



**KALIMPONG'S ISSAC RAI
WINS EPIC 17K MTB RACE**
pg03

**Justice Meenakshi
Madan Rai to be
next CJ of Sikkim**

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 29 JUN:**
The seniormost judge of High Court of Sikkim, Meenakshi Madan Rai, is set to become the first woman Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim. Justice Rai has been

appointed as the next Chief Justice of Sikkim as per a notification issued by Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, dated 29 June 2018. She will take office on 01 July, after the retirement of current Chief Justice, Satish Kumar Agnihotri.

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

**SIMFED
announces fresh
MRPs of local
organic veggies**

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 29 JUN:**

As per a notification issued by Sikkim State Co-operative Supply & Marketing Federation [SIMFED], Gangtok, the procurement price, wholesale price and Maximum Selling Retail Price of various local organic vegetables have been fixed with the approval of the State Government.

SIMFED's wholesale selling rate/kg for various local organic vegetables have been set as tomato [Rs 24], cabbage [Rs 30], cauliflower [Rs 33], carrot [Rs 33], radish [Rs 25], broccoli [Rs 55], butter beans [Rs 48], Singtamey beans [Rs 40], pea [Rs 45], chayote [Rs 18], chilli [Rs 24], brinjal [Rs 24], bottle gourd [Rs 12], bitter gourd [Rs 30], bhendi [Rs 30] and leafy vegetables [Rs 20].

Likewise, the Maximum Selling Retail Price of the vegetables have been fixed as tomato [Rs 30], cabbage [Rs 40], cauliflower [Rs 40], carrot [Rs 40], radish [Rs 30], broccoli [Rs 65], butter beans [Rs 60], Singtamey beans [Rs 50], pea [Rs 60], chayote [Rs 25], chilli [Rs 30], brinjal [Rs 30], bottle gourd [Rs 15], bitter gourd [Rs 40], bhendi [Rs 40] and leafy vegetables [Rs 25].

**THREE
SIKKIMESE
IN BHUTAN'S
WOMEN'S
FOOTBALL
SUPER
LEAGUE**
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Governor calls on Dalai Lama in New Delhi

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 JUN:

Governor Shrinivas Patil along with First Lady Rajanidevi Patil met the Dalai Lama in New Delhi today and received his blessings. A press commu-

iqué received from Raj Bhavan informs that the Governor and the First Lady also exchanged greetings and offered khadas and wished the Dalai Lama good health.

Will take action after enquiry report on Namchi newborn death: Health Dept

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 29 JUN:**

With regard to the charge of negligence against District Hospital Namchi on the death of a newborn on 21 Jun, the Department of Health Care, Health Services & Family Welfare has issued a press release today with clarifications on the case.

As per the release, Eden Bhutia [23], wife of Dawa Pintos Bhutia, hailing from Kewzing in South Sikkim had been admitted at District Hospital Namchi on 21 Jun at 9.15 a.m with complaints of pain in the abdomen.

On examination, it was noted that the patient was in early labor and accordingly was admitted for safe confinement with advice of regular monitoring. Her vitals were normal and fetal heart sound was regular.

However, she had not done recent investigations including ultrasonography which were advised to her by the treating Gynaecologist on 19 Jun. Laboratory Investigations as required were sent on admission.

The progress of labor was monitored and the lady delivered a still born child at 3.56 p.m on the same day. There were two loops of cord around the neck with thick meconium staining. The on-duty Medical Officer was called by the nurses who had conducted the delivery to assess the baby.

Accordingly, CPR was given even though no heart sounds were audible and no pulse palpable. The baby showed no signs of life in spite of all resuscitation measures and was thereafter declared still born.

The Gynaecologist

on call, who had come to attend another post-operative patient, was also informed regarding the baby and thereafter she too attended to the baby. The patient party was duly informed by her following which they had expressed dissatisfaction.

Based on the report received by HC, HS&FW Department, a committee had been constituted on 23 Jun to conduct the preliminary enquiry on the still birth case consisting of Director III, Dr Sarita Lama, Additional Director [RCH], Dr Namgay Shenga, Chief Consultant [Paediatric], STNM Hospital, Dr Ruth Yonzan, and Specialist [Obstetrics & Gynaecology], Dr Parasmani Karki.

The HC, HS&FW Department press release states that the department will take all necessary action based on the

report of the preliminary enquiry.

The department has further expressed that the Health Department and all the doctors, nurses, paramedic and

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CM addresses Janta Mela at Khelgaon, Peons to be redesignated as Office Attendants

**NITESH R PRADHAN/
IPR
GANGTOK, 29 JUN:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today addressed Janta Mela for Urban Areas and Lamas [monks] of the entire State at Khel Gaon in Reshithang. It was clubbed with the final leg of the Jan Sampark cum Jan Seva Abhiyan of the CM for the East district of Sikkim for three constituencies namely Gangtok, Arithang and Upper Tadong along with the Sangha Constituency.

The public event was organized by Urban Development & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim in coordination with the area MLAs and Nagar Panchayats.

The CM handed over token benefits to beneficiaries from among the Lamas [monks] and the people of urban areas from different parts of the State. The benefits that were distributed by the CM on the occasion included Token Allot-



ment for urban housing scheme, GCI Sheets, Electric Rice Cooker, Plain Sheets as part of Urban Housing Scheme, and House Enhancement Scheme Order.

Likewise, subsidized rice was distributed to beneficiaries under other priority households under Food & Civil Supplies Department, while CMRHM, LPG, Pressure Cooker and GCI Sheets were the items under the Rural Management & De-

velopment Department which were distributed on the occasion.

Meanwhile, seven employees of the Municipal Bodies from all the four districts were rewarded by the CM with cash award and mementos for rendering sincere and excellent service in their capacities.

The CM was felicitated by a delegation of monks with an Appreciation Letter. Likewise, the

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Workshops for aspiring tourism entrepreneurs from 04 July

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 29 JUN:**

Entrepreneurs' Hub and Consultation Centre [EHCC] is organising a workshop-cum-interaction programme, "Tourism for Entrepreneurship Development", in all four districts for tourism entrepreneurs, aspiring entrepreneurs and students of Sikkim.

The workshop mainly aims to bring all aspiring, amateur and established entrepreneurs of the State together on a single platform for sharing experiences, knowledge and ideas along with hands-on training.

The organisers have invited all young aspiring entrepreneurs, youth



and students of the State to take full advantage of the event.

The workshop will be held in two different phases. The first phase will be held for South and West districts and will be followed by another phase for East and North districts.

The series of workshops will be starting from Yangyang Senior

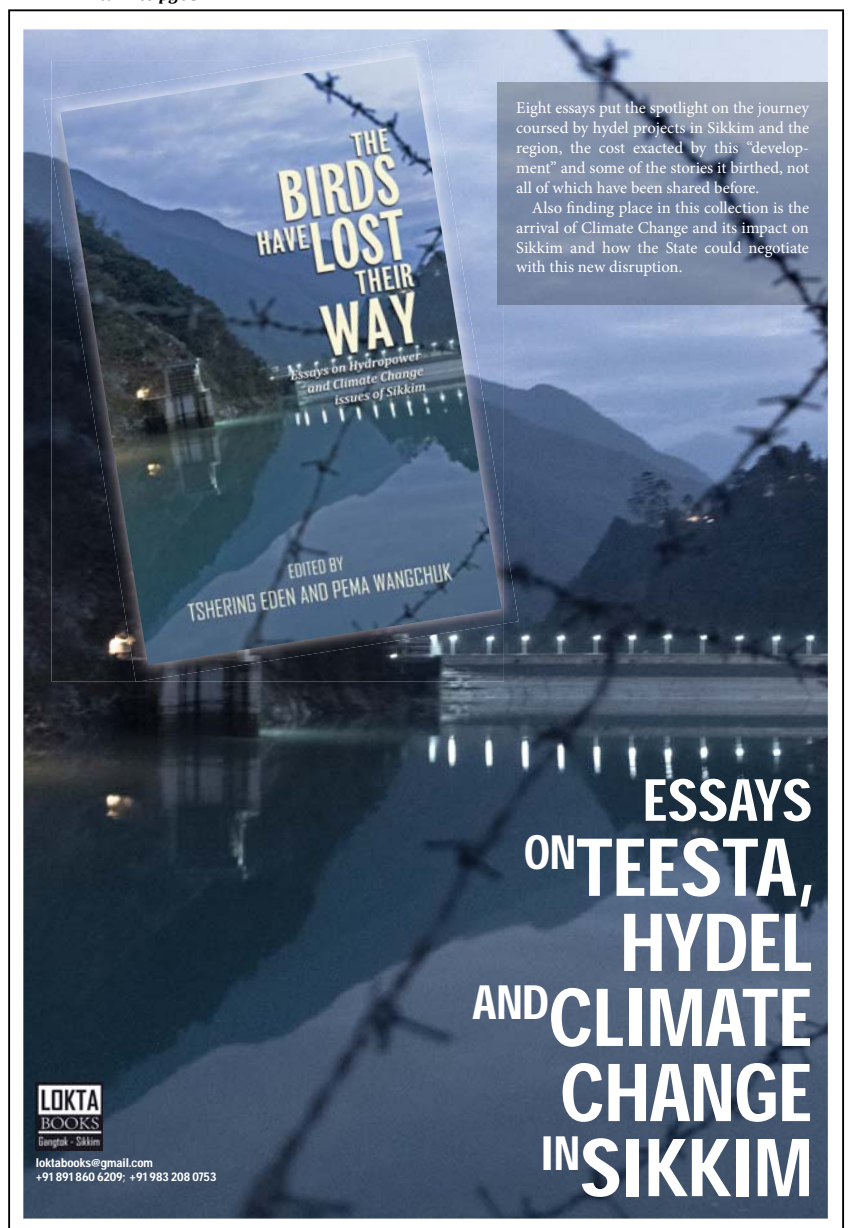
Secondary School in South Sikkim on 04 Jul which will be followed by another workshop at Namchi community hall on 05 Jul, at Kaluk on 07 Jul and at Dentam on 08 Jul.

Addressing a press conference here today, a young entrepreneur from EHCC, Rewaj Chettri, mentioned that the main idea of the event is to bring experi-

enced and established tourism stakeholders of the State and outside to interact and share their vast knowledge and experiences in different areas of tourism with aspiring entrepreneurs, youth and students of the State. He mentioned that different government departments, organisations and tourism stakeholders have been supporting the event.

Mr Chettri informed that representatives from Booking.com will also be interacting with participants and will provide hands-on training. He stated that the event will also explain the objective and benefits of the Start Up

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

Local vegetable stalls shifted to Singtam walkway for Friday Haat

**YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 29 JUN:**

Local vegetable stalls have now been shifted to Singtam walkway for Friday Haat owing to safety measures and space issues at Singtam main market. This was announced by Police Department, Singtam on 22 Jun last week.



