Nadia district has taken nearly Rs four lakh bank loan to provide food and medicines to around 400 stray canines. She spends about Rs 40,000 a month on the pariah dogs.

She has also sold her gold ornaments worth about Rs 2 lakh to bear the cost of taking care of the abandoned canines.

The woman displaying this rare love and passion towards the street dogs is Nilanjana Biswas, a housewife living in Kalyani B-11 area in the Nadia district. Biswas has been carrying the charitable act braving opposition at home and protest from the neighbours, who re-

sented gathering of dogs in front of their dwelling. Her husband Bhabotosh Biswas, an Industrialist, also does not like it but her son Ashutosh Biswas, a student of class five, extends helping hands to mother in the pursuit. Her daughter, a college student, also cooperates with her.

What started five years back with a few stray dogs, the count of the beneficiaries has increased to 400 since about last one year. There are three salaried workers to prepare and distribute food to the street dogs at various places in the Kalyani town on whom she spends Rs 10,000 a month.

There is a trained person who checks and provide medicines to the dogs and train

them twice a week. She said "I purchased only one dog, that is Jui, and the rest are collected from streets or given by known persons. But all of them are dear to me." The food served daily is no ordinary items but chicken and rice. Drinking water is provided too.

While there is a pucca kitchen with refrigerator and a store for fuel (wood) to prepare food for the dogs at home, the workers prepare rice and chicken to serve the animals in the lunch.

After completion of cooking, a male worker puts the foods in big pots and load it into an E-Rickshaw. The Toto driver is a staff of Nilanjana Biswas. Another worker, a lady, boards the Toto. The two roams

around in Kalyani town every-day stopping at different spots.

She herself travels to some places on her scooty to serve food to the street dogs and sometimes her son Ashutosh joins her.

When they reach venues, the dogs of those locality rush to gather the food. The Toto driver, a staff of Nilanjana said, "The dogs are now familiar with the system and timely wait for us on the spots."

The Toto driver and the lady first places a few plastic pots along the road sides. Then puts chicken and rice. They also pour water separately. The street dogs are accustomed to the routine.

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Spider-Man Star Bruce Campbell: Martin Scorsese is "Full of Crap" Over Marvel Movie Criticisms

Spider-Man star Bruce Campbell says filmmaker Martin Scorsese is "full of crap" for criticizing Marvel movies when The Irishman, Scorsese's gangster epic that utilizes CGI to digitally de-age stars Robert De Niro, Al Pacino and Joe Pesci, has "more digital effects than any Marvel movie." Scorsese first said Marvel movies are "not cinema" when promoting Irishman, telling Empire, "The closest I can think of them, as well made as they are, with actors doing the best they can under the circumstances, is theme parks. It isn't the cinema of human beings trying to convey emotional, psychological experiences to another human being."

"[Scorsese] was raging on Marvel movies, right? Martin Scorsese is one of our greatest filmmakers, so when he says stuff like that, it hurts," Campbell said at horror-centric convention Spooky Empire. "Because it's not like movies like that are easy to make, and it's not like The Irishman doesn't have digital effects out the ass."

The Irishman has "more digital effects than any Marvel movie, I can tell you right now," Campbell continued. "To get Robert De Niro to go from nine to 108, that's a lot of work, that's a lot of digital work. So he's kind of full of crap in that respect."

Campbell then added all movies are "bullsh-t." "Every movie is just as fake as the other one. Nothing is real," he said. "Guess what? You're doing a real story about Erin Brockovich, that's not even what Erin Brockovich looks like! It's not a real story, even though they say it's a real story, so nobody gets to play, 'I am a filmmaker, you make silly Marvel movies!' No, they're all bullsh-t. Every single bit of every movie is bullsh-t. Good bullsh-t, lousy bullsh-t, boring bullsh-t, they're all as fake as you can get."

At the heart of Scorsese's complaint is a desire for theaters to "continue to support narrative cinema of this kind," Scorsese said of The Irishman at Rome Film Fest. The film will screen in select theaters before streaming on Netflix.

"But right now the theaters seem to be mainly supporting the theme park, amusement park, comic book films. They're taking over the theaters," Scorsese said. "I think they can have those films; it's fine. It's just that that shouldn't become what our young people believe is cinema. It just shouldn't."

When addressing the criticisms made against Disney-owned Marvel, The Walt Disney Company CEO Bob Iger told BBC Radio's The Media Show Marvel is "making movies. They're movies. That's what Martin Scorsese makes. And they're good movies."

Governor attends Prerna Diwas in Bihar

SUMMIT REPORT

MOTIHARI BIHAR, 12 NOV: Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad attended Prerna Diwas as chief guest at Motihari, Bihar, today, a Raj Bhavan press communiqué informs.

The birth anniversary of former MP and Minister of Bihar, Late Sitaram Singh, is annually celebrated as Prerna Diwas and this year was the 71st birth anniversary of Late Singh.

Many distinguished personalities including two cabinet Ministers, Member of Parliament, Rama Devi and Members of Bihar Legislative Assembly amongst others were present on the occasion.

The celebration also had a symposium on "Relevance of Gandhian Thoughts in Today's Political Context" wherein many participants put forward their views.

Addressing the function, the Governor re-



membered Late Sitaram Singh's contribution to the State of Bihar and how it was apt to celebrate his birth anniversary as Prerna Diwas.

Expressing his views on the topic of symposium, the Governor highlighted various vices that has infiltrated in current

political system in the country such as regionalism, casteism, religion, communal forces and criminals which has impacted the growth and development of the country after independence.

He outlined that the political ideology as propagated by Gandhiji

had high morals and values centered around the welfare of lowest strata of society. The objective of politics today is different from what it should have been and has lost its credibility and trust of people to some extent which also gets reflected in society in the form of

various vices. The Governor further stated that the Gandhian talisman in politics is still relevant and required in today's political system as it will help bring back the lost credibility and trust which is essential for the largest democracy in the world.

TB counseling at Bardang School



YOGEN THATAL SINGAM, 12 NOV:

The District Tuberculosis Cell of the District Hospital here conducted a Tuberculosis counseling session at

Government Secondary School, Bardang, today. The aim of the program was to make students aware about TB and inform them about preventive measures.

Impulse NGO Network receives Sat Paul Mittal National Award



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 NOV: Impulse NGO network has been chosen for the Sat Paul Mittal National Award in institutional category "for rendering outstanding service to humanity."

The Impulse NGO Network has been recognized for its "untiring efforts in the field of unsafe migration, exploitation and human trafficking in north-east India".

The award, which is shared with another awardee, carries a cash component of Rs.

2,50,000 each, a memento and a citation.

On behalf of Impulse NGO Network, co-founder, Rosanna Lyngdoh, Board Director, and Co-Founder, AG Kharbhih, Board Director received the award on 11 Nov from Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Information and Broadcasting, Prakash Javadekar, and Chairman and Group CEO, Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Bharti Enterprises, at Pandey Auditorium in Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust in Ludhiana.

ZIEI demo for North Sikkim



SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 12 NOV: Shri Aurobindo Society, under Rupantar, organized a district-level exhibition on Zero Investment Innovation For Education Initiatives [ZIEI] here on 11

Nov at the Zilla Panchayat Bhawan.

The North Zilla Adhyaksha was present as the chief guest accompanied by the District Collector, Panchayats, SMC members, parents, HRDD officials and students.

No decision on supporting Sena yet: NCP, Congress



MUMBAI, NOV 12 (PTI):

The Congress and NCP said on Tuesday evening that they had yet not taken any decision about supporting the Shiv Sena to form government in Maharashtra but will hold further discussions.

At a joint press conference with Congress leaders, NCP president Sharad Pawar said the two parties will discuss and evolve a consensus on what should be the policies and programs if the Shiv Sena was to be supported.

The press conference was attended by Congress leaders Ahmed Pa-

tel, Mallikarjun Kharge and K C Veugopal, deputied by the party president Sonia Gandhi to hold further talks with the NCP on the issue.

"We (Congress and NCP leaders) discussed the nitty gritty of a (possible) common minimum programme to ensure the government functions smoothly," he said.

Ahmed Patel said the Shiv Sena, which had contested the elections in alliance with the BJP, approached the Congress-NCP officially only on Monday, seeking support to form the next government.

The Shiv Sena on Monday suffered a setback in its efforts to cobble up a non-BJP government in Maharashtra with the Congress at the last moment announcing its decision to hold more talks with ally NCP on supporting the Uddhav Thackeray-led party.

On Tuesday, Governor B K Koshiyari sent a report to the Centre, recommending President's rule in the state which is facing a political impasse since the Assembly poll results of October 24; following which President's rule was imposed in the state.

Over 10 K police personnel to be deployed in Sabarimala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 12 (PTI):

Over 10,000 police personnel will be posted in phases in and around Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple for security during the two-month long pilgrimage season starting November 17.

During the Mandala Makkavillakku festival, 10,017 police personnel will be posted around the temple complex in five phases, a police press release said.

DGP Loknath Behara said there will be stringent security in and around Sabarimala during the pilgrimage season this year.

The release said 24 Superintendents of Police and Assistant SPs, 112 Dysps, 264 inspectors, 1185 Sub-Inspectors will be posted in the team.

A total of 8402 civil police officers, including



307 women, will also be on duty around the shrine complex, the release added.

In the first phase from November 15-30, 2,551 police personnel will be posted for security duty at Sannidhanam, Pamba, Nilackal, Erumeli and Pathnamthitta.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had last week taken stock of the preparations being carried out by various

departments and the Travancore Devaswom Board, which administers the temple, to ensure hassle free pilgrimage.

The hill shrine had witnessed protests by right wing outfits against the LDF government's decision to implement the Supreme Court verdict allowing women of all age groups, including those in the menstruating age, to offer prayers at the ancient temple.

Inter Church ...

Secretary to the CM, Jacob Khaling as chief patron and Upper Tadong MLA, GT Dhungel as advisor and supported by Gangtok MLA, YT Lepcha and other dignitaries have been working hard for the tournament.

For the first time the organizing committee has also invited teams from Kalimpong and Darjeeling in this edition of the tournament to make it more competitive, he informed.

The tournament carries the cash prize of Rs 1.5 lakh to the winner and Rs 50,000 to the runners-up along with other individual prizes in different categories.

SCSA president, Pastor Bhupal Basnett mentioned that the inaugural function of the tournament will be held on 14 Nov in a grand manner. The inaugural match will be played between Agape Church and Bethesda Church at 2 PM.

The inaugural function will also have presentation by popular Christian singers, Biren Dhuglabong, Merina Rai, Santosh Baraily, James and John and other cultural presentations.