Tikpur School HM conferred PG Dip in Edu Planning & Administration

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 29 JUN:**

Headmaster of Tikpur Government Secondary School, West Sikkim, Durga Mani Pradhan, has been conferred with Post Graduate Diploma in Educational Planning and Administration along with 30 others from different States of the country in a function held at National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration [NIEPA], New Delhi today. The valedictory function was chaired by Vice Chancellor, NIEPA, Professor NV Varghese, a press release



lor, NIEPA, Professor NV informs. Varghese, a press release

SSB plants 150 saplings at Marchak



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
HORTICULTURE AND CASH CROPS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
KRISHI BHAWAN, TADONG

Memo No: 66/Engg/HCCD Dated: 28.6.18

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

"Expression of Interest" is invited for leasing out a three storied RCC building for Wholesale Regulated Market cum Integrated Pack House at Melli, South Sikkim. The following spaces and facilities as mentioned below will be handed over at present.

1. BASEMENT – I: 79.0 ft x 29.0 ft (2291.0 sft).

One Auction Hall (46.5 ft x 29.2 ft = 1353.0 sft).

One Canteen/multipurpose room (20.0 ft x 29.0 ft = 580 sft).

One kitchen/Ladies toilet/Gents Toilet.

2. GROUND FLOOR: 80.0 ft x 60.0 ft(4800 sft)

Dry Store – I (1300.0 sft)/ Grading Area (210.0 sft).

Dry Store – II (832.0 sft).

Two Office rooms with 217.0 sft area each.

Toilet Blocks for Ladies & gents.

3. TOP FLOOR: The fully air-conditioned top floor is the integrated floripack house with the following facilities.

(i) Grading & Sorting Room (900 sft).

(ii) Pre Cold Store (96.0 sft).

(iii) Cold Store- I (396.0 sft).

(iv) Cold Store- II (850.0 sft).

(v) Auction Hall (900 sft) : This climate controlled room have sitting capacity for 40 bidders (20 tables & 40 chairs), PA system & LED TV.

Terms of reference:

1. The facilities created would be handed over for a period of 5 (Five) year in "as is where is basis" which can be extended further based on the performance.

2. The unit would be handed over to the highest bidder.

3. The interested individual/Agency should be preferably local.

4. The interested individual/Agency should be registered with APEDA as a merchant.

5. The interested individual/Agency should be having National and International market linkages.

6. The interested individual/Agency should market Agricultural and Horticultural products of Sikkim only.

7. List of Equipment's for Grading and Packing process, Computer and Peripheral's, P.A systems and other electrical items, other inventories and furniture's will be available from the Engineering Cell of the Department.

8. Timely repair, maintenance of the unit should be ensured and electricity bill be borne by the individual/ Agency.

9. The unit shall be subject to time to time inspections by the government officials during the lease period.

10. Further facilities may be added by the Department to strengthen the unit depending upon the availability of fund which will not be covered by this EO and a separate EO shall be floated for the same.

The "Expression Interest" in sealed envelope should reach the office of the Director-II, Horticulture and Cash Crop Development Department, Krishi Bhawan, Tadong, East Sikkim on or before 2.00 pm on 24.7.2018 and shall be evaluated on the same day by the Evaluating committee in the presence of authorised representatives of the individual/Agency.

R.O. No. 162/IPR/PUB/Class/18-19

dt. 29.6.2018

Sd/-

Mission Director

HCCD Department

Government of Sikkim,

Krishi Bhawan, Tadong

Rise of Indian money in Swiss banks not surprising: Yechury

NEW DELHI, JUN 29 (PTI):

Taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury today said while Indian money in Swiss banks rose by 50 per cent in 2017, the Centre wrote off the corporate world's unpaid loans worth lakhs of crores and allowed them to flee after looting public money.

The CPI(M) general secretary said the prime minister had no intention to honour the promises made by him in 2014.

"Indian money in Swiss banks rises 50% to over Rs 7,000 crore in 2017: a fraction of Indian Black Money in Switzerland. Modi govt writes off lakhs of crores of unpaid loans of crony corporates, businessmen flee India after looting public money under his watch; this data is no surprise," Yechury tweeted.

From falsifying history to making new promises, 'Jumlamani' has no time or intention to remember the tall promises he made in 2014...from depositing Rs 15 lakh in each bank account to making rupee stronger to doubling farmers' income, he has only insulted & humiliated us Indians #BlackDays, he said.

According to the official annual data released by the Swiss National Bank (SNB), the central banking authority of the Alpine nation, money parked by Indians in Swiss banks rose over 50 per cent to CHF 1.01 billion (Rs 7,000 crore) in

2017, reversing a three-year downward trend amid India's clampdown on suspected black money stashed there.

In comparison, the total funds held by all foreign clients of Swiss banks rose about 3 per cent to CHF 1.46 trillion or about Rs 100 lakh crore in 2017, it said.

The surge in Indian money held with Swiss banks comes as a surprise given India's continuing clampdown on suspected black money

stashed abroad, including in banks of Switzerland that used to be known for their famed secrecy walls for years.

The Indian money in Swiss banks had fallen by 45 per cent in 2016, marking their biggest ever yearly plunge, to CHF 676 million (about Rs 4,500 crore) -- the lowest ever since the European nation began making the data public in 1987.

Ward level training on Azolla cultivation in Beyoung

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 29 JUN:**

Mavedir conducted Ward level farmers' training on Azolla cultivation at Beyoung Ward, under Siktam Tikpur GPU in West Sikkim on 28 Jun, a press release informs.

Block Technology Manager, Dawa Tshering Sherpa, explained the technical aspects of Azolla cultivation while Mavedir master trainer, Chuten Sherpa, presented demonstration on the method of bed preparation and other requirements for preparing Azolla cultivation unit.

The daylong training was attended by more than 39 participants from Beyoung Ward.



KVK conducts training on kitchen gardening in Chakung



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 JUN:

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West Sikkim conducted daylong training on kitchen gardening under Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan at Chakung in West Sikkim today, a press release informs. The training was attended by 116 progressive farmers of the area.

Subject Matter Specialist [Horticulture], KVK West, Sangey Palmu Bhutia, briefed about kitchen gardening and different bio-composters.

The programme concluded with distribution of vegetable seeds and 50 bottles of waste decomposers and bio-pesticide to the participants.

Landslides after monsoon rains; 4 dead in Arunachal, road blockage hits Amarnath yatra

NEW DELHI, JUN 29 (PTI): Rains lashed several parts of the country triggering landslides in some hill states, which killed at least four ITBP personnel in Arunachal Pradesh and affected the Amarnath pilgrimage in Jammu and Kashmir, as monsoon covered the entire length and breadth of India two weeks ahead of its schedule.

Evening showers in the national capital caused the humidity level to shoot up to 90 per cent even as the mercury settled at a notch below normal. The monsoon winds blew away the dust from Delhi air and the city breathed the cleanest air in nearly a year, authorities said.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) value for the capital was a "satisfactory" 83 today. It touched this level on Wednesday after the heavy pre-monsoon showers, according to the Central Pollution Control Board data.

An Air Quality Index (AQI) between 0-50 is considered "Good", 51-100 "Satisfactory", 101-200 "Moderate", 201-300 "Poor", 301-400 "Very Poor", and 401-500 "Severe".

CM addresses Janta Mela at Khelgaon, Peons to be redesignated as Office Attendants

contd from pg01

representatives of Urban Local Bodies, members of the business community, ASHA workers and Anganwadi Workers also facilitated the CM.

Addressing the public event, the CM highlighted on the Buddhist infrastructure that the State Government has developed and stated that one of the prime images of Sikkim internationally is that of a centre for Buddhism.

The Guest House at Bodh Gaya, enhancement of Annual Grant to monasteries, creation of monastic schools where modern education is imparted, Buddhist University at Deorali, and Aamji education for Bhutia and Lepcha are a few examples of these initiatives.

He also credited the BL communities for forming the country of Sikkim which later became India's 22nd State and reiterated that such a community should avoid rumours and lies spread by the opposition.

"Our number one priority is

protection of the BLs," said the CM.

Further, he reiterated that the Government is committed to safeguard all the social and political privileges of the BL communities, which includes the 13 seats in the State Legislative Assembly.

Highlighting the secular fabric of the State, the CM stated that all religions enjoy equal status in Sikkim.

Addressing the Buddhist monks, the CM reiterated key government infrastructures and schemes for the community and added that the State Government wants to make the monks highly intellectual gurus of the world. He gave an assurance that the salaries and allowances of the monastic 'lobelas' [teachers] will be enhanced in near future.

He further added that the Government is making a 50 ft tall statue of the three revered Lamas who contributed to the building of ancient monasteries, and subsequently the establishment of monarchy in Sikkim and also of the first Chogyal at Yuksom in West Sikkim

as a mark of reverence.

Addressing the business community that includes Marwari, Bihari and others, the CM stated that it has been the policy of his party and his government to respect them.

He further asked the community to analyze what Sikkim has become and the rich value it has added to their lives with an increase in business volume and reaping the "democracy dividend" the State now offers.

"The value of Gangtok has increased by approximately 5000 times, which is evident from the GSDP increase recorded. Business volume has increased. Space/Site Salami system for shops has been introduced. This is the result of our development policies, and people are enjoying the fruit of democratic dividend brought about by good governance," the CM expressed.

Further adding, he highlighted on Residential Certificates issued to old settlers of Sikkim as a prime example of the government policy towards them.

He said that the State Government "is, has and will" appeal for income tax relief to the old settlers.

The CM announced that the top floor of GMC building at Deorali has been allotted for Bihari Bhawan. Likewise, the top floor of Children Park vehicle stand above MG Marg, Gangtok has been allotted for Marwari Bhawan.

Stating that protection of Sikkimese interest is a challenge, he said that his government is ready to face any challenge in the interest of Sikkim and its people.

Adding that there should be dignity for any kind of work, he announced that the designation of Peon will be renamed as Office Attendant.

In conclusion, the CM assured that the demands put forth by the MLAs of Gangtok, Arithang and Upper Tadong constituencies will be passed phase wise in a month's time.

Gangtok on Saturday, 30 June

Temp: 24°C/18°C
Forecast: Considerable cloudiness, a thundershower in the afternoon.
Sunrise: 04:44 AM
Sunset: 6:34 PM

Workshops for aspiring tourism entrepreneurs from 04 July

contd from pg01

programme introduced by the State Government for youth in different corners of the State.

"The event is just an introduction of the Entrepreneurs' Hub and we will follow-up and provide all possible help and support to those interested in establishing a business of their own," Mr Chettri said.

An entrepreneur from Yangyang, Robin Basnet, stated that it is a small effort to make big impact. He added that the event aims at promoting Sikkim as a twelve-month tourism destination by creating huge manpower in this sector. The workshop is free and open for all and interested participants can directly attend the workshop on the said venues.

Another woman entrepreneur, Karishma Pradhan, said, "We will sit with them and make them understand all about entrepreneurship through hands-on training in the areas of their interest. It is a very good opportunity for young aspiring entrepreneurs and students to learn from the vast knowledge and experiences of established entrepreneurs through direct interaction."

She urged women to develop their skills through such events and to take full advantage of immense opportunities in entrepreneurship and tourism.

Likewise, a Travel Agents Association of Sikkim (TAAS) representative, Bikash Gadaily, mentioned that Sikkim has become a tourism hub so the main idea of the event is to encourage stakeholders towards quality and sustainable tourism.

He added that the training will also provide inputs in proper documentation and other procedure required to start a business.

Speaking on the immense opportunities in tourism, he expressed that youngsters can be self-reliant and self-employed through tourism sector.

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Kalimpong's Issac Rai wins EPIC 17K MTB Race

WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 29 JUN:

Issac Rai of Kalimpong has been adjudged the winner of EPIC 17K Mountain Terrain Biking Race held in North Sikkim.

A total of 66 athletes from various parts of the country and neighbouring Bhutan had participated in the race.

The final day of the EPIC 17K MTB Race covered a distance of 83 kms from Thangu to Gurudongmar Lake at an elevation level of 17800 ft.

The valedictory ceremony was held at Lachen Dzumsa today wherein the winners of the race were awarded prizes. The function was attended by Forest Minister, TW Lepcha, as chief guest in the presence of Deputy Speaker, SLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, District Collector, North, Karma R Bonpo, Pipons and the general public of Lachen.

The competition was

held under two categories, Men's Elite and Men's Masters. Cash prize of Rs 70,000, Rs 50,000 and Rs 30,000 was awarded to the first, second and third riders in the Men's Elite competition and Rs 30,000, Rs 20,000, Rs 10,000 was awarded to the first three riders in Men's Master competitions.

A special consolation prize was also awarded to women riders who finished the race.

The event based on the themes "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" and "Secure Himalayas" was organised by Forest Department in collaboration with the North District Administration. The associate partners for the race were Lachen Dzumsa, Lachung Dzumsa, MNP, TAAS, Indian Army and ITBPF.

Forest Minister, Mr Lepcha, while speaking to this correspondent said that the aim of the event was to take the



race to a global level and make a mark in the mountain biking calendar of the world so as to promote tourism of North Sikkim.

He also added that the EPIC 17K MTB Race is a unique race being held in North Sikkim. It also tested the endurance level of riders while being

exposed to panoramic views of the Sikkim.

The DC North said that the programme has potential to be a game changer for development

of tourism in the district and move the entire industry towards high value tourism in the State.

"The race will act as a platform to showcase the

abundant bio diversity, unique geology and scenic beauty of the district," said the DC North while extending gratitude to all for supporting the event.

SCA players urge for more emphasis on women's cricket in NE



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 29 JUN:

President of Sikkim Cricket Association called on its players who have represented the State at National level tournaments for an interaction session today.

More than 60 players from all districts and all age categories along with women players attended the meeting, an SCA press release informs.

During the meet, the players discussed the provision of turf wicket and practice pitches at the earliest along with coordination of regular visits of qualified coaches and support staff from National Cricket Association.

They also discussed organizing inter-district

Super Leagues, exchange programmes and coaching camps for players.

Urging the authority to give more emphasis on women's cricket, the players stressed on the required intervention of Board of Control for Cricket in India [BCCI] for the development of North East women's cricket.

They further urged for lengthier selection process so that the talent can be showcased in a better format.

The meeting also decided to form a players' body as per the direction of the Lodha Committee.

Likewise, Bivash Lamichhaney has been elected as president and Kikam Bhutia as general secretary of the adhoc

body till the rules are framed.

The players' body has unanimously resolved that strict action should be taken against any player for indiscipline in and out of the field, participation in non-SCA tournaments where outside players and finances are involved.

President of SCA gave a positive response to all their suggestions.

The players' body thanked the president for holding the meet for the benefit of players of Sikkim. The players have pledged to support the initiatives taken by the current SCA body.



3 Sikkimese in Bhutan Women's Football Super League

REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 29 JUN:

Three Sikkimese girls - Nimita Gurung, Nim Riki Sherpa and Aita Hangma Limboo are currently at Thimpu in Bhutan under the banner of Sunrise FC, Thimpu to participate in the Women's Super League 2018 being organised by Bhutan Football Federation.

All three girls are

products of Soreng Girls' Football Academy [SGFA] in West Sikkim.

In-charge of SGFA, Palden Bhutia, informed that the girls were signed by Sunrise FC earlier this month.

"We had been in touch with Sunrise FC since May and when they asked for four players, we sent them data based on performance and play history of our girls," he

added.

Nim Riki [20] hails from Bermiok Martam in West Sikkim and plays as a midfielder while Nimita [20] is from Sanga Dorjee in Rinchenpong and plays as a defender.

Aita Hangma [24] is a striker hailing from Thongling in Soreng. She also assists Mr Bhutia in SGFA operations.

It is informed that international football-

ler from Sikkim, Lhako Phuti Bhutia, has also been signed by Sunrise FC for the Women's Super League scheduled to commence from 01 Jul. Since she is currently attending National Indian Senior Women's Football Camp for Asian Games being held in Bengaluru, she will be joining Sunrise FC team from 01 Jul after completion of the camp.

Will take action after enquiry report on Namchi newborn death: Health Dept

contd from pg01

Group D staff are working sincerely in a dedicated manner to serve the people of Sikkim. The department, in the release, has requested all concerned to maintain restrain on social media before full facts of the case are known based on the enquiry committee report.

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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
CENTRAL HEALTH STORES ORGANISATION
HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES &
FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
CONVOY GROUND, TADONG.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Memo No. 205/CHSO/18-19

Date: 29/06/2018

Sealed quotations are invited from the reputed manufacturers, authorised distributors/dealers/ representative for the supply of equipments, instruments, fixtures, furnitures, computers and accessories for setting up 5 bedded dialysis centre at District hospitals Namchi for the year 2018-19.

The Tender Details can be obtained from Sikkim Government website www.sikkim.gov.in w.e.f 02/07/2018.

Sd/-
Joint Director
Central Health Stores Organization.
R.O. No. 163/IPR/Pub/classi./18-19 dt. 29.06.2018


GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
CENTRAL HEALTH STORES ORGANISATION
HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES &
FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
CONVOY GROUND, TADONG.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Memo No. 209/CHSO/18-19

Date: 29/06/2018

Sealed quotations are invited from the reputed manufacturers, authorised distributors/dealers/ representative for the supply of Dental Chairs/ Units / Instruments/ equipments for District hospitals Namchi and Singtam for the year 2018-19.

The Tender Details can be obtained from Sikkim Government website www.sikkim.gov.in w.e.f 02/07/2018.

Sd/-
Joint Director
Central Health Stores Organization.
R.O. No. 164/IPR/Pub/classi./18-19 dt. 29.06.2018

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Stay Longer With Seasonal Concerns

Understand climate change, make conservation a habit

The monsoon has been severe in the Northeast even as it paused and stalled and then swept through central and western India. Assam and other states of the NE were already wading through floods, even as North India was blistering as it waited for the rains to arrive. Summer holidays were extended into monsoon season because it was too hot to be safe for children to be outdoors. The rains have now arrived all over the country, but that is still no guarantee that they will stay despite projections that monsoon will be normal this year. Of course, the Met officials insist that these are cyclical events and that it is too early to ring alarm bells, but should the rains fail mainland India, agriculture will fail as well. Yes, living in a region which has seen a very wet start to the monsoons, this scenario appears almost unbelievable, but in these times of climate change, it is a very likely scenario. But what will eventually get the Delhi media buzzing will be the power cuts that become routine once the hydel projects find no hydro to power supply to the metro cities and the industries or are too inundated by silt and flood-spill to keep the turbines turning. At present, national media is busy with flooding city streets and that can be misleading, because it is not really too much rain that is causing the flooding but too much unplanned expansion that is clogging everything up. Agriculture and farmer woes continue to receive token references, and monsoon and drought continue to remain urban situations for most media. That said, should the season continue playing in extremes, at least it will make news, some of which might even be insightful and detailed.

In these times of climate change, it is important the media reports more on climate patterns. This is important for India because the impact of climate change will be compounded by the over-exploitation of natural resources which has already taken place. Take for example, the Assam floods. Some years ago, the headlines screamed that it was the worst in a decade, and since then, every flood has been the worst in a decade and every summer the hottest in recorded history. As for the floods, it is uncertain whether the rainfall has been the heaviest in 10 years. Get the point, it is not always the worst flood just because it was the heaviest monsoon. Other factors make things worse. Assam then realized the ineffectiveness of its dyke-building exercise to combat floods. These embankments are now crumbling away and unleashing heavier damage than what a more gradual rise in water levels would have claimed. Then there is also the toying with nature aspect in which the embankments end up raising the river-bed by keeping silt trapped and settled in the river, and also robbing the flood plains of their usual quota of alluvial silt which have made them so fertile. Assam is now talking of bringing in interdisciplinary experts to help the State understand Brahmaputra better. They would also be well advised to invest in reliable advance warning systems instead of trying to fight the river. It should also look into the factors which could be contributing to more intensive floods of late. And this is something [the intensity, not the flooding] that even Sikkim could do well to look into in more detail. The monsoon has been average at best for Sikkim this season. Surface run-off has consistently increased in the recent past much to the chagrin of farmers living around or below the urban slopes. Even a strong drizzle has the jhoras around Gangtok running big and roads turning into rapids. Most of the rainfall that the Gangtok hill receives nowadays follows the quickest course to empty into the Rani Khola. Gangtokians might not notice it, but the few farmers who still hold on to paddy terraces below town are feeling it. The barely month-old monsoon in Sikkim has been only slightly higher than normal for this period. Speak to the farmers around the Capital and they will counter that the rains have not been that good this year. For reference they will point out some of the terraces in their land holdings which are still not very wet even though paddy planting season has arrived. Asar ko Pandra Gatey [the 15th day of the month of Asar as per Vikram Sambad calendar], the date traditionally held as ideal for planting paddy, was on Friday and not all fields have got paddy planted. Although the skies have opened up, water has not been percolating enough, emptying out instead into drains and out into Rani Khola.

Farmers here will also inform those interested that the village springs which used to start flowing with the first rains and remain in strength at least a month into winters, are now spewing water only in fits and starts – flowing big when it rains and drying up if it does not rain for even two days. This is not because of climate change, it is because of human disruption of the catchment areas. This might hold true for rural Sikkim as well, which is why the spring rejuvenation programme underway in the State needs to be guaranteed effective monitoring and flawless delivery. These are more important than awards. It will be through efforts like this that Sikkim will cushion the more damaging effects of urbanisation and also the impact of climate change. Conservation is more important now.