Pastor Basnett mentioned that the closing ceremony on 30 Nov will have performances by popular Christian singers, Isaac Chettri, LB Baraily, Angela Moktan and Ledia Rai and others. To make the tournament more memorable there will be live performance by a popular band of the hills, Nomads, after the final match, he added.

Entry is open for all throughout the tournament. Sikkim Christian Sports Association has invited all sports enthusiasts and football lovers to come and support their favorite teams.

Ops on to...

duck, Mallard, Ferruginous Duck, Northern Shoveler, Common Teal, and Northern Pintail.

Thousands of migratory birds were found dead on Sunday around Sambhar Lake, the country's largest inland saltwater lake near Jaipur, sending shock waves among locals and authorities.

Volunteers of a local NGO, Wildlife Creatures Organisation, along with a few veterinary doctors rescued some struggling birds that were not able to move.

"We have administered medicine to reduce stress, and antihistamines, and antibiotics for now in case there's an infection viral or bacterial," Ashok Rao, a veterinary doctor, said.

A rescued flamingo bird reacted positively to the treatment and managed to float on water, Rao said.

Kindness drives...

Sitting in their home Nilanjana Biswas said, "Earlier we were in a rented home at B-15 area in Kalyani. There were two street dogs in the neighborhood. Than the female dog delivered five puppies. And thus began the journey".

Being a patient of high sugar and suffering from heart ailment, she worries about the future of these hapless dogs.

She said, "I had approached the authority of Kalyani Municipality to ponder over the issue of street dogs so that they can be rehabilitated. But got no response. I would be happy, If the Municipality does something for the street dogs in future.

Over 44,000...

municipality in North 24 Parganas," the report said.

Ward no 16 of Rishra Municipality in Hooghly, Howrah's Bankra II gram panchayat also reported a rise in the number of dengue cases, it added.

"There has been a major thrust on vector control such as conservancy work, cleaning of water bodies, larvicide spray on a large scale as well as widespread use of bio-larvicide for breeding source reduction," the report said.

Vector control teams increased house to house visit and they were even entering locked central and state government premises for cleaning, it added.

Meanwhile, the West Bengal health department has directed physicians treating dengue cases not to use platelet inadvertently, adhering to the guidelines issued by the World Health Organisation and the central government.

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#Wakeup movement to organize rally on Climate Change

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 12 NOV:

#Wakeupmovement, a social youth organisation formed recently with an objective to combat Climate Change and Global Warming along with #Redendron, a youth forum is organising a rally on Children's Day (14 Nov, 2019) from 2.00 pm onwards to create a buzz among the Sikkimese people (both young and adults) on the urgency to conserve environment and the need to join the global movement against Climate Change.

The starting point of the 5km long rally will be NBB (Tadong) College and will end at MG Marg, Gangtok.

"We are the first generation to feel the effect of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it," a press release from the two organizations states.

It further states that Sikkim is also experiencing Climate Change and the mighty River Teesta is crying for help. Pharmaceutical companies are polluting the river so it's high time to "wake up", the release adds.

The group consists of three members namely Rishal Pandey Chettri, Ashwatth Tamang and Chultim Dolma Bhutia of Delhi Public School, Siliguri, Tashi Namgyal Academy and Palzor Namgyal Girls School respectively.

They have organised three events over a period of one month. Two cleanliness drives and one Inter-School Declamation Competition which was organised at Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College on 19 Oct, 2019.

They have requested everyone to join the rally and show solidarity towards saving our Mother Earth. Contact 8918625481 for more details.

American professor gives talk on life skills at ICAFI

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 12 NOV:

Dr Rodney H Clarken gave a talk on life skills to students and teachers at ICAFI University Sikkim on 11 Nov, 2019. Dr Clarken is a professor, author, and education content creator from the USA, a press release informs.

He gave an inspirational speech on the purpose of one's life and how to have a meaningful life. He highlighted the six practices that we should follow everyday such as pray from the heart to be a better person, read from the scriptures of holy book, inspire people around to find greater truth, serve the highest good, meditate and strive to be better person.

Tem Tea Mr Sikkim 2019 finalist Anil Rai

NITESH R PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 12 NOV:

Anil Rai from Gangtok has big dreams to achieve. A go-getter by heart, he has stormed into



the finale of Tem Tea Mr Sikkim 2019 Manhunt

Why Mr Sikkim Manhunt?

Mr Sikkim Manhunt is a platform that will change the negative perspective of the glamour world. As we all know, there were very few or almost rare opportunities for men who are into fashion and glamour world but through these

Manhunt Pageants, opportunities are increasing rapidly in our state. I feel like I can make my passion and dream come true and make my way to the top in this glamour world through this platform.

What are the qualities that make you stand out in a crowd?

I am an enthusiastic person and I never quit. I am talented and confident. I am passionate about my dreams. The quote "Nothing is Impossible" pushes me more to do things that are impossible.

How would you take winning or losing this competition?

If I win this competition I will give my 100% in making my dreams come true in this field. I will continue this as my fulltime career and I aspire to be an inspiration to others who

want to pursue this field.

But if I lose this competition I will work harder with more dedication. I will be consistently persistent and persistently consistent.

Define yourself.

I am a humble family guy and a loving person. The best thing I can boast about is I believe in the Almighty Living God. I like to help

people who are in need and are suffering. I like to console those who are struggling with depression and facing challenges in their lives with words of encouragement and financially (though I'm not financially free). Lastly, I believe in taking all positive and negative things in life positively and turning them into valuable knowledge and sharing them with others.

What is the one thing that can unite humanity?

The one thing that can unite humanity is "Love" because sharing is loving and sharing unconditional love means receiving unconditional love in return. Love never fails and I would like to quote a verse, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13.

Any appeal/message?

My message to all those out there: Be yourself and let nothing bring you down because you were fearfully and wonderfully made. You are the best version of yourself. Believe in yourself and push towards your dreams and goals.

Tell something about yourself.

I am the only son of Bikash Rai and Jamuna Rai. I completed my schooling from Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School and I completed my graduation from Sikkim Government College, Tadong.

My hobbies are I like travelling, listening and singing songs, playing guitar as music is one of the integral part of my life. I also like sports preferably football, basketball & cricket. Photography is also one of the things that I like to do.

Sikkim Newar Guthi's two-month Silver Jubilee celebration concludes

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 NOV:

Two-month long event to commemorate 25 years of the Sikkim Newar Guthi concluded on Monday, a press release informs. Number of events such as Newar Folk Dance, Newar Musical Instrument, State Level Open Talent Hunt and Bhaju & Maeju Sikkim Competitions were organized. Cleanliness Drive and Awareness programmes were held at various Sakhas on 02 Oct, 2019.

The Grand Finale of all the competitions was held at Manan Bhawan on 09 Nov, 2019 and was attended by Minister, Buildings & Transport, Sanjit Kharel as the chief guest. Seven teams under Newar dance, 4 individual performances under Newar Instrument, 18 participants under State Level Open Talent Hunt and 10 competitors each under Bhaju and Maeju Sikkim had competed for the most coveted trophies. Singtam Bhay Bhowney Kuthi won the 1st prize under the Newar Dance competition, while Rongli and Timberbong Sakhas won the 2nd and 3rd prize respectively. Babita Pradhan of Rongli won the 1st prize under the Newar Instrument Competition.

The title of Bhaju and Maeju Sikkim was conferred on Pragesh Pradhan, Ravangla and Rabina Pradhan, Singtam respectively. The first prize under the Open Talent Hunt Competition was awarded to Anand Gurung (Rapper), while the 2nd and 3rd prize was won by Sneha Bansal (Dancing) and Milan Bishwakarma (Singing) respectively.

Six consolations prizes were also awarded.

Amidst these, EMRS School Gangyap gave a scintillating choir performance.

The grand programme was organized on 10 Nov, 2019. Chief Minister, PS Tamang (Go-Lay) could not attend the function and was represented by Minister, Urban Development, Arun Upreti, as the chief guest. On this occasion, founder pioneers and founder members were felicitated. Advisory Council members, past and present Executive members, Zonal presidents were also felicitated for their contribution to the cause of Newars of Sikkim.

For their outstanding contribution in the field of language, culture, tradition and food, Dentam, Melli and Singtam Sakha Guthis were felicitated with citations.

Academic excellence award Class X was given to Pravesh Pradhan, Tadong and in Class XII the award was given to Kshitij Pradhan, Dentam. Silver Jubilee Edition Souvenir magazine "Smarika", Quarterly Magazine "PAU", Commercial pickles as well as website of Sikkim Newar Guthi "www.sikkimnewarguthi.org" was launched by the chief guest.

The celebrations ended with Grand Musical Evening at Manan Bhawan on both 09 and 10 Nov, 2019. Renowned artists like Suresh Kumar, Pushpan Pradhan, Banika Pradhan, Remanti Rai amongst others performed in the evening.

The events were attended by Forest Minister, Karma Loday Bhutia and Education Minister, Kunga Nima Lepcha as chief guests respectively. All the events were held in eco-friendly manner without the use of plastics and other non-biodegradable substances.

TNSS wins state-level robotics comptt



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 NOV:

The 10th Edition of the International Robotics Competition by Avishkaar was held today at Rangpo Senior Secondary School here in East Sikkim.

Out of 19 Atal Tinkering Laboratories and 10 Tinkering Laboratories in Sikkim, 13 Schools participated in the competition held for 3 levels - Junior, Middle and Senior.

Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School bagged the 1st position

in Senior and Junior categories while Biraspati Parsai Senior Secondary School, Ranipool, bagged the 1st position in Middle's category.

These three teams will participate in the nationals scheduled to be held in Delhi on 14 and 15 December.

The competition was inaugurated by SPD, Samagra Shiksha, Bhim Thatal.

In his address, Mr Thatal urged teachers to use activity and practicals based teaching to in-

fuse a scientific temperament in students.

In a separate programme at the school, Mr Thatal visited the training programmes being held under NISHTHA (National Initiatives for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) where about 125 elementary school teachers are undergoing training.

The SPD interacted with the trainee teachers and encouraged them in learning engagement programmes.

Promotion of film & TV industry discussed

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 NOV:

A meeting was called by the Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation at Hotel Denzong Shrangila here today to discuss ways and means to promote the Film and TV industry in the State.

The meeting was chaired by Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Dr K Jaykumar, and was attend-

ed by Chairperson, Film Federation of India (FFI), Firdaus Hasan, MD Tem Tea, Mrinalini Shrivastava, Head of Priya Entertainment, Arijit Dutta, Kailash Agarwal from Chamber of Commerce, Bishal Khawas, Deputy Director, IPR, and representatives from the film fraternity of Sikkim.

Establishment of a Film & Television Institute, Miniplexes, organization of film

festivals and establishment of a Project Office were discussed and endorsed for proposing to the Government.