Opinion

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the political giant with a cane

AHMET ERDI ÖZTÜRK & FATİH CERAN
theconversation.com

On June 24, Turkish citizens voted in presidential and parliamentary snap elections, with a huge turnout. As expected, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was elected president while his Islamo-nationalist bloc allies – the Justice and Development Party and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) – obtained a parliamentary majority.

While both victories were won by narrow margins, Erdoğan took 52.5% of the vote, coming out well ahead of his opponents. The main opposition candidate, Muharrem İnce, obtained 31%, followed by the leader of new centrist party, Meral Akşener, with 7.3%, and pro-Kurdish leftist leader Selahattin Demirtaş, who received 8.4%. Erdoğan thus consolidated his rule further and now stands a better chance to implement his vision of a conservative Turkish state and society. In this regard one might argue that the Turkish state and society will be more nationalistic and Islamist.

ERDOĞAN: FROM APPRAISAL TO CRITICISM

Enjoying the Western support for his first two terms, Erdoğan has been criticised by western scholars for its frequent use of less-than-democratic socio-political practices since 2011 and especially after the Gezi Protests. The state of emergency declared after the aborted coup attempt of July 2016 has been particularly under the spotlight.

Last year's referendum also moved Turkey from a parliamentary to presidential system, marking Erdoğan's determination to concentrate the various spheres of power around him. Another frequent criticism concerns the country's long retreat from civic rights and basic freedom.

The election process also reflected such tendencies.

BIASED MEDIA

Even if voters had a genuine choice in Turkey's most recent elections, the preliminary report from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) indicated that they weren't entirely fair: "Incumbent president and ruling party enjoying an undue advantage, including in excessive coverage by government-affiliated public and private media outlets."

Indeed, an overwhelming 90% of media, including state-run agencies, supported Erdoğan and allocated extremely limited time and space to opposition candidates.

Interestingly, Muharrem İnce, the main opponent of Erdoğan, was given relatively more opportunities while Meral Akşener was deprived of media visibility. Perhaps, it had to do with İnce's being a more fitting opponent for the leadership style of President

Erdoğan who likes to play into social fault lines.

The leaders of the opposition parties declared no significant objection about the freedom of election. However, OCSE observers remarked that the incumbent president and the AKP members used "pressure on and intimidation of contestants and supporters [which] contributed to an atmosphere of fear and raise concerns about their equality of opportunity and ability to campaign in a fair and free atmosphere".

One candidate, Selahattin Demirtaş, campaigned from prison, where he has been held for almost 20 months for alleged terrorist activities.

Some OSCE observers indicated that they were concerned about their personal well-being and felt threatened from time to time. Furthermore, a delegation from the French Communist Party, including a senator, was arrested while trying to observe parliamentary and presidential polls on Sunday. While



they were released shortly after, the incident is reflective of the AKP's deep scepticism about western organisations.

ERDOĞAN HAS PERSUADED HALF OF TURKEY THAT IT NEEDS HIM

While such incidents have marked the elections, Erdoğan had also done his homework. His discourse spoke to the conservative-nationalist feelings of his support base and convinced more than 25 million voters that Turkey faces existential threats without his leadership.

One such threat is the country's economic deterioration, which was the opposition's biggest political card. Yet Erdoğan convinced his electoral base that the looming economic crisis had nothing to do with the performance of the government and it was plotted by global (Western) powers.

The limited presence of free media or opportunities to opposition parties to contradict Erdoğan on these points helped him build and sustain such narrative throughout his campaign. He also made substantial populist promises, including opening "gardens of the nation" in the country and state-run "cafes of the nation", with free cake and tea and they

sold well.

A NEW ORDER FOR THE "NEW TURKEY"

Turkey's new political regime centres around a strong president who can pick his vice-president and cabinet members from outside the Parliament. He will be able to decide on major issues such as the budgets of state institutions, foreign policy and security matters, all without having to consult with the Parliament.

However, the current configuration of seats in the Parliament indicates that Erdoğan will enjoy this new authority only as long as he remains within the political framework set by his major ally, the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), since Erdoğan's own (AKP) failed to obtain a parliamentary majority on its own. This alliance turns Erdoğan into a political giant that needs a cane to walk.

AN ELECTION OF MULTIPLE WINNERS

So is Erdoğan really the winner here? The surprising success of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), which took home 11% of the votes tells another story. Led by Devlet Bahçeli, the MHP will have a huge leverage on major decisions and force the AKP to lean toward a less Islamist and more nationalist direction.

On the other side of the political spectrum, 30% of the Turkish votes trusted the populist social-democrat Muharrem İnce. The nominee of the main opposition party (CHP), İnce succeeded in bringing millions together in three major cities; Istanbul, İzmir and Ankara.

İnce ran his campaign as the "people's candidate" and managed to get 5% more vote than the established base of CHP. He has now inspired the opposition with hope and the party could attract new supporters.

Meral Akşener, leader of Good Party (İP) and the only woman candidate, obtained 43 seats in the Parliament with 10% of the votes, establishing herself in a good position. Akşener picked up a significant number of her supporters from Erdoğan's AKP, indicating the possibility further success. Finally, Selahattin Demirtaş, the imprisoned leader of pro-Kurdish and leftist Peoples' Democracy Party, maintained a moderate discourse and won 67 seats in the Parliament. This increase of seats marked a threshold not only for Kurds but also for left-leaning liberals.

Overall, this election indicated that democracy in its procedural sense is established in Turkey with all its deficits. How it plays out in terms of basic rights and freedoms in the coming period has yet to be seen. The Achilles' heel for Erdoğan, however, is going to be the economy.

[Ahmet Erdi Öztürk is Research Assistant, Université de Strasbourg; Fatih Ceran is PhD student, Université de Strasbourg]

Urban 'forests' can store almost as much carbon as tropical rainforests

MATHIAS DISNEY
theconversation.com

Most people would never think of London as a forest. Yet there are actually more trees in London than people. And now, new work by researchers at University College London shows that pockets of this urban jungle store as much carbon per hectare as tropical rainforests.

More than half of the world's population lives in cities, and urban trees are critical to human health and well-being. Trees provide shade, mitigate floods, absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂), filter air pollution and provide habitats for birds, mammals and other plants. The ecosystem services provided by London's trees – that is, the benefits residents gain from the environment's natural processes – were recently valued at £130m a year.

This may equate to less than £20 a year per tree, but the real value may be much higher, given how hard it is to quantify the wider benefits of trees and how long they live. The cost of replacing a large, mature tree is many tens of thousands of pounds, and replacing it with one or more small saplings means you won't see the equivalent net benefit for many decades after.

THE TROUBLE WITH MEASURING TREES

Trees absorb CO₂ during photosynthesis, which is then metabolised and turned into organic matter that makes up nearly half of their overall mass. Urban trees are particularly effective

at absorbing CO₂, because they are located so close to sources such as fossil fuel-burning transport and industrial activity.

This carbon storage potential is an extremely important aspect of their value, but is very hard to quantify. A 120-year-old London plane tree can be 30 metres tall and weigh 40 tonnes or more, and some of the carbon in its tissues will have originated from Victorian coal fires.

Measuring the height of a tall tree is difficult, because it's rarely clear exactly where the topmost point is; estimating its mass is even harder. Typically, tree mass is estimated by comparing the diameter of the trunk or the height of the tree to the mass of similar trees (ideally the same species), which have been cut down and weighed in the past. This process relies on the assumption that trees of a certain species have a clear size-to-mass ratio.

But a fascinating property of trees

is how variable they can be, depending on their environment. So inferring the mass of urban trees from their non-urban counterparts introduces large uncertainties.

LIDAR OVER LONDON

The UCL team use a combination of cutting-edge ground-based and airborne laser scanning techniques, to measure the biomass of urban trees much more accurately. Lidar (which stands for light detection and ranging) sends out hundreds of thousands of pulses of laser light every second and measures the time taken for reflected energy to return from objects up to hundreds of metres away.

When mounted on a tripod on a city street, lidar builds up a millimetre accurate 3D picture of everything it "sees", including trees. The team are using lidar methods, which they pioneered to measure some of the world's largest trees, and applying them to trees in the university's local London

Borough of Camden.

The UCL team used publicly available airborne lidar data collected by the UK Environment Agency, in conjunction with their ground measurements, to estimate biomass of all the 85,000 trees across Camden. These lidar measurements help to quantify the differences between urban and non-urban trees, allowing scientists to come up with a formula predicting the difference in size-to-mass ratio, and thus measuring the mass of urban trees more accurately.

The findings show that Camden has a median carbon density of around 50 tonnes of carbon per hectare (t/ha), rising to 380 t/ha in spots such as Hampstead Heath and Highgate Cemetery – that's equivalent to values seen in temperate and tropical rainforests. Camden also has a high carbon density, compared to other cities in Europe and elsewhere. For example, Barcelona and Berlin have mean carbon densities of 7.3 and 11.2 t/ha respectively; major cities in the US have values of 7.7 t/ha and in China the equivalent figure is 21.3 t/ha.

A STORY TO TELL

Trees matter, to all of us. Recent protests in Sheffield, Cardiff, London and elsewhere, over policies of tree management and removal show how strongly people feel about the trees in their neighbourhood. Finding ways to value trees more effectively is critical to building more sustainable and liveable cities.

Measuring trees in new ways also helps us to see them

turn to 05



Low cost drinking water boon for arsenic hit Bengal villages

KOLKATA, JUN 29 (PTI):

A project to convert contaminated surface water into potable water taken up by an NGO with the help of a French organisation has helped check diseases in about a dozen arsenic prone villages on Indo-Bangladesh border in West Bengal, the chief of the NGO said today.

The cases of arsenic-related diseases have dropped within three years in villages of North 24 Parganas district bordering Bangladesh where Sulabh International, with the help of French organisation "1001 Fontaines", introduced a pilot project of water treatment.

One of the four pilot projects taken up around three years ago at Madhusudan Kanti Village of Bangaon subdivision, about 100 km from here, produces around 8,000



litres of safe drinking water, Sulabh International founder Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, the brain behind the water project, said.

It is being made available at the nominal cost of 50 paise per litre to the villagers, said Pathak who was recently honoured with Japan's prestigious 'Nikkei Asia Prize for Culture and Commu-

nity' for his work in tackling poor hygiene and discrimination.

"In course of periodic medical checkup of a group of patients suffering from arsenic-related diseases, it has been revealed that this water purification system has become boon for them," Pathak said.

Accompanied by se-

nior Bihar BJP MLA Sanjay Saraogi, Pathak visited the project site today.

Saraogi, who represents Darbhanga assembly seat, said the water treatment project would be a great help in his area and other parts of Bihar gripped with arsenic problem.

Besides Madhusudan Kanti, similar proj-

ects have been launched in three other places in Murshidabad and Nadia districts of West Bengal around the same time.

Around a thousand families of Madhusudan Kanti and around a dozen villages under Bongaon sub-division are now using purified water, and it checked diseases of the people and improved their health conditions, project in-charge Haldhar Sarkar said.

A vast area along Bangladesh border is affected by high level of arsenic contamination causing serious diseases including cancer.

According to WHO, drinking arsenic-rich water over a long period results in various health hazards such as cancer of skin, bladder, kidney and lung.

Around three years ago, Sulabh International,

the NGO that introduced the concept of "Sulabh Sauchalya" in the country decades ago, introduced the 'Sulabh Jal' project.

The 'Sulabh Jal' project converts contaminated pond water into safe drinking water that can be sold at only 50 paise per litre in villages and nearby cities of the country, the project in-charge said.

In the innovative model, water is taken from a river or a pond, it goes through various stages of purification, Sarkar added.

"This is the first time in the world that we have succeeded in producing pure drinking water at a very nominal cost and villagers may get direct benefit," Pathak said adding it is being sold at 50 paise a litre after including other costs like distribution and storing.

Arunachal govt hands over student's death case to CBI



ITANAGAR, JUN 29 (PTI):

The Arunachal Pradesh government has conceded the demands of various students' organizations that sought a CBI probe into a nine-month-old case of a student's death in Tawang district and handed over the case to the central agency.

Toko Yame, a Class XII student of Government Higher Secondary School in Tawang, went missing under mysterious circumstances on September 16 following a scuffle between boys of his school and that of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV).

His bruised and semi-decomposed body was found a week later on September 23 at Biga waterfall, near JNV, in the district.

A special investigation team, formed to probe the case, had arrested 20 people in connection with the case. They were later granted bail by the court.

In a statement issued yesterday, the home department said the "seriousness and sensitivity nature" of the matter prompted the state gov-

ernment to hand over the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

It also said that the state government has taken note of demands for expediting the probe by various students' organizations.

In a letter to the CBI, the state home commissioner said the decision to transfer the case to the central agency was taken on the basis of the recommendations made by Director General of Police.

The gist of the case and status reports have also been duly submitted to the CBI, the statement added.

The All East Kameng District Students' Union had organised a peace march on Monday to seek justice for Yame.

Several organizations, including All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union, North East Students' Organisation and All Nyishi Students' Union, joined the rally at Indira Gandhi Park here.

The union members, during the rally, had served a 15-day ultimatum to the government to ensure justice for the teenager.

Rs 390 cr as central calamity relief to Andhra, Arunachal, Nagaland

NEW DELHI, JUN 29 (PTI):

The Centre today sanctioned nearly Rs 390 crore as additional assistance to Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, affected by natural calamities during 2017-18.

The decision has been taken at a meeting of a high-level committee held here, an official statement stated.

The committee approved the additional assistance from National Disaster Response Fund of Rs 179.91 crore (Rs 66.77 crore for floods and Rs 113.14 crore for drought - rabi) for Andhra Pradesh, Rs 144.26 crore for Arunachal Pradesh and Rs 65.69 crore for Nagaland.

During 2017-18, Andhra Pradesh was affected by floods and drought, Arunachal Pradesh was hit by floods and landslides and Nagaland by floods and landslides, the statement said.

3,134 pigs & piglets have died of PRRS & CSF in Mizoram

AIZAWL, JUN 29 (PTI): At least 3,134 pigs and piglets have died in Mizoram due to outbreak of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) and Classical Swine Fever (CSF) diseases since March till date, an official said today.

Joint Secretary in the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary department, Dr Hmarkunga told PTI that the figure was collected from all the eight districts where the outbreak had spread.

Hmarkunga said that at least 7,098 pigs and piglets have been taken ill till date.

The outbreak has affected over 100 villages in eight districts, he said, however, adding that the outbreak has waned since the past three weeks.

One more dies in Assam flood, toll reaches 32

GUWAHATI, JUN 29 (PTI):

The flood situation worsened in one of the six affected districts of Assam today, and one more life was lost taking the death toll to 32, an official report said here.

One person was washed away by flood water in Upper Assam's Charaideo district where the situation has worsened since yesterday due to incessant rain, a report of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said.

The total death toll has risen to 32, it said.

A population of 67,976 are currently affected by the flood in six

districts with Charaideo having the largest affected population of 35,429.

The other five flood hit districts are Lakhimpur, Jorhat, Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj.

In its yesterday's report, the ASDMA had said 50,334 people had been reeling under the flood.

A total of 29 relief camps with 9,022 sheltered people are now functioning in the affected districts.

The current wave of flood has affected 97 villages in these districts and damaged 690.40 hectares of cropland, the report said.

Among the rivers



flowing above the danger level are Desang in Sibsagar and Dhansiri in Numaligarh.

Erosion and infrastructural damages like

roads and bridges have been reported from Charaideo, Jorhat and Lakhimpur districts, the report added.

Call to quash Citizenship Amendment Bill grows louder in Assam

GUWAHATI, JUN 29 (PTI):

The brewing discontent against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 surfaced yet again in Assam today as various organisations, including a students' union, took to the streets here, urging the government to accord constitutional safeguards to the indigenous people.

People from different walks of life joined the protest rally that was taken out from Lataasil Field here and culminated at Assam Engineering Institute playground, a member of All Assam Students' Union (AASU) said.

The Bill is "unconstitutional and unaccept-

able", it will put the identity of local people at stake, AASU Advisor Samujjal Bhattacharya said.

"The only solution acceptable to us is the revocation of the Bill. We urge the opposition parties to push the government in that direction," the AASU leader said at the protest meet, organised by 29 indigenous organisations.

The north-east region is not a "dumping ground" for illegal Bangladeshis, Bhattacharya said.

"Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal had been saying that people of the state should have faith in the government, but we are worried as the existence of tribal people here has come under

threat," he stated.

The bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha to amend the Citizenship Act 1955, proposes to make illegal migrants of six communities -- Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians -- eligible for Indian citizenship after six years of residence in the country.

The central government should initiate a bilateral dialogue with the Bangladeshi government to ensure deportation of Bangladeshis, who have been putting up illegally in the region, he said.

"It is high time the debate over the controversial Citizenship Bill is put to rest. The Centre should introduce con-

stitutional safeguards to protect the identity of the people and this includes an inner line permit in north-east states, taking into consideration the local conditions," Bhattacharya added.

A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the bill had visited Guwahati and Silchar in May to gather views of political and social organisations as well the general public on the proposed amendment.

Opinions on the Bill, however, appeared divided in Assam, with people in Barak valley voicing support to it, while those in Brahmaputra valley opposing the amendment tooth and nail.

Editor apologises to Meghalaya assembly privilege comm

SHILLONG, JUNE 30 (PTI):

The editor of an English daily today apologised in person before the Meghalaya assembly Privilege Committee for her article which targeted the members who raised public issues in the house.

The privilege motion against Patricia Mukhim, the editor of 'Shillong Times' had been lodged by former MLA John Leslee K Sangma.

Committee chairman Saleng A Sangma told mediapersons, "We have examined the matter and went through the article (by Patricia Mukhim) and we have expressed our dissatisfaction. "Mukhim has apolo-

gized and that is why this case has been concluded. The committee will submit its report to the house soon," he said.

The editor had criticised and ridiculed publicly an issue raised

by the former assembly member during the budget session last year following which the privilege motion was lodged with the speaker.

John Leslee K Sangma had raised the issue

in the House that indigenous tribal dishes should be served at the various state houses and Mukhim had criticised it.

He found Mukhim's article had breached the privilege of the House.

Urban 'forests' can store almost as much carbon as tropical rainforests



contd from pg04

from a new perspective. Some of these trees have incredible stories to tell. Just one example is an ash, tucked away in the grounds of St. Pancras Old Church, one of London's (and indeed Britain's) oldest Christian churches.

The tree has an extraordinary arrangement of gravestones around its roots, placed there when the railway was built from St Pancras in the mid-19th cen-

tury. The job of rehousing the headstones was apparently given to a young Thomas Hardy, working as a railway clerk before going on to achieve literary fame. The UCL team's 3D lidar data are helping monitor the state of this "Hardy Ash" tree in its dotage. This is just one of the ways new science is helping tell the stories of old trees.

[the writer is Reader in Remote Sensing, UCL]

Sikkim State Legal Services Authority

Development Area, Gangtok : Sikkim
Phone: 03592-207753, Fax: 03592-207753

"Message"

Sikkim State Legal Services Authority is organizing National Lok Adalat on Saturday the 14th July, 2018 for the following types of pre-litigation and pending cases viz:

PRE-LITIGATION

- N.I. Act cases under Section 138;
- Bank Recovery cases;
- Labour disputes cases;
- Electricity and Water Bills (excluding non-compoundable)
- Other (Criminal Compoundable).

PENDING IN THE COURTS

- Criminal Compoundable Offence
- N.I. Act cases under section 138;
- Bank Recovery cases;
- MACT cases;
- Labour disputes cases;
- Electricity and Water Bills (excluding non-compoundable)
- Matrimonial disputes;
- Land Acquisition cases;
- Service matters relating to pay and allowances and retiral benefits;
- Revenue cases (pending in District Courts and High Courts only);
- Other civil cases (rent, easmentary rights, injunction suits, specific performance suits) etc.

- Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim e-mail: sikkim_slsa@live.com. Phone No. 03592-207753.
- High Court Legal Services Committee, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim. E-mail: sikkim_slsa@live.com Phone No: 03592-207753.
- District Legal Services Authority (East), District Court's Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592-284462.
- Taluk Legal Services Committee (East), District Court's Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 284131.
- District Legal Services Authority (North), District Court Complex, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 234502.
- Taluk Legal Services Committee (North), Court of Civil Judge -cum- Judicial Magistrate, North Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 234383/234514.
- District Legal Services Authority (South), District Court's Complex, Namchi, South Sikkim. Phone no. 03595 264356.
- Taluk Legal Services Committee (South), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, District Court, Namchi, South Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 263145.
- District Legal Services Authority (West), District Court Complex, Kyongsa, Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 250061.
- Taluk Legal Services Committee (West), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 250061.
- Taluk Legal Services Committee (North), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Chungthang, Sub-Division, North Sikkim.
- Taluk Legal Services Committee (West), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Soreng, Sub-division, West Sikkim.

(Published by Sikkim State Legal Services Authority)
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HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

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news@summittimes.com

Dutee scorches track, betters own national record

PHILEM DIPAK SINGH GUWAHATI, JUNE 29 (PTI): Top Indian sprinter Dutee Chand today smashed her own national record in women's 100m dash on the fourth and final day of the 58th National Inter State Senior Athletics Championships here to establish herself as a gold medal contender in the upcoming Asian Games.