Tem Tea is coordinating support in documentation and "sponsor propagation" while Denzong Shangrila is the hospitality partner, Accelerator providing event management support and Sikkim Chronicle the media support partner, a press release informs.

CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED FOR AMBA SCHOOL LIBRARY UPGRADATION

Wandering Souls of Sikkim is excited to announce our plan to upgrade the school library of Govt. Secondary School, Amba, East Sikkim. This will be fourth such upgradation of school libraries by WSOS.

We have successfully upgraded 3 school libraries so far with the support and contributions of our generous patrons and are looking forward to receive more such contributions.

We request all to kindly contribute books either old or new or cash for the upgradation of school library at Amba.

Our Library Initiative is aimed at upgrading School libraries specially in rural areas of the state and for laying a foundation for better future of our young minds studying in these schools.

To Contribute Contact WSOS at 7384639193.



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Unfortunately, Not Every Child gets to be a Student

Children's Day should hence not be limited to schools either

This is not a new theme, but since this is not really a new Day, we might as well revisit old themes which continue to hold true. It is Children's Day tomorrow, but we may as well call it Students' Day. It will not come as a surprise if most do not even see a discrepancy there because for most of us, children and students are the same. But they aren't. Despite whatever the governments at the Centre and the in the States might claim about Right To Education, many children remain out of the school system and many are only occasionally students, their privations keeping them engaged elsewhere for survival. And yet, Children's Day will see festivities exclusively limited to school campuses.

Since most of the children, at least in Sikkim, are enrolled in schools, this focus on schools is perhaps not misplaced, but it would have been welcome if the celebrations at schools were complemented by some genuine attention being invested on the young who are not as privileged and need issues besetting them addressed. In Sikkim's case, these would be children employed at homes as domestic help or working in commercial establishments across the State. Yes again, all that talk about banning child labour has remained essentially that, talk, with the children most at risk continuing to be made to slave as domestic servants or "helpers" at shops. Yes, there is a law against employing children under 14 years of age in any kind of work, and while there is no doubt that this law is extensively broken, very little is done to ensure enforcement or penalize those who continue to make children work for survival.

On Children's Day, disturbing realities of growing up without privileges should be addressed, the shame accepted and more than tokenism invested on resolving the challenge. Take the students out into the real world and its ugliness in as much as how we continue to fail the young and leave them to the mercy of their economic conditions or exposed to the predatory plans of those who exploit. One will not have to look too hard to find such examples, they sleep in the kitchens or under the stairs of too many homes around us. One is not suggesting here that the students be unleashed on Sikkim homes to rescue the under 14-year-olds from bondage, although even that is an idea worth exploring. The students could however be encouraged to take gifts and sweets for such kids on Children's Day. They will not be judging the families which employ them, yet, at the same time, they will be noticing that children continue to be made to work when they should be at play or studying. Open their eyes to this, and may be they will also grow more compassionate. What better gift for them on Children's Day than compassion? Even if the schools and elders shudder at thought of such direct confrontation, at least tell the children at school about how privileged they are to be able escape the trap which keeps others their age at home – not as pampered children but as domestic servants. That way, may be when they grow-up, they will do something real about sending such abuse and exploitation.

What we could also do on Children's Day is release the report card on POCSO Act cases in Sikkim in the past year. Inform the State about how many complaints were received under the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act, how many cases registered, how many convictions secured and how many predators did we release back into society after "settling" the cases.

WRITE US:

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

How Ghanaian civil servants sought to resist political pressure

JUSTIN SCOTT SCHON, ELIZABETH BALDWIN, JENNIFER N. BRASS & LAUREN M. MACLEAN
theconversation.com

Electricity is a hot political issue in Ghana. Ghanaians demand access to the electricity grid as a right of citizenship. And, when not connected, they have threatened in the past to boycott national elections with slogans such as: "No light, no vote!"

In 2016, then President Mahama became known as "Mr Power Cut" because of widespread power cuts that plagued his term in office. He was heavily defeated in elections by Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo. The next Ghanaian election in 2020 is a rematch between the two.

Politicians are therefore under a lot of pressure to distribute reliable electric power, but concerns about corruption in the power sector persist. The next Ghanaian election in 2020 is a rematch between the two.

Politicians are therefore under a lot of pressure to distribute reliable electric power, but concerns about corruption in the power sector persist.

In a new research paper we examine a programme to distribute solar panels to meet the needs of people without electricity in Ghana. We wanted to find out whether political patronage played a role in decisions about who got the solar panels and who didn't.

Our broader question was whether civil servants in a developing democracy can resist political capture in the distribution of public goods.

RESISTING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CORRUPTION

A great deal of research has been done on how political patronage works from the perspective of what drives politicians. But service decisions are often made by bureaucrats. That is why we chose to conduct our research by tracking decisions taken by civil servants.

Interviews revealed that the goal of the solar panel programme was to provide electricity for educational, medical and community purposes in places where future grid extension was unlikely. The programme was funded by a European government donor and implemented by the Ghanaian Ministry of Energy.

The civil servants who carried out the programme knew that political corruption was common in Ghana. For example, studies had shown that vote buying was prevalent and that politicians sometimes used the provision of public goods – even the electricity grid – to gain votes.

We found that because of this, civil servants had taken extra precautions to avoid the programme being "captured" by politicians. For example, they relied on grid access data – rather than member

of parliament recommendations – to identify communities that needed electricity. They also visited communities to confirm their need.

Our paper asked whether the programme was successful in getting solar panels to the neediest communities, rather than rewarding communities that usually voted for the political party in power.

We found that the considerable efforts to thwart corruption paid off for national-level civil servants. They were able to resist political capture. But only up to a point. Even their best efforts were thwarted when politics seeped into the process at a local level.

WHO GOT THE SOLAR PANELS?

We analysed whether solar panels were more likely to go to isolated communities with limited



road infrastructure or to places with political ties to the government. Since grid expansion usually follows road infrastructure, communities with few roads are unlikely to be connected to the grid in the medium term. These communities therefore have a greater need for alternative sources of electricity, like solar panels.

We tracked the distribution of solar panels using statistical analysis of data on solar panel locations. We also interviewed people who made decisions or were affected by the programme.

The programme partially worked: panels were indeed distributed to isolated communities and those in need of electricity, rather than to incumbent strongholds.

But we also found that panels went to areas where voter turnout had been inconsistent over time – in other words where it was likely that voter turnout could be swayed.

This pattern was evident across the country, but was particularly marked in the area around Lake Volta. Analysis of interview responses and historical documents showed that this variation reflected

the logistics of space and the historical politics of place. This could mean that distribution was also influenced by the desire to mobilise people who sometimes, but do not always, vote, by bringing them electricity access.

POLITICS AT LOCAL LEVEL

Bureaucratic efforts to avoid political influence did succeed in some ways. The most obvious ways for political capture to influence distribution would be to steer more solar panels to communities with the highest support for the incumbent political party or highest voter turnout. This, however, did not happen.

We found, though, that politics seeped into the decision-making process at a local level.

Because it was hard for bureaucrats in the capital to obtain enough data about where to distribute the solar panels, they consulted local actors in communities to learn more about local need. This may have opened up the process to people who had more explicit political agendas than the national bureaucrats. Panels were subtly steered to places that were both needed and politically useful.

African governments have long dealt with the unfortunate stereotype that they distribute goods solely based on clientelism, nepotism, or corruption. Our study of Ghana's work to distribute solar panels adds to the growing body of evidence that African governments do respond to need. They can resist political influence. They just may not be able to avoid it completely.

[Justin Scott Schon is Post Doctoral Researcher, University of Florida; Elizabeth Baldwin is Arthur F. Bentley Chair and Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Arizona; Jennifer N. Brass is Associate professor, Indiana University; Lauren M. MacLean is Arthur F. Bentley Chair and Professor of Political Science]

Al-Baghdadi's death: the rise and fall of the leader of Islamic State

NATASHA LINDSTAEDT
theconversation.com

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of Islamic State (IS), is dead. After US special forces raided his safe house in Idlib province in north-west Syria, Baghdadi reportedly fled and detonated a suicide vest, killing himself and three of his children. Over the past several years, there have been constant reports of his death but up until now, none of these reports have been verified.

The death of Osama bin Laden in 2011 did not lead to the end of al-Qaeda, but what does al-Baghdadi's death mean for IS?

Al-Baghdadi was most likely born in the Iraqi city of Samarra in 1971. Though he was a poor student with bad eyesight, he rose to command al-Qaeda's Iraqi division. He was captured by US forces in a raid in 2004 in Falluja, Iraq, but was not considered to be particularly important at the time. Few would predict that al-Baghdadi would rise to such a position of power. He was not noted for being particularly charismatic or memorable.

By 2010, al-Baghdadi took control of the group that would be eventually called the Islamic State, a group whose predecessor was Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI). AQI had been led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi until he was killed in 2006. Under the helm of al-Zarqawi, AQI had become one of the region's most brutal and effective insurgent groups, controlling the flow of resources and foreign fighters into Iraq. By 2007, the group had almost faded away, but by 2009 it was gaining support in Sunni tribal areas now known as the Islamic State in Iraq.

SPLIT WITH AL-QAEDA

By the time al-Baghdadi took over, a rift had grown between the wid-

er al-Qaeda group and IS, which had been simmering since al-Zarqawi led AQI. To al-Qaeda, Baghdadi was excessively violent and counter-productive to al-Qaeda's objectives. Extravagant brutality such as beheading Muslims would alienate most Muslims. Al-Qaeda was also alarmed at IS's predatory strategy of taking territory and resources from other rebel groups.

Al-Baghdadi, for his part, had no interest in subsuming IS under the wider leadership of al-Qaeda. He sent delegates (who were mostly of Syrian descent) into Syria after the Syrian war began in March 2011, a decision which al-Qaeda rejected. After repeated attempts by al-Qaeda to convince al-Baghdadi to move out of Syria, it officially cut its ties with him in February 2014.

Al-Baghdadi believed that al-Qaeda was ineffective, and had failed to set up an actual state.

DECLARATION OF THE CALIPHATE

In June 2014, al-Baghdadi made his first public appearance delivering a sermon from a mosque in the recently captured city of Mosul, where he claimed to come from the same tribe as the prophet Muhammad. He also brazenly declared himself to be the caliph – or the political and religious leader of the Muslim community. Though this declaration was universally rejected by Islamic authorities, his plan of setting up a caliphate attracted thousands of foreign fighters to his cause.

At the height of al-Baghdadi's power, IS had set up organisational structures across multiple countries and created a de facto state, the size of Belgium with 8m people living under its control. He established a brutal justice system, legalised slavery, collected taxes and provided a handful of public services.