The 22-year-old Dutee, representing Odisha, clocked 11.29 seconds to shave off one-hundredth of a second from her earlier national record of 11.30 as she scorched the track in the semifinals of the event under good conditions in the morning session at the Indira Gandhi Athletics Stadium here.

She has already breached the Asian Games qualifying time of 11.67



when she clocked 11.42 in one the heats yesterday. She has also qualified for the Asian Games in 200m though 100m dash is her main event.

The final race of the women's 100m will be held later in the evening.

Today's timing has put Dutee on top of the season's list among the

Asians and she would go as one of the gold medal contenders in the Asian Games. The gold medal winners in the 2010 and 2014 Asian Games had clocked 11.33 and 11.48 respectively.

Four Indian women -- Roshan Mistry (1951; silver), Christine Brown (1954; bronze), PT Usha

(1982; silver) and (1986; silver) and Rachita Mistry (1998; bronze) -- have won a medal in the Asian Games. No Indian woman has won a gold in the 100m dash in the Asian Games.

"The conditions were good and before the race I and my coach (N Ramesh) decided to go for the national record. I am

very happy but I will try to further dip the timing," Dutee said after her race.

"In fact my target in this championship is to run 11:20 and I hope to achieve this. There are still eight weeks to go before the Asian Games and my target in Jakarta is to run below 11:20," said Dutee who currently trains at Gopichand Academy in Hyderabad.

Asked what contributed to this improvement in timing, she said, "I am doing a lot of core training exercises to build and strengthen my body, spending more time in gym. I am also doing endurance training like repeating 300m, 350m races in a day. Then I also do repeat of 60m, 70m. The main aim is to add more strength."

Her coach N Ramesh said extra sessions have

been added to Dutee's training regime while the dedicated physio and masseur given to her has helped in her performance.

"We have added an extra hour between 11am to 12pm to do core training, pool training etc to strengthen her body. The physio and masseur given for her has also helped in strengthening her body. Her food supplements and drinks are also taken care of. For that I thanked SAI and Gopichand."

Dutee, who had won a 'gender case' against the international federation at the Court of Arbitration for Sports, had run 11.56 in the Federation Cup in March and was not picked in the Indian team for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

India need draw against Netherlands to enter Champions Trophy hockey final

BREDA (NETHERLANDS), JUN 29 (PTI): India would look to eke out at least a draw against hosts Netherlands in their last round robin match here tomorrow, a result that will be enough for the eight-time Olympic champions to grab a second consecutive final spot at the Champions Trophy hockey tournament.

India are currently placed second in the standings with seven points from two wins, one loss and a draw. Defending and world champions Australia are atop the table with 10 points and have already secured a berth in Sunday's summit clash.

As per the rules of the six-nation tournament, the top two teams from the round robin stage will play in the final.

For India the equation is simple -- a draw tomorrow would surely guarantee their place in what can be termed as a repeat of 2016 Champions Trophy final in London.

For Netherlands, it is a must-win match as only a victory can ensure their place in the final.

In the other inconsequential match of the day, in-form Australia are considered as hands down favourites against Olympic champions Argentina.

Under new chief coach Harendra Singh, India could not have asked for a better start to their campaign here. The Indians mauled arch-rivals Pakistan 4-0 before stunning Argentina 2-1.

But thereafter, India

lost to Australia 2-3 after a valiant fight before conceding a late goal to draw 1-1 against Belgium last night.

But the results of the opening two games hold India in good stead as they now need just a draw against Netherlands to secure their final berth.

Even though Randeep Singh's injury hurt India badly, but the strikers have been in good form in this tournament. The likes of Mandeep Singh, Dilpreet Singh and Lalit Upadhyay have lived upto expectations but SV Sunil looked a pale shadow of himself.

The defenders too did a decent job but in the last two games against Australia and Belgium, they crumbled when put under immense pressure.

Experienced PR Sreejesh has been phenomenal under the goal for India and it solely because of his heroics, India managed to garner a point against Belgium yesterday.

But the major cause of concern for India would be their penalty corner conversion rate. Despite earning a handful of penalty corners in the last four games, India converted just three through Harmanpreet Singh.

And Harendra would need to address these issues if India want to win their maiden Champions Trophy title in the last edition of the tournament.

Even though India need just a draw to progress, Harendra and his team would definitely go for the kill against the hosts tomorrow.

Sindhu, Srikanth enter semifinals of Malaysia Open

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 29 (PTI): PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth continued their impressive run at the Malaysia Open, progressing to the semifinals of the women's and men's singles competition with a straight-game wins in the USD 700,000 world tour super 750 tournament here today.

In a clash between Olympic silver and gold medallists, it was Sindhu who emerged victorious with a 22-20 21-19 result in a 52-minute quarterfinal match here.

The 22-year-old Sindhu, who won a silver at the Glasgow World Championship, will face world no 1 and top seed Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying tomorrow.

Earlier fourth seed Srikanth, who won a silver medal at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, dumped world no 22 France's Brice Leverdez 21-18 21-14 in a 39-minute clash at the Axiata Arena in Bukit Jalil, a suburb in Kuala Lumpur.

The Indian had also beaten the French in three



games at All England Championship this year.

The 25-year-old will take on former world no 2 and 2015 world championship bronze medalist Kento Momota, who has been in sensational form ever since making a comeback after serving a one-year ban by Japan Badminton Association for gambling at an illegal casino in 2015.

Momota clinched the Macau Open and Dutch

Open last year besides reaching the finals at Canada Open. He won the 2018 Asia Badminton championship and was also unbeaten at the Thomas Cup.

Srikanth will have a tough task at hand as Momota will be extra motivated to earn back his respect as it was here two years ago that he had to concede a second round match after the news of him and compatriot Ken-

chi Tago gambling at an illegal casino broke out.

In the women's singles match, Sindhu started the proceedings with a sharp smash and moved to a 3-1 lead early on but Marin clawed back. Sindhu again opened a slender two-point lead which evaporated quickly.

As has been the norm, Sindhu and Marin continued to fight it out as leads changed hands too frequently. The Indian fi-

nally grabbed a miniscule 11-10 lead at the interval after Marin failed to reach for a shot at the backline.

Marin dictated the pace of the rallies to open up a 13-11 lead, celebrated every point with her usual verbal screams. Sindhu attacked her opponent's backhand to draw level this time at 14-14 and moved to lead with a smash, which Marin hit wide.

Lagging 15-18, Marin stepped up the attack and grabbed five straight points to secure two game-point opportunities. A net error and a wide shot by Marin saw Sindhu claw back at 20-20. The Spaniard again hit wide and then found the net as the Indian pocketed the opening game.

The second game started in a similar fashion as Sindhu and Marin moved to 3-3 before the Indian surged to a 6-3 lead. The left-handed shuttler, however, soon levelled the score with three points as Sindhu committed a few unforced errors.

At the interval, Sindhu

grabbed a 11-6 advantage after reeling off five straight points, which ended with Marin hitting out.

Marin slipped on the court after the break but managed to narrow the gap to 10-13 before moving to 14-15. However, the Spaniard hit long, netted a shot and failed to reach one at the forecourt as Sindhu moved to 19-15.

A solid defence saw Sindhu grab three match points. She blew two points before unleashing a cross court smash to seal the contest in 52 minutes.

Earlier, Srikanth erased a 5-8 deficit to grab a 11-9 lead at the break. Leverdez clawed back at 12-12 but the Indian again marched ahead to grab a 17-14 advantage. The French drew parity at 17-17 before Srikanth surged to pocket the opening game.

In the second game, Srikanth and Leverdez fought till 5-5 before the Indian first grabbed a 11-5 lead and then kept his nose ahead to comfortably shut the doors on his rival.

Januzaj stunner sees Belgium beat England to top spot

KALININGRAD (RUSSIA), JUN 29 (AFP): A brilliant strike by Adnan Januzaj lit up an otherwise insipid clash as Belgium beat England 1-0 to secure top spot in World Cup Group G in Kaliningrad today.

Januzaj's superb second-half goal sent Belgium into a last 16 clash with Japan while England will now advance to a second round meeting with Colombia on Tuesday.

By finishing second in the group, England have though avoided a loaded top half of the draw containing past winners Brazil, France, Argentina and Uruguay as well as European champions Portugal.

The fact second place in the group was no disaster seemed to be a big factor in both coaches' team selection with their places in the last 16 already secured.

Southgate made eight changes with Belgian boss Roberto Martinez going one better as only Thibaut Courtois and Dedryck Boyata retained



their places from the 5-2 thrashing of Tunisia.

Star Belgian duo Eden Hazard and Kevin de Bruyne joined England captain Harry Kane in watching from the sidelines and their ability to thrill was badly missed as locals in the crowd turned on both sides with jeers and chants of "Russia".

Youri Tielemans did test Jordan Pickford with a fiercely struck effort

just six minutes in that forced the Everton stopper into his best save of the World Cup so far.

Moments later Pickford let a Michy Batshuayi effort squeeze past him and was rescued by Gary Cahill's goal-line clearance.

After an early burst, though, Belgium seemed more adept at picking up yellow cards that would have seen them finish behind England if the game

ended in a draw due to a poorer disciplinary record.

Tielemans and Leander Dendoncker both went into the book early to cheers from the Belgian fans.

Six of England's eight goals against Tunisia and Panama to reach the knockout stages came from set-pieces and they again proved the Three Lions greatest threat in the first-half as Cahill

and Ruben Loftus-Cheek headed just wide.

Marcus Rashford had the opportunity to put serious pressure on Raheem Sterling for his place in the side for the last 16 after two disappointing performances from the Manchester City winger.

But unlike his substitute appearance against Tunisia, Rashford failed to further his case for a start and fired well off target when presented

with a shooting chance from the edge of the box just after half-time.

Januzaj suddenly sparked the game into life moments later when he twisted and turned inside the England box before curling a wonderful strike into the top corner.

Rashford had by a distance England's best chance 25 minutes from time, but again slotted wide with just Courtois to beat.

Belgium were given a major boost ahead of the knockout stages when captain Vincent Kompany made his return from injury for the final 15 minutes.

Southgate didn't even turn to Kane in search for an equaliser, instead introducing Danny Welbeck to ensure every outfield player in his squad featured across the three group games.

And Welbeck nearly earned a point eight minutes from time when his goalbound effort was deflected just wide by Fellaini.

Jackichand Singh signs for FC Goa



MARGAO, JUN 29 (PTI): FC Goa have announced the signing of Manipur winger, Jackichand Singh from Kerala Blasters FC for the forthcoming season of the Indian Super League (ISL).

The Indian was picked by FC Pune City in the first ever football player auction in the second season of the league and went on to score one goal for the club before moving to Mumbai City FC the following season.

At Mumbai, Jackichand was an integral part of the attacking contingent and contributed to the success of the team on the pitch.

The Manipuri then moved to Kerala Blasters FC and had his best personal season. The winger went on to score two goals, including one against the Gauris and assisted three more for the club.