While bin Laden was more concerned with overthrowing modern Arab dictators, eliminating Israel and knocking over Western symbols of power, al-Baghdadi focused more on reviving the glory of the past. His dramatic vision for IS attracted those that wanted to be considered to be part of a line of warriors that extended back to the Prophet Muhammad.

FALL FROM POWER

By 2017, IS's fortunes started to turn. It had inspired or helped to plan a series of terrorist attacks in Belgium, the US, France and Turkey that drew increasing resolve from the West to step up efforts to eliminate the group. Iraq's forces also became more effective against IS, eventually retaking Mosul in 2017.

By March of 2019, IS surrendered its final territorial stronghold in Baghouz, Syria after extensive fighting with the mostly Kurdish, Syrian Democratic Forces. IS no longer had territory that it could lay claim to, and without territory, it could not claim to be a valid caliphate.

In an attempt to strengthen his standing, al-Baghdadi appeared in a video in April to demonstrate that the group could still exist, even if it lacked territory. He tried to energise his fighters to redouble their efforts. This would be only the second time that he would appear to the public.

His decision not to appear in person was about ensuring his own safety. Airstrikes had already caused a series of injuries. To avoid being caught, he never used mobile phones and frequently changed safe houses.

This makes his presence in Idlib province in Syria where he died somewhat surprising. The province is controlled by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, an Islamist militia fiercely opposed to IS. The region is also currently under

siege by Russian and Syrian forces.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR IS?

As I've argued in my own research, for most terrorist groups which are hierarchically organised, the death of a leader signals its demise. In fact most terrorist groups fall apart within a year of forming once the group has been decapitated. Terrorist groups that are larger and more cellular in structure, such as al-Qaeda, have been able to weather the deaths of leaders, helping to explain the group's longevity.

IS will likely name a successor to lead the group, and al-Baghdadi tried to prepare his followers that he would not live forever. But it could now start to operate in a way similar to al-Qaeda with a cell like structure, where it may attempt to plan terrorist attacks to signal its continued relevance to its followers. It needs to attract new numbers as it has seen its membership dwindle since its territory has disappeared.

The US decision to pull out of Syria has compromised the Kurds, who were managing detention centres holding captured IS fighters. The Turkish advance into Kurdish held territory in north-eastern Syria has led to the escape of several hundreds of IS fighters. The US, however, already claims it has gathered further intelligence from al-Baghdadi's compound that will continue to weaken IS.

Studies of terrorist groups that have managed succession raise concerns that when one leader dies, the leadership that follows can be less disciplined, more violent and determined to exact revenge. Given Baghdadi's penchant for brutality, it's hard to imagine how that's possible.

[the writer is Professor, Department of Government, University of Essex]

Alibaba's Singles' Day sales hit new record of USD 38 bn

Dhriti Ranjana Ray



HANGZHOU (CHINA), Nov 12 (PTI): E-commerce giant Alibaba's Singles' Day sales hit another record of USD 38.38 billion, even amid concerns of slowing economic growth and trade tensions with the United States.

The Alibaba Group's various shopping platforms' total GMV exceeded USD 10 billion in just 29:45 seconds, and broke last year's record sales figure after 16 hours 31 minutes of the Global Shopping Festival going

live. At the close of the 24-hr shopping extravaganza, the total GMV stood at RMB 268.4 billion (USD 38.379 billion).

According to Alibaba, the year-on-year GMV growth registered a 25.7 per cent rise, while the number of delivery orders stood at a massive 1.292 billion.

The sales figure of this year's 11.11 Global Shopping Festival was keenly watched amid rising trade war concerns between China and the

US. "We have maintained rapid growth in terms of number of customers, new sales. Robust domestic demand is driving the economy," said Fan Jiang President of Taobao and Tmall.

Alibaba's Tmall platform is China's biggest B2C marketplace for both Chinese and international brands and retailers, while Taobao is a leading Chinese online shopping website owned by Alibaba.

As many as 15 brands

surpassed RMB1 billion in GMV including Apple, Haier, Huawei, Nike, Xiaomi, adidas, L'oreal and Estee Lauder among others, Alibaba said.

During the 11.11 shopping festival some of the major countries/regions that bought from China in terms of GMV include Russia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, United States, Australia, Malaysia and Japan, Alibaba said.

The 11.11 shopping festival began in 2009 with participation from

just 27 merchants has evolved into a global shopping festival, Chris Tung CMO of Alibaba Group said.

Last year it raked in a record USD 30.8 billion in GMV, eclipsing the Cyber Monday sales of USD 7.9 billion and Black Friday sales at USD 6.22 billion.

More than 200,000 brands participated in this year's event.

The shopping festival, also known as Double 11 came to a close at midnight on November 11.

The event is also referred as Singles' Day because of its date, 11/11 (November 11) consists of four 'ones', representing four singles, has emerged as the world's biggest shopping festival.

The 11.11 Global Shopping Festival Gala Celebration saw performance by Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter Taylor Swift and a host of other international and local celebrities.

More than 200,000 brands from 78 countries and regions participated in 11.11 this year, with one million new products on offer.

Sena moves SC against Guv's refusal for extra time to muster numbers

MUMBAI, Nov 12 (PTI): The Shiv Sena on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court against Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari's refusal to grant more time to the party to submit the required letters of support to form the next government on Monday night, a party leader said on Tuesday.

The Sena, which is trying to form a possible coalition government with the support of the NCP and the Congress,

had failed to secure the requisite letters from both the parties.

Sena leaders had met Koshiyari ahead of the 7:30 PM deadline on Monday to stake the claim to form government.

"The Sena has filed a petition in the Supreme Court against Maharashtra governor's refusal to extend time. We had asked the governor to give us three days to submit the requisite letters of support. We could

have proved our numbers in a floor test later," Sena leader Anil Parab told a news channel. He said senior lawyer Kapil Sibal will represent the Sena in the supreme court.

After the Sena failed to submit the letter of support of MLAs, the governor had invited the NCP, the third largest party in the 288-member Assembly with 54 MLAs, to "express ability and willingness" to stake claim for government on Tuesday night.

CJI under RTI Act: SC to pronounce verdict tomorrow

NEW DELHI, Nov 12 (PTI): The Supreme Court will pronounce on Wednesday its verdict on petitions challenging the Delhi High Court decision bringing the office of the chief justice of India (CJI) under the ambit of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi will pronounce the judgement at 2 pm. Other members of the bench are Justices N V Ramana, D Y Chandrachud, Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Khanna.

The notice regarding the pronouncement was made public on the apex court's official website on Tuesday afternoon.

A five-judge constitution bench had on April 4 reserved its verdict on the appeals filed in 2010 by the Supreme Court secretary general and its central public information officer against the high court and the central information commission's (CIC's) orders.

The bench, headed by the chief justice, had wrapped up the hearing, saying nobody wants a "system of opaqueness", but the judiciary cannot be destroyed in the name of transparency.

"Nobody wants to remain in the state of darkness or keep anybody in the state of darkness," it had said. "The question is drawing a line. In the name of transparency, you can't destroy the institution." In a land-

mark verdict on January 10, 2010, the Delhi High Court had held that the office of the chief justice of India comes within the ambit of the Right to Information (RTI) law, saying judicial independence was not a judge's privilege, but a responsibility cast upon him.

The 88-page judgement was then seen as a personal setback to the then CJI, K G Balakrishnan, who has been opposed to disclosure of information relating to judges under the RTI Act.

The high court verdict was delivered by a three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice A P Shah (since retired) and Justices Vikramjit Sen and S Muralidhar. The bench had dismissed a plea of the Supreme Court that contended bringing the CJI's office within the RTI Act would "hamper" judicial independence.

Justice Sen retired as the judge of the apex court, while Justice Muralidhar is a sitting judge of the high court.

The move to bring the office of the CJI under the transparency law was initiated by RTI activist S C Agrawal. His lawyer Prashant Bhushan had submitted in the top court that though the apex court should not have been judging its own cause, it is hearing the appeals due to "doctrine of necessity".

The lawyer had described the reluctance of the judiciary in parting information under the Right To Information

Act as "unfortunate" and "disturbing", asking: "Do judges inhabit different universe?" He had submitted that the apex court has always stood for transparency in functioning of other organs of State, but its developments cold feet when its own issues require attention.

Referring to the RTI provisions, Bhushan had said they also deal with exemptions and information that cannot be given to applicants, but the public interest should always "outweigh" personal interests if the person concerned is holding or about to hold a public office. Dealing with "judicial independence", he said the National Judicial Accountability Commission Act was struck down for protecting the judiciary against interference from the executive, but this did not mean that judiciary is free from "public scrutiny".

"This is not the independence from accountability. Independence of judiciary means it has to be independent from the executive and not independent from common public. People are entitled to know as to what public authorities are doing," Bhushan had said.

The deliberations of the collegium in appointing and overlooking judges or lawyers should be made public and information can be parted with under RTI on case-to-case basis keeping in mind the larger public interest, the lawyer had said.

Klopp tells UEFA seminar that VAR must improve

LAUSANNE, Nov 12 (AFP): The day after Liverpool beat Manchester City in a crunch match where VAR decisions were hotly disputed, the Premier League leader's coach Jurgen Klopp and other top football figures have suggested improvement is needed to the fledgling system.

Klopp, his City opposite number Pep Guardiola, Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane, and Thomas Tuchel of Paris Saint-Germain all attended the UEFA coaches forum in Nyon, Switzerland on Monday, where the VAR (Video Assistant Referee) system was a hot topic.

"It is clear it's a process where they have to keep on improving," Klopp said.

"It can be improved, a lot of things have to be done by human beings and we are not 100 per cent (either).

"There is space for some mistakes, nobody asks for perfection, just to have the right decision, that's all."

His comments were made a day after the marquee game of the Premier League season so far saw

a controversial VAR call after six minutes when City could easily have had a penalty when the ball ricocheted around the Liverpool area and hit the Reds' defender Trent Alexander-Arnold on the arm.

Not only did VAR fail to overturn the referee's decision not to award City a penalty, but they were doubly punished 22 seconds later when Liverpool midfielder Fabinho fired home a brilliant strike to give the Reds a 1-0 lead.

UEFA assistant general secretary Giorgio Marchetti said uniformity was needed but called for time for the promising new system to bed in.

"Now we have VAR, it's quite useful that coaches and representatives of referees can speak together," Marchetti said.

"Let's not forget VAR is very young and it's a revolution in the game. What we all need is uniformity.

"There are points which need to be fine-tuned, but you have to look at the positive points that VAR brings," he said.

Three NDFB (Songbijit) militants nabbed in Assam



GUWAHATI, Nov 12 (PTI): Three National Democratic Front of Boroland (Songbijit) faction militants were apprehended by security forces in Assam's Kokrajhar district along the Indo-Bhutan border, police said on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off about the three insurgents hiding in the dense

jungles along the international boundary, a joint operation of army and police from Runikhata was launched and the extremists were nabbed on Monday, they said.

One pistol, one magazine and four rounds of bullet were seized from the possession of the three militants, the police added.

JVM(P) nominates MLA accused of sexually harassing party leader

RANCHI, Nov 12 (PTI): The Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik) on Tuesday included sitting MLA Pradip Yadav, now free on bail in connection with a sexual harassment case, in its second list of 37 candidates announced for the Jharkhand assembly elections.

With these 37, the party announced a total of 46 contestants. JVM(P) president Babul Marandi earlier said the party will contest all the 81 seats on its own.

Yadav, who had on September 28 obtained bail from the Jharkhand High Court, was allotted his home turf Poreyahat that goes to vote in the fifth and final phase on December 20.

A woman JVM(P) leader lodged a police complaint on May 3 ac-



cusing Yadav of sexual harassment in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls. He surrendered to the court of chief judicial magistrate, Deoghar, on July 25 in connection with the case and moved a bail petition. He later secured bail from the high court.

The list also included Abhay Singh who quit the BJP along with Marandi 13 years ago to form the JVM(P). Singh will contest from Jamshepur (East) seat where Chief Minister

Raghubar Das has been nominated as a BJP candidate. Former minister Bandhu Tirkey has been nominated from Mandar seat while former RJD leader Uday Shankar Singh alias Chunna Singh, who joined the JVM(P) some time ago, will contest from Sarath, taking on Agriculture Minister and BJP candidate Randheer Singh.

The five-phase polling begins on November 30. Counting will be held on December 23.

Trump says Baghdadi successor in US crosshairs

US President Donald Trump placed the Islamic State group's new chief in the crosshairs Monday as he marked Veterans' Day by celebrating the killing of the jihadists' former leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

While US presidents traditionally mark the day by laying a wreath at a vast military cemetery in Arlington, near Washington, Trump traveled to New York where he made an address ahead of the city's annual parade of veterans.

Trump was widely criticised after announcing a full withdrawal of US troops from Syria last month, with opponents and even some allies saying it could allow Islamic State to rebuild as well as leaving US-allied Kurdish fighters vulnerable to a Turkish invasion.

But the US president used his speech in New York to claim that the IS leadership was run-

ning scared in the wake of Baghdadi's death in a raid in the northwestern Syrian province of Idlib on October 26.

"Just a few weeks ago, American special forces raided the ISIS compound and brought the world's number one terrorist leader to justice," he said. "Thanks to American warriors, al-Baghdadi is dead, his second in charge is dead, we have our eyes on number three.

"His reign of terror is over, and we have our enemies running very, very scared. Those who threaten our people don't stand a chance against the righteous might of the American military."

After the death of Baghdadi and Islamic State's main spokesman, Abu Hassan al-Muhajir, in a raid the following day, the organization named the little known Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Quraishi as its new

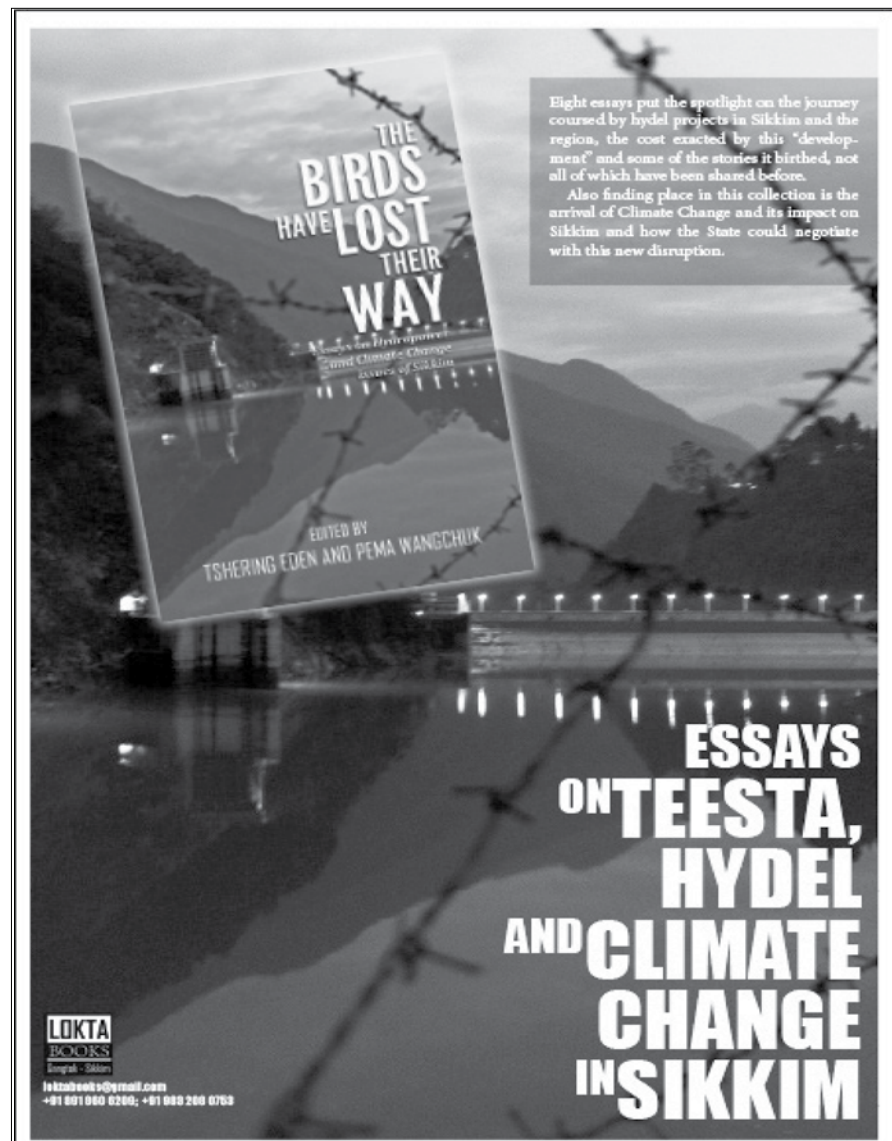
leader. Following the uproar over his announcement of a full troop withdrawal, Trump said that he would leave some troops in the region to protect valuable oil fields.

General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in an interview at the weekend that US troop levels in northern Syria would probably stabilize around 500.

Trump got a cool reception from some in New York, a staunchly Democratic city.

In the windows of one of the glass office towers looming above Madison Square Park where he spoke, large letters were taped in the windows spelling out, one one floor, "IMPEACH," and, several floors above, "CONVICT."

Anti-Trump banners were suspended from overlooking apartment windows as he kicked off the parade and people on the street chanted "lock him up."



Julen Lopetegui roars as the king of Seville and repays Monchi's faith

SID LOWE
theGuardian

When it was over, Julen Lopetegui started roaring, mouth so wide you could fit his half of Seville inside. He wore a wild look in his eyes and punched the air with the kind of force that dislocates shoulders. Which might not sound so unusual, but it is for him. Éver Banega was the first to leap into his arms, and then others followed, violence in the embrace. Across the pitch, in the far corner where Banega was going now, the rest of Sevilla's players hopped about, doing that disco thing, waving their arms up and down and shouting. Way above them at the Benito Villamarín were their fans: 6,000 had applied for tickets; 602 actually got them, and they were enjoying this. Now they were, anyway. The tension had gone with the whistle, and a 2-1 victory.

When, eventually, they got to the dressing room, the winners of the 130th Seville derby posed for a celebratory photo with two framed pictures the kitmen take everywhere, forever accompanying them on their journey – José Antonio Reyes and Antonio Puerta, born locally, raised at Sevilla and taken too soon. And then, late on Sunday night, they headed back outside again, their supporters still there, Betis's gone now. Together they sang Sevilla's anthem, which is much more than an anthem, and their version of the Marseillaise. "We dedicate this victory to Reyes and Puerta," said the captain, Jesús Navas, who knows what this match meant to them. Who knows what it means, full stop.

No one has played more league games for the club than Navas, going back 16 years. No one at Sevilla has played more derbies, either. Opposite him, no one at Betis has played more than Joaquín – the man who, when he scored the winner last year, declared that he could now retire happy but left unhappy this time. Most of the men

with Navas, meanwhile, had never played one at all. Of the 14 footballers who played for Sevilla in the city's "grand derby" and the country's grandest on Sunday night, nine are new. And so is the manager. Lopetegui held, and lost, the two biggest jobs in Spanish football, becoming the Sevilla manager with a year of being coach at both Spain and Real Madrid, but he nev-

more than 40 metres for Betis – they were given a guard of honour, accompanied en route. Upon arrival, more fans and more fireworks awaited.

This is the game you can't lose, especially for the Betis manager Rubi, over whose head the axe hovered, held at bay by a last-minute winner against Celta and a draw at Madrid but not entirely ban-

have flaws, particularly up front: Munir scored a hat-trick in Europe, but wasn't in the squad for the derby and hasn't scored a league goal; Chicharito Hernández has just one; and Munas Dabbur hasn't played a minute. Luuk De Jong has played more than any striker, but came into Sunday with a solitary goal. Sevilla began the season top but lost against Madrid and then

there was something in that idea which was revealed at the end – expressed in Lopetegui's release. His reaction showed what this meant. It showed how much he had suffered, too.

Lucas Ocampos, the most impressive of Sevilla's new signings, scored the first after 13 minutes – his fifth this season. At the other end, Fekir sliced just over the bar and Loren Moron equalised just before half-time. Then Alex Moreno drew a sharp save from Tomas Vaclik. It was no classic – Banega was one of the few to look like he had time to play – but it was a derby. Noisy, tense, different. Next, Luuk de Jong, the striker who took 19 shots to get his first goal and hadn't yet got his second, smashed a second into the roof of the net to give Sevilla the lead. Banega had made it brilliantly, slipping away from one man and slipping the ball past four.

There was still half an hour left and Betis chucked everything at Sevilla: by the end, Joaquín, Tello, Fekir, Loren, and Borja Iglesias were all on the pitch, with Alex Moreno flying up outside them and Sergio Canals pretty much a one-man midfield. They racked up the shots, too – 18 of them. Loren hit the post, Joaquín on the floor appealing for a penalty, just before a wonderful run from Joaquín drew the best chance of all only for Tomas Vaclik to make a superb save at the far post from Moreno. And yet real chances were few. The delivery had been perfect that time but not the next, or the next. As time ticked the pressure grew and Sevilla got deeper, exhausted now, so the final ball got worse.

The nerves did too, right up until the final whistle, leaving Rubi shaking his head. "We deserved something more," he said. "We showed courage and all that

was lacking was the result. This hurts but it's not over yet," Loren said. "It's cruel but that's football," Sidnei added.