Signing for FC Goa is a very proud moment for me and it was something I really wanted. The attractive brand of football the team plays under Sergio Lobera is one of the main reasons

why I wanted to join this team and I'm very happy that I'm here now, said Jackichand, who represented FC Pune City and Mumbai City FC in the past.

I can't wait to get out on to the pitch and showcase what I have to offer to the amazing fans of the club. It's a well-known fact that the fans always back the team and I'm really looking forward to playing in front of them at the Fatorda stadium, he added.

Sergio, head coach of FC Goa, was excited at the prospect of the wily winger joining the ranks.

I think it is a really good signing. His profile adapts very well to our philosophy and he is a player with a tremendous turn of pace and ability to destabilize defenders," he said.

"He is good at one on one situations as well and provides assist to the team while also being able to score goals. I'm happy with the effort the club has put in to sign the player because I am certain that he is a player who will help us achieve our goals.

Upset with newspaper, gunman kills 5 in newsroom shooting in US

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, JUN 29 (PTI): A white gunman with a long-standing grudge against a newspaper in the US city of Annapolis blasted his way through its newsroom with a shotgun and smoke grenades, killing at least five people, mostly journalists, in what police called a "targeted attack".

The shooting at the Capital Gazette newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland, nearly 50 km from Washington, that also injured three others, is said to be one of the worst attacks on the media in decades in the US.

The shooter identified as Jarrod Warren Ramos, 38, has been arrested and is being charged with five counts of first-degree murder.

Ramos had previously filed a defamation suit against the newspaper in 2012, court records show.

"This was a targeted attack on the Capital Gazette. This person was prepared today to come in. He was prepared to shoot people. His intent



was to cause harm," Anne Arundel County Deputy Police Chief William Krampf told reporters at a news conference.

The five persons killed in the latest gun rampage are assistant editor Rob Hiaasen, editorial page editor Gerald Fischman, editor and reporter John McNamara, special publications editor Wendi Winters and sales assistant Rebecca Smith, police said.

According to "The

Washington Post', Ramos lost a defamation case he had brought against 'The Capital Gazette' over a 2011 column he contended defamed him.

"The column provided an account of Ramos's guilty plea to criminal harassment of a woman over social media," it said.

A few hours before the shooting, a profane tweet was posted to a Twitter account under Ramos' name, specifically calling

out the author of the appeals court opinion.

Ramos was taken into custody at the scene and refused to cooperate with authorities. He carried no identification and had damaged his finger tips in an apparent effort to thwart identification by law enforcement, US media outlets reported.

Authorities resorted to using facial recognition software and comparing his face to databases of

passports and driver's license photos.

County executive Steve Schuh said that the suspect was hiding under a desk in the building when police officers arrived at the scene. He said there was "no exchange of fire".

"My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families. Thank you to all of the First Responders who are currently on the scene," President Donald Trump tweeted.

Asked about Trump's criticism of the press corps, White House Deputy Press Secretary Lindsay Walters said the president and his staff did not believe violence was acceptable in any situation, adding that "we stand by that".

Earlier, Phil Davis, the Gazette's crime reporter, had tweeted about the shooting.

"Gunman shot through the glass door to the (newsroom) and opened fire on multiple employees. Can't say much more and don't want to declare anyone

dead, but it's bad," Davis said.

Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said in mass shootings and daily tragedies, the epidemic of gun violence has stolen too many lives for far too long. "Congress has a responsibility to take action now to ensure that no other community or family must endure the unthinkable horror of gun violence. Every day it fails to do so is a stain on our country," she said.

Asserting that reporters should not have to hide from gunfire while doing their jobs, former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, founder of the gun violence prevention organisation, said time and time again, those in the Congress had failed to show the courage needed to keep people safe.

"Americans are demanding that their lawmakers pass effective laws that can protect our communities and stop dangerous people from accessing guns, but this Congress refuses to listen. We should be outraged. And we should be

making plans to hold them accountable," she said.

Media watchdog, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said it was deeply disturbed to learn that a shooting at the Capital Gazette, had resulted in the death of five people.

"Is what happened in the Capital Gazette newsroom in Annapolis, Maryland, the equivalent of the Charlie Hebdo killing or of the last bombing against journalists in Kabul?" said RSF Secretary general Christophe Deloire.

In any case, this is a new tragedy for journalism, which is the victim of increasing violence globally, even in democracies, he said.

"It is deeply saddening to learn of this shooting happening in a local newsroom in the US. RSF strongly condemns this act of violence, and any such acts against journalists," Deloire added.

"We expect a quick and thorough investigation into this tragedy," said Margaux Even, Director of RSF's North America bureau.

Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna demanded that the Congress act now on gun violence.

"Yet another tragedy in Annapolis and it won't be the last unless we do something. Far too many people are hiding in closets, under their desks, in their places of work, worship, and in schools. This must stop," he said.

"My heart is with The Capital Gazette and all the victims and families affected," Khanna said.

The Committee to Protect Journalists tweeted that before the Maryland shooting, seven journalists had been killed in the US in relation to their work since 1992.

The last incident was reported in 2015 when TV reporter Alison Parker and cameraman Adam Ward were killed during an interview in Moneta, Virginia.

Meanwhile, as a precautionary measure, security was tightened outside media offices across the US.

China declines to comment on FATF placing Pak on 'grey list'; praises its counter-terror effort

KJM VARMA

BEIJING, JUN 29 (PTI):

China today declined to comment on Pakistan being placed on the grey list for failing to curb anti-terror financing by the Financial Action Task Force, but heaped customary praise on its close ally, saying the world should recognise "enormous efforts and sacrifices" made by Islamabad to combat terrorism.

In a blow to Pakistan, global financial watchdog FATF placed it on the grey list for failing to curb anti-terror financing despite Islamabad submitting a 26-point action plan and launching a concerted diplomatic effort to avert the decision.

"We will not make

comment on the decision of the task force. But we understand Pakistan has made enormous efforts for the counter-terrorism and made great sacrifices," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a media briefing here when asked about the FATF's decision.

"The international community should view this in an objective and just way. The international community should give more support and recognition to Pakistan," he said.

Lu said Pakistan's effort in counter-terrorism has not only won recognition from China, but also from many countries around the world.

"We always believe Pakistan government

and people have made enormous efforts and sacrifice on counter-terrorism, and the international community should fully recognise this," he said, reiterating China's oft repeated stand praising Pakistan's record on counter-terrorism.

He said Pakistan in his recent years has taken positive measures to enhance financial regulation, combat terrorism financing and made very important progress.

"We hope all relevant parties can view the efforts made by Pakistan in objective way instead of accusing and pressuring Pakistan. China and Pakistan have an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, and China is will-

ing to enhance cooperation on counter-terrorism with Pakistan," he said.

The placement of Pakistan on the grey list of the FATF could hurt Pakistan's economy as well as its international standing.

Pakistan had tried hard to avoid being added to a list of countries deemed non-compliant with anti-money laundering and terrorist financing rules.

The FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.



Iraq executed a dozen death row jihadists, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's office said today, after he vowed swift action in response to the Islamic State group's killing of eight captives. The executions, which took place yesterday, came shortly after Abadi ordered the "immediate" implementation of the death sentences of hundreds of convicted jihadists in response to the killings by IS.

UN migration agency rejects Trump nominee

GENEVA, JUN 29 (AFP):

Member states of the United Nations migration agency today rejected President Donald Trump's nominee for director general, repudiating historic American control of the organisation.

The International Or-

ganisation for Migration (IOM) had been led by an American throughout the agency's 67-year history with one exception from 1961 to 1969.

But Trump's pick Ken Isaacs, an executive with the Christian charity Samaritan's Purse who

faced serious charges of anti-Muslim bigotry, proved to be an untenable choice.

Isaacs was eliminated after three rounds of voting, according to multiple sources with direct knowledge of the vote.

Portuguese politician

and former commissioner EU Antonio Vitorino has emerged as the front-runner and will face off against and current IOM deputy chief Laura Thompson in the upcoming ballot.

Diplomats speaking on condition of anonymi-

ty said that Vitorino's bid has been helped by the European Union's painstaking effort to forge a common response to migration challenges and the strategic advantage of having one of their own as the IOM chief.

Trump's hardline

stance on migration -- from the so-called Muslim ban to his "zero tolerance" policy on the southern US border that led to separating parents and children -- undermined Washington's traditional right to choose the world's top migration official.

EU leaders seal migration deal after marathon talks

BRUSSELS, JUN 29 (AFP):

EU leaders clinched a hard-won migration deal during all-night talks today that Italy's headline new premier said meant his country was "no longer alone" in shouldering the responsibility for migrants.

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, who heads a month-old anti-immigration government, had vetoed joint conclusions for the entire agenda of the summit in Brussels until his demands were finally met before dawn.

Italy has turned away a series of migrant boats in recent weeks, sparking a fresh political row three years after the bloc faced its biggest ever migration crisis.

"Today Italy is no longer alone. We are satisfied," Conte, a former law professor who until recently was a virtual political unknown, told

reporters following nine hours of talks described as "virulent".

The 28 leaders agreed to consider setting up "disembarkation platforms" outside the bloc, most likely in north Africa, in a bid to discourage migrants boarding EU-bound smuggler boats.

Member countries could also set up migrant processing centres -- but only on a voluntary basis -- to determine whether they returned home as economic migrants or admitted as refugees in willing states.

The leaders also offered a concession to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who faces a rebellion from within her own coalition government, with moves to stop migrants registered in Italy and other EU countries from moving to Germany.

Merkel welcomed the

deal, but acknowledged the hard work needed with some hard choices left for later.

"I am optimistic after today that we can now really continue to work, although we have a lot to do, even bridging the different views," Merkel said.

She had earlier warned that "migration could end up determining Europe's destiny" if it failed to reach an agreement.

The summit conclusions called on member countries to take "all necessary" steps to stop migrants initially arriving in countries such as Italy and Greece from moving on to Germany.

After allowing more than one million asylum seekers into Germany since 2015, Merkel faces an end-of-month deadline from her own interior minister to seal pacts to curb so-called second-

ary migration.

Italy's stance has revived political tensions in the EU, despite the fact that arrivals have dipped by 96 percent since the peak of Europe's migration crisis in 2015, and sparked warnings that authoritarian movements will take advantage of any failure to tackle migration.

Conte came to Brussels emboldened by the announcement of an upcoming visit to US President Donald Trump, who has hailed Rome's tough stance, and who himself blocked the conclusions of a recent G7 leaders meeting on trade.

The Italian government demanded "concrete action" from other countries to help in the same way that they had after it refused to admit the rescue ships Aquarius, which docked later in Spain, and Lifeline, which

went to Malta.

EU President Donald Tusk issued a fresh warning on the need for action on migration to stave off rising populism and authoritarianism, saying that "the stakes are high and time is short".