Sevilla had won the derby – their first derby, in most cases. De Jong said: "It's a special game, the great derby, and it's special for me now too. It'll be in my head a long time, my [whole] life." Ocampos said: "I'm more than happy. I come from a country where clásicos are important. It's my first derby. I won the most important one in Argentina and now I've won one of the most important here. I'm off to celebrate with my teammates; we deserve this." Diego Carlos called it "mad, magical, crazy". Sergio Reguilón could barely walk but no one was wiping the smile from his face. "We knew it was a special game," he said but not, he admitted, quite this special. "I'm exhausted, but so happy, like a little kid: I'm blown away, it's wild: this is the hostia [the dog's bollocks]," he grinned, a little potty-mouthed. "That's it, that's the word: the hostia."

Lopetegui said: "It was exciting, emotional. We showed great personality at an important moment. There's a lot of passion, it's very special. It's been fantastic and we got a happy ending, too – and when you get a happy ending you enjoy it even more. We're very happy and we saw what it means for the fans, the team, the city." For him, too. Sevilla's coach was the last man out there late on Sunday night, standing alone in front of the fans as they waited to be allowed to head home. High in the stand, they were singing his name. He applauded, gestured, had one final look and then at last turned to leave. Waiting quietly for him was Monchi, the sporting director who believed in him. He put an arm round Lopetegui's shoulders and they went down the tunnel together at the end of Monchi's 46th derby. For Lopetegui it was just the first, but it was a start.

Banned ex-FIFA No.2 Valcke appeals 10-year ban

LAUSANNE, NOV 12 (AFP): Former FIFA No.2 Jerome Valcke is taking his 10-year world soccer ban to the European Court of Human Rights, his lawyer told AFP on Monday.

Valcke, who worked with Sepp Blatter from 2003-2015, was banned for failing to cooperate with investigators, the resale of World Cup tickets and inflated expenses.

"I lodged an appeal November 2, Valcke's lawyer Stephane Ceccaldi told AFP, confirming news reported by French daily Le Monde.

Doping ban for Kenya's marathon runner Kiptum

PARIS, NOV 12 (AFP): Former half-marathon world record holder Kenya's Abraham Kiptumhas been given a four-year doping ban, the Athletics Integrity Unit said. The ban follows irregularities that showed up on Kiptumhas' biological passport, which is used to track potential doping.

"The World Athletics Disciplinary Tribunal has banned the long-distance runner for four-years with effect from 28 April 2019," a statement on Twitter said on Monday.

The Tribunal suspects the 30-year-old Kiptumhas of blood doping, but the athlete has denied any form of doping or blood manipulation.

Watson appointed president of Australian Cricketers' Association

SYDNEY, NOV 12 (PTI): Former all-rounder Shane Watson has been appointed as the president of the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA), a position, he says, will help him "to give back to the game".

The appointment was made at the ACA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) which took place here on Monday night.

"I am truly honoured to be elected as the President of the ACA as it evolves into the future. I have big shoes to fill with the people who have gone before me and I am super excited about this opportunity to continue to give back to the game that has given me so much," Watson tweeted following his appointment.

Watson had represented Australia in 59 Tests, 190 ODIs and 58

T20Is. Watson, who has performed consistently for Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League (IPL), is part of an extended 10-person board which includes three new appointments: current Australian players Pat Cummins and Kristen Beams, and cricket commentator and former Australian cricketer, Lisa Sthalekar.

"Through a period of immense change, the players have been, and will continue to be, a strong voice in protecting what's made our game of cricket great, while embracing opportunities that change inevitably brings," Watson was quoted as saying by 'auscricket.com.au'.

The 38-year-old Watson also praised Cricket Australia's parental policy for women cricketers.

"This policy, amid a

host of other changes, assures Australian women that cricket is a sport which can now support you and your family. And for girls coming through who love sport, like my daughter, it says that cricket is a sport where you'll be able to have a career," the star all-rounder said.

The expanded board is part of a revised governance structure for the ACA, which now also manages the Australian Cricketers' Retirement Account, which benefits Australia's professional cricketers once their careers are over.

The revised structure also splits the role of President and Chair, which will continue to be held by Greg Dyer.

Last week, Cricket Australia had appointed former player Melanie Jones as their director.

England drop Raheem Sterling for Euro qualifier over clash with Joe Gomez

LONDON, 12 NOV [AP]: Raheem Sterling has been dropped for England's Euro 2020 qualifier against Montenegro on Thursday after a bust-up with Joe Gomez at St George's Park.

Emotions were still running high on Monday afternoon following Liverpool's 3-1 win over Manchester City 24 hours earlier and the title rivalry spilled over into the England camp. City's Sterling and Liverpool's Gomez were involved in a heated clash towards the end of the match at Anfield and both players had to be separated again after reporting for international duty.

Gareth Southgate's squad convened at the Burton base and the pair reportedly came together in a physical confrontation – this time in the

players' canteen. The incident, which began with some choice words, ended with the pair having to be pulled apart and immediately forced the England manager into an unwanted decision.

"Both Joe and I have had words and figured things out and moved on. We are in a sport where emotions run high and I am man enough to admit when emotions got the better of me," Sterling said on his Instagram account. "...This is why we play this sport because of our love for it – me and @joegomez5 are good we both understand it was a 5-10 second thing... it's done, we move forward and not make this bigger than it is. Let's get focus on our game on Thursday."

Sterling reportedly apologised for his actions but it was not enough

for Southgate who has ruled the forward out of the qualifier at Wembley. "We have taken the decision to not consider Raheem for the match against Montenegro on Thursday," the manager said. "One of the great challenges and strengths for us is that we've been able to separate club rivalries from the national team.

"Unfortunately the emotions of Sunday's game were still raw. My feeling is that the right thing for the team is the action we have taken. Now that the decision has been made with the agreement of the entire squad, it's important that we support the players and focus on Thursday night."

The incident has provided the FA with embarrassing headlines as

it seeks to bill the game against Montenegro as a celebration of 1,000 England matches. A statement read: "The FA can confirm Raheem Sterling will not be considered for Thursday's Euro 2020 qualifier against Montenegro as a result of a disturbance in a private team area at St George's Park today. He will remain with the squad." The incident also gives Southgate an on-field headache as Sterling has been in exceptional form for England, scoring eight goals and providing five assists during Euro 2020 qualification to date.

Gomez, who was introduced as an 87th-minute substitute at Anfield on Sunday, won the last of his seven England caps in the Nations League third-place play-off against Switzerland in June.

Shakhtar Donetsk captain vows never to be silent in face of racism

MARK DOBSON
theGuardian

The Shakhtar Donetsk captain, Taison, has vowed never to be silent in the face of an "inhuman and despicable act" after hearing alleged racist abuse during his team's match against Dynamo Kyiv. Taison was sent off after reacting to chants from spectators during Shakhtar's 1-0 home victory in the Ukrainian Premier League on Sunday.

The Brazil international made an offensive gesture towards the away fans and then kicked the ball into their section of the stand before the referee led all the players off the field in the 77th minute. Video footage shows Taison and his Brazilian team-mate Dentinho leaving the field in tears after both had allegedly been targeted, while they were consoled by several Dynamo players.

Taison was shown the red card by the referee immediately after the match – played at Shakhtar's temporary home at the OSK Metalist stadium in Kharkiv – had resumed. The

31-year-old midfielder has said he was crying tears of "indignation, repudiation and helplessness" after the incident but promised he would not stop fighting against racism.



He wrote on his Instagram account on Monday: "I love my race, I fight for colour, whatever

I do is for us, for love...I will never shut up in the face of such an inhuman and despicable act! "My tears were of indignation, repudiation and helplessness, helplessness that I could do nothing at that moment! But we are taught very early to be strong and to fight! Fight for our rights and for equality!"

"My role is to fight, to beat my chest, to lift my head and keep fighting always. "In a racist society, it is not enough not to be racist, we must be anti-racist! Football needs more respect, the world needs more respect! "Thank you all for the support messages!"

Shakhtar condemned the alleged racism in a statement, while their goalkeeper Andriy Pyatov admits the players were left shocked and said he had never experienced anything like it before. The 35-year-old, who has won 92 caps for

Ukraine, said on his club's website: "Everyone is somewhat shocked by what has happened in the stands. I've seen that for the first time ever. I've never thought that people can behave like that.

"We discussed the incident with the Dynamo players in the tunnel. They also have representatives of other nationalities in the team. "I saw that [Dynamo midfielder Gerson] Rodrigues was also shocked, because this, as it turns out, concerned him as well. The referee had said he would stop the game if this happened again." Dynamo said in a statement that the club would not tolerate racism and that they would co-operate fully with any investigation.

They also added: "We consider hasty the allegation of a pre-determined guilt of the fans, when the investigation into the circumstances of this case has not even begun."

Sunday's incident came a week after Brescia's Mario Balotelli kicked the ball into the crowd after claiming he had been targeted during his side's defeat at Serie A rivals Verona.

Australia readies for 'catastrophic' bushfires

Thousands of firefighters fanned out across eastern Australia Tuesday as gale-force winds, scorching temperatures and tinder-dry bushland brought "catastrophic" fire conditions.

Dozens of bushfires were already burning out of control as temperatures were expected to climb toward 40 degrees celsius (104 Fahrenheit) and winds were forecast to top 60 kilometres (40 miles) per hour in parts of New South Wales.

Firefighters warned the threat to a vast region surrounding Sydney was "off the scale" after days of blazes that have killed three people and destroyed more than 150 homes.

New South Wales Rural Fire Service Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons warned that in current conditions, "if a fire starts and takes hold... we are not going to stop it."

"We have already got significant fires burning in the north coast of New South Wales. A number of those fires are exceeding 100,000 hectares alone. You're talking about a 1,000-kilometre fire perimeter."

West-to-east winds threatened to spread existing blazes from drought-stricken bushland to population cen-



tres on the coast. Up to 600 schools were closed, as well as many national parks, a total fire ban was introduced and residents in several areas were told to consider getting out.

The police and military were helping firefighters with logistics and running water-dropping sorties using more than 80 aircraft.

"Now is the time to exercise those decisions to leave, leave early and go to safer locations," said Fitzsimmons.

In the small northern town of Taree, dozens of people moved to a show-ground that has become a makeshift evacuation centre.

Fifty-nine-year-old Caroline Watson arrived

last night with her husband and their dog.

"The fires are just rife. They are absolutely everywhere" she told AFP. "They didn't ask us to get out, but we figured it was coming."

- Fleeing by night - In the Blue Mountains on the outskirts of Sydney, veteran Winmalee firefighter Alan Gardiner said locals were "terrified and on edge."

The town still bears the scars of a 2013 blaze that destroyed 200 homes, and residents are acutely aware that with few roads in and out of the mountains, a decision to leave too late can be fatal.

Efforts to burn fuel in a controlled way have

been limited by months of drought-like conditions that made it too dangerous. But Gardiner hopes "it's going to be a very quiet day. I'm hoping to get very bored. If there is a fire, it's going to be catastrophic."

To the east in Sydney, the authorities do not expect the city's four-plus million people to be under direct threat, but a health warning was issued as a cloak of smoke haze drifted into the city.

Australia's deadly blazes in the last week have already spread acrid smoke as far away as New Caledonia.

Sue Johnson, who lives in Sydney's north, helped move horses from fire-risk areas in outer

Sydney to safer ground.

"I brought two horses down in the middle of the night," she said, adding that she cut down vegetation around her home and was ready to fill her gutters with water.

"Hopefully none of this will be necessary," she said, but people in the local community are "scared, very scared" of the fire hitting their community. This bushfire season is in its infancy but is already on track to be one Australia's worst on record.

In New South Wales alone one million hectares -- roughly the area of Jamaica -- have already burned, three times more than the whole of the last season.

Protesters hit Hong Kong commute as western powers urge restraint



Hong Kong protesters struck the city's transport network for a second day running on Tuesday as western powers voiced concern over spiralling violence after police shot a young demonstrator and another man was set on fire. Small bands of masked protesters blocked roads, threw objects onto train tracks and held up subway trains, sparking cat and mouse clashes with riot police and renewed chaos on the morning commute.

Universities were also a flashpoint with police firing tear gas at protesters who had blocked roads leading to the City University of Hong Kong.

Masked activists outside Hong Kong University blocked a main road by dropping objects from a footbridge. Overnight, students there had clashed with police after officers made an arrest outside one of the university's residences.

And at Polytechnic University clashes broke out as police tried to arrest a female student. Owan Li, the student rep-

resentative on the university's governing body, said he was beaten by police as he tried to mediate. "The officers were rather arrogant and unbridled," Li told AFP, sending pictures of bruises to his hand and leg.

"They said I was being aggressive and obstructing their work, then the six to seven of them dragged me out and gave me a round of beating and kicking."

- PROTESTER SHOT, MAN SET ALIGHT -

Hong Kong has endured 24 straight weeks of increasingly violent rallies aimed at securing greater democratic freedoms from China, which has ruled the city under a "one country, two systems" framework since its handover from the British in 1997. The protesters are desperate to stop what they see as Beijing's tightening control over Hong Kong, and reneging on its handover commitment to allow greater liberties for the city than those on the mainland.

On Monday the financial hub was convulsed by some of the worst vi-

olence yet as crowds reacted to the shooting of a 21-year-old protester by rampaging through train stations, barricading streets and vandalising shops throughout the day and night.

Footage of the shooting -- broadcast live on Facebook by a bystander -- showed a police officer drawing a pistol as he tried to detain a masked person at a junction that had been blocked by protesters.

Another unarmed masked protester then approached the officer and was shot, quickly falling to the ground.

The video quickly went viral and inflamed already sky-high anger towards the police.

Protests raged for hours in multiple neighbourhoods, including a lunchtime rally mostly made up of office workers in the city's main commercial district, which was broken up by tear gas. Horrifying footage also emerged of a man being doused with a flammable liquid and set ablaze by a masked assailant following an argument with pro-democ-

racy protesters. Both the man set alight and the shot protester remained in critical condition on Tuesday, hospital authorities said.

- 'DEEPLY DISTURBING' -

The violence prompted western powers to urge Beijing and Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam to find a compromise with protesters who are seeking greater democratic freedoms and police accountability. "We condemn violence on all sides, extend our sympathies to victims of violence regardless of their political inclinations, and call for all parties -- police and protesters -- to exercise restraint," State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortugas said in a statement.

Britain said the latest violence was "deeply disturbing". "Political dialogue is the only way forward and we want to see the Hong Kong authorities agree a path to resolve this situation," Downing Street said in a statement. But there is little sign Beijing or Lam are willing to offer any political concessions.

As clashes raged on Monday, Lam said protesters were indulging in "wishful thinking" if they thought violence would achieve political change.

On Tuesday morning she gave another press conference criticising protesters and praising people who tried to make it into work. Lam has been either unable or unwilling to end the five-month political crisis as Beijing insists she takes a hard line.

In a leaked audio recording from September, Lam told business leaders her room for manoeuvre was "very, very, very limited" and that she "has to serve two masters" -- a reference to Beijing.

Morales leaves for Mexico as Bolivia military pledges to tackle violence

Evo Morales left Bolivia Monday for Mexico, which has granted him political asylum, as the armed forces agreed to help police curb violence that has erupted after the president's stunning resignation left a power vacuum. The senator set to succeed Morales as interim president, Jeanine Anez, pledged to call fresh elections to end the political crisis.

The United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) earlier voiced fears of a breakdown in security in a country that appeared increasingly rudderless after dozens of officials and ministers resigned along with Morales, some seeking refuge in foreign embassies.

Morales called Mexico's Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard on Monday to request asylum and later tweeted that he was "heading to Mexico."

Ebrard confirmed Morales had been granted asylum and late on Monday wrote on Twitter that a Mexican military plane carrying the former president had "already taken off ... with Morales aboard." According to international conventions, he's under Mexico's protection. His life and integrity have been saved," Ebrard said.

Morales thanked Mexico for protecting him and vowed to come back to his country "stronger and more energetically." The dramatic events came a day after Morales's shock resignation after he lost the backing of the military following three weeks of street protests over his disputed re-election for an unconstitutional fourth term.

"The military command of the armed forces has arranged for joint operations with the police to prevent bloodshed and fighting amongst the Bolivian family," said General Williams Kaliman in a televised address. Three people have died in clashes since the disputed election.

Earlier, La Paz police chief Jose Barrenechea called on Kaliman to "intervene, because the Bolivian police have been overrun." Some small police barracks around the country were torched or looted on Monday.

"We are going to call elections," Anez told reporters in La Paz, the seat of government, saying



that there will be "an electoral process that reflects the will of all Bolivians."

- Morales supporters arrested - Morales claimed on Twitter late on Monday that two of his homes had been attacked by "vandalism groups."

That came after AFP reporters said hundreds of Morales supporters were marching on La Paz from its satellite town El Alto as opposition leader Carlos Mesa claimed on Twitter that "a violent mob" was heading for his home to attack it.

Soon afterwards came the police's plea for military help.

AFP photographers saw civilians making arrests after tussling with Morales supporters in La Paz, sometimes assisted by police. Some of those arrested were made to kneel in the street, hands behind their backs. Some were bloodied. Shops and offices in La Paz were shuttered on Monday in the wake of looting that broke out late on Sunday in some parts of La Paz and El Alto.

The police -- largely confined to barracks since riots broke out on Friday, with many units joining the protests -- were returning to the streets, police chief Vladimir Yuri Calderon said.

Several of Morales' ministers and top officials resigned after his announcement -- including many who sought refuge at the Mexican embassy -- raising the question of who was in charge, given that vice president Alvaro Garcia Linera also resigned. Under the constitution, power then passes to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the lower house of Congress, in that order. But they have resigned, too.

Anez stepped in on Sunday to say she would assume the presidency, given her position as deputy senate leader.

The 52-year-old is likely to be tasked by Congress to oversee fresh

elections and a transition to a new government by January 22. Lawmakers are due to meet on Tuesday to begin the process.

- 'Assume responsibility' -

The 60-year-old Morales announced his resignation in a televised address on Sunday. The streets of La Paz immediately exploded in celebration, with jubilant Bolivians waving the country's flag, but violence and vandalism later erupted overnight there and in El Alto. Morales, a former coca farmer who was Bolivia's first indigenous president, said his opposition rivals, Mesa and Luis Fernando Camacho, "will go down in history as racists and coup plotters."

US President Donald Trump hailed Morales's resignation as a "significant moment for democracy in the Western Hemisphere," and praised the role of the country's military.

"These events send a strong signal to the illegitimate regimes in Venezuela and Nicaragua that democracy and the will of the people will always prevail," Trump said, referring to two other leftist Latin American nations targeted by his administration.

- Irregularities -

Morales defended his legacy on Sunday, which includes landmark gains against hunger and poverty and tripling the country's economy during his nearly 14 years in office. He gained a controversial fourth term when he was declared the winner of the presidential election by a narrow margin. But the opposition cried foul and three weeks of street protests ensued, during which three people died and hundreds were injured.

An OAS audit of the election found irregularities in just about every aspect that it examined.

Morales called new elections but commanders of the armed forces and police backed calls for his resignation.

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BEHIND THE SCENES! The singer, Rita Ora dresses as a construction worker on the set of *Twist* in London.

Chadwick Boseman Questions the Timing of Martin Scorsese's Marvel Criticism

"He's saying it when he's possibly campaigning for an award," the "Black Panther" actor tells BBC 5 Live.

Chadwick Boseman is making the press rounds to promote his upcoming crime thriller "21 Bridges," but the omnipresence of Martin Scorsese's critical Marvel movie comments meant it was only a matter of time before the "Black Panther" actor was asked to comment. Speaking to BBC 5 Live (via The Independent), Boseman said he must respect Scorsese's opinion because "he's a genius at what he does." The actor then questioned the timing of Scorsese's Marvel dig. Boseman suggested the legendary filmmaker might have spoken out against Marvel "to get eyes" on his new film "The Irishman" and generate headlines for himself in the thick of Oscar season.

"You've got to think about when he's saying it," Boseman said. "He's saying it when he's possibly campaigning for an award. He's saying it at a time when he's making a Netflix movie, so that's how eyes get on his film, and it's not going to be in the cinemas – it's not going to be seen the best way."

Boseman added that the values Martin

Scorsese thinks are essential for cinema are a central part of "Black Panther." As the actor said, "The mystery that Scorsese is talking about is in 'Black Panther.' If he saw it, he didn't get that there was this feeling of not knowing what was going to happen that black people felt. We thought, you know, 'White people will kill us off, so it's a possibility that we could be gone.' We felt that angst. We felt that thing you would feel from cinema when we watched it. That's cultural. Maybe it's generational."

Scorsese's first anti-Marvel comments were published in an interview with Empire magazine that went viral at the beginning of October. Since then, the entire industry has been weighing in on the value of Marvel films as both a cinematic art form and an exhibition threat. Scorsese most recently wrote an op-ed for The New York Times in which he doubled down on the threat Marvel films are posing in the exhibition space.

Boseman will return to the Marvel Cinematic Universe with "Black Panther 2," which has yet to land an official release date. The actor's new project, "21 Bridges," opens nationwide November 22 from STX Entertainment.