"Some may think I am too tough in my proposals on migration, but trust me, if we don't agree on them, then you'll see some really tough proposals from some really tough guys," the former Polish premier added.

But the leaders failed to agree on long-stalled plans to overhaul the bloc's asylum rules, which say that migrants must be dealt with by the first country in which they arrive.

The plans include a permanent scheme to share migrants arriving in Italy and Greece around all other EU countries.

Former communist countries in Eastern Europe, particularly the authoritarian governments of Hungary and Poland, implacably oppose the plan.

Brexit was meanwhile largely relegated to the sidelines of this summit, with British Prime Minister Theresa May set to update leaders after admitting the need to make "faster" progress as she arrived at the venue.

EU leaders are expected on Friday to say that talks, which have stalled on the issue of the Irish border, are running out of time to get a deal.

But in a light-hearted bid to ease tensions, Belgian premier Charles Michel surprised May with a gift of a Belgian football shirt.

A World Cup clash between Belgium and England coincided with the summit last night. Belgium won 1-0.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

LOST: I, Shri Bal Hang Limboo son of Sancha Raj Limboo resident of Rimik ward no 03 under 11 Darap Nambu GPU, West Sikkim have lost my Certificate of Identification (COI) and Tribal certificate in original on 30.7.2013. If found please contact: **7719319098**.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Required Sales Boys & Girls for IT store. Experience in IT knowledge both in software and hardware required. Interested candidates contact: **Ramolla Cellular: 7001204591, 9733015218**.

Anthyesthi Kriya



On 25th of June, 2018, **Mr. Rajen Karkidholi**, son of late Arjun Karkidholi left for heavenly abode. We the family members would like to thank everyone who was part of his story. We believe that he responsibly

concluded his role as a husband, father, brother, friend and a public servant. While we reminisce about him, we request everyone who cared and wished him well to join us in offering prayers and to bid him a final farewell. The ceremony will be held at our residence at **Maneydara, Lingding, below Indira Bypass (SDF Bhawan), Gangtok on 7th July, 2018 [Saturday]**.

Munna Karkidholi [mother], Sonam Yangchen Bhutia [wife], Ravi Karkidholi [brother], Aruna Karkidholi [sister], Anamika Karkidholi [daughter], Menka Karkidholi [sister].
Mob: 9609830032, 9609834107, 9609774878, 90345472, 7407385431



KEEPING IT COMFORTABLE! After her recent announcement of expecting a baby girl in the coming months, Hilary Duff, 30, hid her burgeoning bump in a colorful flowing maxi-dress in LA.

LIAM PAYNE CLAIMS ONE DIRECTION WILL GET BACK TOGETHER - BUT NOT FOR TWO YEARS

Their fans have been pining for a reunion ever since they went on an indefinite hiatus in July 2015. And Liam Payne has shared his hopes for One Direction to get back together for 'another great time' in an interview with Daily Star.

The Familiar hitmaker, 24, admitted that their potential reunion won't happen for at least two years as he is pre-occupied with his successful solo career.

Speaking on the prospective plans, the For You singer said: "It's amazing that we're doing our own thing and then, hopefully one day soon, we get back together and have another great time of it, who knows?"

The father-of-one rose to fame during his stint on X Factor in 2010, which saw him join the chart-topping boy-band with Niall Horan, Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson and former member Zayn Malik.

The One Thing singers announced their decision to go on an indefinite hiatus nearly three years ago, a few months after Zayn decided to leave the band.

He went on to detail his busy schedule, stating: "My album comes out at the end of the year and then I'm going on tour in 2019."



Liam also revealed his desires to dabble into different areas of the entertainment industry: "I will always want to do music, it's just that I had so many opportunities come my way and I felt it was just such an amazing time to go and spread my wings and experiment with different types of entertainment."

Meanwhile, the singer - who hasn't been seen out with his partner Cheryl in four months - still talks about the former Girls Aloud star in most of his interviews.

Speaking on BBC Radio

1's Breakfast show last week, Liam gave insight into the pair's first date - and revealed it had been the Girls Aloud star who made the first move.

He told host Nick Grimshaw during a game about his likes and dislikes: "Chez kind of made the first move on me if I'm honest. She tickled my hair."

Liam and Cheryl confirmed their romance in February 2016, and have since welcomed their first child together - a son named Bear.

However, the couple were plagued by split rumours after the BRITs - with fans claiming their loved-up display looked forced, amid claims their romance was 'on the rocks'.

Sources told MailOnline the pair were struggling to find quality time together, as they juggle their busy careers and care for their baby son.

Yet, Cheryl was quick to blast the claims on her Twitter page soon after the awards ceremony to her 6.4million followers.

Defending their happy relationship, she wrote: "Oh stop no one cares who's been speculatively arguing or not in their relationship use your platform to put something productive in your columns."

be enhanced today by your increased sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others, Gemini. You may provide a sympathetic ear to melancholy friends, help someone resolve problems, or both. Whatever it is, rest assured that your efforts won't go unappreciated. You'll probably grow closer to the ones who mean the most to you now, including a significant other.

CANCER: Expect to find yourself ministering to the needs of colleagues and family members today, Cancer. People around you might need to draw upon your insights into human nature in order to understand themselves and others. Your common sense could prove valuable to them. In the process of sharing your wisdom with others, you might also shed some light on emotional situations of your own. You could surprise yourself!

LEO: Today you might feel especially

intellectually and creatively inspired, and you could discuss your ideas with others. The process of communication could open new doors in your mind and result in some fascinating insights concerning whatever you're pursuing at this time. Sometime in the course of your conversations, Leo, don't be surprised if you find that one of your friends needs a sympathetic ear. Enjoy your day.

VIRGO: A close friend or member of your household could be having money problems, Virgo, and want to draw on your good business sense in order to understand the situation and find ways to put it right. As you're likely to be feeling especially sensitive to the needs of others today, you could be of valuable help to this person and anyone else who might need some insights.

LIBRA: Heightened intuition and ESP could lead to some interesting

I'm more than a comedy actor, says Alison Brie

"GLOW" ACTOR ALISON BRIE BELIEVES she has been unfairly tagged as a "comedy actress" and says there is a lot more to her.

The 35-year-old actor says though she loves the comedy genre, a lot of her potential is still "untapped".

"If you need a headline, [this] would be the headline of my life: 'There's a Lot More Going on Than People Think.' The biggest misconception across the board is that I'm a comedy actress, and it drives me crazy which is weird because I don't want to begrudge that title in a way that implies I hate the genre. I don't. I love it! But, to me, there's more to me. There's untapped resources you



guys don't even know about," Brie told Fashion magazine.

The actor, who stars the fictionalised retelling of the making of the '80s show "Gorgeous Ladies of Wrestling" (GLOW), says she decided to play Ruth Wilder as she immediately felt a connection with the role.

"I almost can't even define why, but certain things you just read and you're like, this is my role.

"Maybe it came from having felt slightly misunderstood in my career - although I still sort of feel that way everywhere outside of 'GLOW' - but I just had this drive to fight for this character, and I knew exactly what I wanted to do with her," she said.

KATIE HOLMES DENIES REPORTS OF HER SPLIT FROM JAMIE FOXX

A representative for Katie Holmes has denied she has split from Jamie Foxx. The couple had reportedly called time on their romance, but Katie's representative Leslie Sloane has since denied the claim, telling People it is '100 percent untrue'.

Leslie's statement also marks the first time Katie, 39, has addressed the relationship, after first being linked to the actor in 2013.

Radar Online reported on Wednesday that the couple had called it quits, claiming Katie - who has a 12-year-old daughter called Suri with ex-husband Tom Cruise - had instigated the split.

But just one day after the report was published, Katie's representative shot down the split speculation.

Katie and Jamie were romantically linked to each other for the first time back in 2013,



but the pair subsequently spent years insisting that they were merely just good friends.

However, the former Dawson's Creek actress and Jamie, 50, finally went public with their relationship in 2017, when they were pictured holding hands while

walking along a beach.

It was also suggested in January that the couple were both becoming increasingly comfortable with the interest in their romance.

A source told Us Weekly: "They're starting to be more comfortable about their rela-

tionship. They'd both been in public relationships before. They care about each other a lot and they tried to stay as quiet as possible because they didn't want to ruin that ... Jamie brings a lot of joy and happiness into her life. They've definitely become more serious."

Despite this, Katie - whose divorce from Tom was finalised in 2012 - continued to regard Suri as her first priority.

The insider added: "She's an amazing mom. She'll choose her family over him any day ... When they're together it works. When they're not, they're on their own. It's what works for them ... Katie found happiness with Katie first.

She's worked her a** off since the divorce and she's finally gotten to a place where she's made a name for herself and can be her own person. She's back to her old self and it's great to watch."

RED ALERT! PeeCee & Nick J's couple entry at Ambani Party!

Yes, Priyanka Chopra came with rumoured boyfriend Nick Jonas at Nita and Mukesh Ambani's star-studded party, hosted for their son Akash and his fiancée Shloka Mehta in Mumbai.

The duo made a couple entry at the venue and also posed for the cameras hand-in-hand. Priyanka was dressed in a bright red sari from the studios of Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla. She paired the sari with golden blouse, bracelet and a pair of earrings. Nick complemented her in a blue suit.

Rumoured couple Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas joined the party, which included names like Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri, Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor, Karan Johar and others. After the festivities, Priyanka and Nick flew out of Mumbai in the wee hours of Friday. Location? Unknown.

Akash is the eldest of Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh and Nita Ambani's



three children. His fiancée Shloka is the daughter of diamond magnate Russel Mehta. Their engagement is scheduled for 30 Jun while the wedding will take place in Dec.

Priyanka had also attended Akash and Shloka's mehendi ceremony last evening

in a beautiful ivory sari.

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jona were photographed at the Mumbai airport hand-in-hand in the early hours of Friday. It is reported that they are headed out to Dubai or the US.

Priyanka Chopra, 35, and American songwriter-singer

Nick Jonas, 25, are rumoured to be dating for a while now. Nick accompanied Priyanka to India last weekend and after a brief stay in Mumbai, they flew to Goa with the actress' family for a holiday. As per latest reports, their engagement is also on the cards between July and August.

ARIES: The desire for travel might hit you today, perhaps to visit a friend who lives far away, and you could set the wheels in motion to make it happen. Social events could take up your evening, Aries, and you might meet some interesting people. A friend may need a sympathetic ear. As you're especially sensitive to others right now, you're prepared to hear a sad story. Otherwise, your day should go well.

TAURUS: Today you might hear about opportunities to increase your income, Taurus, either through your current employment, a new job, or perhaps a project of your own. You're likely to channel a great deal of energy and inspiration to this end. Others may want to pitch in and help you. You're liable to feel energetic and optimistic. This, in turn, can help you attract more opportunities. Go for it!

GEMINI: All your relationships could