Literally No One Wants to Talk to Giuliana Rancic

Imagine you have a job that requires you to ask incredibly famous people about what shoes they were wearing, or what color nail polish they have on. It's the only job people know you for, and night after night for years, you've been broadcast into gym lobbies and gas station televisions and auto-play videos on website sidebars. A few years ago, you said something so ridiculous that you moved to Chicago with your husband to flee public scrutiny. You eventually came back, hosted a few more red carpet events, and then had to announce you were leaving your long-running gig permanently, except when they need you to be around as guest host. And at your first major Hollywood event since the announcement, a whole bunch of famous people ignore you.

Now imagine your name is Giuliana Rancic!

While watching the People's Choice Awards Sunday night, I was amazed by how brazenly celebrities ignored Giuliana Rancic in the middle of an interview question. Like Gwen Stefani, who interrupted the host in the middle of a question to point out noted aerial gymnast Pink and her many children. (Who may or may not have been somewhere off screen.)

Rancic also reports that Zendaya

snubbed the host four years after the scandal that (almost) ended Rancic's career. At the 2015 Oscars ceremony, the famous-person conversationalist told viewers of the awards ceremony that a teen Zendaya's dreadlocks prob-



ably smelled "like patchouli oil, or maybe weed." According to Radar, sources claim the Euphoria star has refused to speak to Rancic on red carpets, or guest host for E!, ever since.

And even if no one wants to talk to the host—whether in solidarity with Zendaya or of Rancic's support of Ryan Seacrest amidst abuse allegations—she'll always have the glam-bot to keep her company! [Radar]

Drake, formerly beloved rapper and Millie Bobby Brown texter, was forced

off the stage by the audience at Tyler, the Creator's Camp Flog Gnaw this weekend. Hollywood Life reports that at some point during his set, he asked the apathetic crowd if anyone would like him to "keep going." They responded by boo-ing.

Sources claim that many expected Frank Ocean to show up, and that some began chanting, "We want Frank," at the rapper. Yikes! I wonder what turned the public sentiment? Maybe it was the tumultuous reveal of his baby with Sophie Brussaux, who he allegedly attempted to pressure into having an abortion. It could have also been his rumored hook-up with Kylie Jenner, which sources close to the Kardashians have done their best to quash. Who can really say why no one likes this man! [Hollywood Life]

One of Yoda's most iconic lines may get a wild new meaning in 'Star Wars 9'

When Yoda speaks, one should listen. The Jedi Master has always seemed to know more than he admits, and it's possible he may have foreseen the arrival of another Force user long before they made their onscreen debut. A fascinating new theory suggests one particular line from The Empire Strikes Back may have foretold Rey's arrival in the most recent Star Wars trilogy. While fans have long speculated that Anakin Skywalker's has always been central to the Star Wars films, it's Luke's journey that carried the original trilogy. Though he was thought to be the Jedi's last hope in destroying Darth Vader, Yoda may have foreseen someone else who would save the galaxy. And it wasn't Luke.

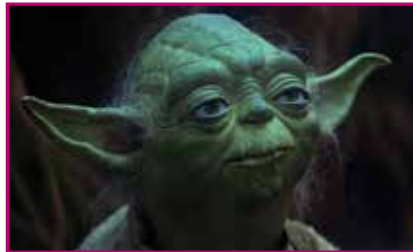
Reddit user Cheekywanquer theorizes that Yoda's conversation with Obi-Wan Kenobi in The Empire Strikes Back connects directly back to Rey, and might explain why Luke wasn't surprised to see her when she showed up on Ahch-To in The Last Jedi.

When Obi-Wan tells Yoda that Luke is their "last hope," Yoda says, "No. There is another." While the events of Return of the Jedi suggest this "other" person was Leia, it's also possible Yoda was referring to Rey.

"Yoda doesn't seem surprised at all that Rey is as strong in the Force as she is, even going as far as to say she doesn't need the ancient Jedi texts," writes the theorist.

While it's not likely that Yoda was actually talking about Rey, the line could have still been laying the groundwork for the next generation of Force users and Rey's role. After all, we know Yoda can foresee future events. Perhaps Luke trained Rey to be a Jedi at Yoda's urging. This also reinforces the speculation that Luke, Leia, and Han were all familiar with Rey upon meeting her.

Yoda could have also been referencing Leia, just like we always thought, though further into the future than Return of the Jedi led us to believe. Carrie Fisher's brother recently revealed a dropped storyline would have seen her character revealed to be the last Jedi in The Rise of Skywalker. Additionally, a leak from Star Wars reddit JediPaxis even proposed that Episode IX included a flashback scene — that may or may not have been filmed — of Luke training Leia as a Jedi.



Punk '77: The Politics of Punk

The Clash and the Pistols have established social realism as an essential part of punk ideology, but this does not make their music the "direct expression of the contemporary working class."

Beyond the Dole Queue: The Politics of Punk October 24, 1977

A couple of months ago I went to a festival in London organized by Music for Socialism. Music for Socialism is a group of musicians and writers who came together "to explore the connections between socialist politics and their personal involvement with music," and the point of the festival was to make such exploration public. An elaborate program of concerts and workshops was arranged; there were performances in every style of folk and rock and avant-garde and speakers from every style of Marxist and libertarian and sexual politics. We were all set for a weekend of sophisticated debate: What is the relationship of revolutionary form and revolutionary content? What is the correct political position of the artist? How should we handle the forces of the music business, the contradictions of popular consciousness?

I still can't answer any of these questions and the meeting didn't turn out like that at all. Discussion was crude, repetitive, and dominated by one subject: the politics of punk. The recurrent question was a simple one — is punk "the most reac-

tionary fascist trend in popular culture today?" — and the recurrent answer was simple, too: Yes. The punks were denounced by Cornelius Cardew, haut-bourgeois avant-garde composer turned Maoist member of Peoples Liberation Music, and PLM had no doubts at all. Hesitant objections were curtly dismissed. The Clash? No need even to listen to their songs — just look at the LP: issued by CBS, an international monopoly capitalist concern, and featuring on the front sleeve a Union Jack, symbol of imperialism, and on the back a photo of policemen charging, propaganda for the state forces.

Confronted by such sublime certainties, I retreated to my record player, but this has not been the only political response to punk nor even the crudest one. Other political groups have been indulging in an opposite opportunism. The Young Communist League issues scrawled punk newsletters in which the obligatory Sex Pistols quotes are interspersed with their own aphorisms — "Reading the Morning Star forms an essential part of my daily life" — and the Socialist Workers Party uses Rock Against Racism (originally formed in response to Eric Clapton's burglary) to issue its own punk paper, Temporary Hoarding, in which Johnny Rotten emerges, after some neat flicks of interviewing technique, as a vanguard of working-class struggle.

ARIES: Things haven't always worked out the way you would have liked them to, especially in the realm of romance. But you're starting to find the silver lining in everything. You are realising the failures taught you valuable life lessons and helped build character. In other words, you wouldn't be the person you are today if it weren't for the heartbreaks.

Tip: Forgiveness heals.

TAURUS: Let's talk about your love for maximalism. How much is too much, and where does one draw the line? Something to consider when you find yourself hoarding or purchasing what you do not need. 'Less is more' is a life-changing philosophy, Taurus. In the realm of love and emotions, you are being asked to take responsibility for your words and actions.

Tip: Take responsibility for your actions and words.

GEMINI: You are building (or getting ready to build) a home with the one you love. Stay open to what the Universe has to offer. Spoiler alert, Gemini: the best is yet to come. Remember to do things in a systematic manner. The strength of the foundation

will determine the strength of the relationship. Gemini's who've been playing the field for a while, stop settling for less-than-perfect.

Tip: Build a strong foundation.

CANCER: A life-changing affirmation: "I am aware that being happy means that I am on the right track." Everything is as it should be, both in your inner and outer landscape. You are feeling bold and vivacious. As a result, you are more in control of your life than you have ever been. Continue to make empowered choices, Cancer.

Tip: You are taking charge of your life.

LEO: How do you feel about whirlwind romances, Leo? Doesn't matter. You won't have time to process given the speed at which things are transpiring in this moment. The key to making the most of your circumstances: staying present. Coupled lions, there is a big change coming your way. Challenge the status quo and bring about a positive change.

Tip: There is a big change coming your way.

VIRGO: You know what you want and you are unstoppable in the pursuit of what brings

a smile to your face. Go after your heart's desires, Virgo. Your willpower is giving your dreams and tangible form. Single Virgos will find that they are being wooed and pursued by all the right people.

Tip: You are unstoppable in the pursuit of your dreams and desires.

LIBRA: The message is repeating itself, Libra: If you're looking for a lifetime of commitment, then you've got to hold the image in your mind's eye. You've got to feel it, visualise it, and know that you deserve to be loved in the right manner. Come spring, you will see a magnificent development on this front. Coupled Libras, there's no doubt that you are supporting each other in the best way you can. But there's a good chance you are forgetting to express how you feel or say the three magic words.

Tip: Visualise the relationship you want to manifest.

SCORPIO: There is a lot you do not know about the situation. Investigate thoroughly before you make any accusations. This is the key to understanding the other side of the story without letting your emotions get in

the way. On the upside, you will not have to deal with trials and tribulations alone. Your female friendships will prove to be a source of strength and support.

Tip: Stay neutral.

SAGITTARIUS: If you're in the process of getting to know somebody, it's best to do things by the book. Build a connection outside of the bedroom first. This is the secret to deeper intimacy. Sagittarians who have been together for a while are now progressing towards marriage. Understand the customs and traditions related to this union. Take the ones that resonate with you and let go of the rest.

Tip: Do things by the book.

CAPRICORN: A reminder from the Universe: you don't have to settle for less. You are experiencing an upgrade on every level. Your dreams and desires are taking a tangible form. At the same time, your relationship is giving you the comfort you need to feel secure. Trust that it will only get better from here. Remember to not take things for granted. Continue to express your love in different ways and nurture the seeds you have sown.

Tip: The future looks better than you can imagine.

AQUARIUS: If your work requires you spend too much time around people, use this day detach and tend to your inner self. Take time to do things you love with the one you love (aka you!). Practice silence. Think of your work as meditation. Go for a walk in the woods and become a conduit for inspiration. This is the secret to refuelling your reserves. Today also brings with itself the reminder to clear your space of any and all negative energies.

Tip: Meditate and contemplate.

PISCES: Everything is as it should be, says the mysterious smile on your face. You are in a good place, Pisces, surrounded by the kind people who remind you of what happiness looks and feels like. This is also a time of abundance and security. The seeds you had paid painstakingly sown are now ready to bear fruit. Some of you could thinking of investing the money in property or giving your home a massive makeover.

Tip: It's harvest season in your world.