



**ASATEA APPRISES CM  
OF PROBLEMS FACED BY  
TEMPORARY AND AD-  
HOC EMPLOYEES** pg03



**'GUIDING FORCE FOR  
GOOD': WORLD MOURNS  
LOSS OF KOFI ANNAN**  
pg02



**DLSA CONDUCTS LEGAL  
SERVICES CAMP  
IN NAMCHI**  
pg05

# SummitTIMES

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O N T O P O F T H E N E W S

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Pages 8 | ₹ 5

**Former UN  
chief Kofi Annan  
passes away**



**GENEVA, AUG 18 (AFP):** Former United Nations Secretary General and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kofi Annan has died today after a short illness at the age of 80, his foundation announced.

"It is with immense sadness that the Annan family and the Kofi Annan Foundation announce that Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations and Nobel Peace Laureate, passed away peacefully on Saturday 18th August after a short illness," the foundation said in a statement.

**SPP mourns  
Vajpayee's  
demise,  
postpones  
Rashmi  
Prasad Alley  
Puraskar**

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 18 AUG:** Sikkim Pragma Prasthan [SPP] has consoled the passing away of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

In a meeting held in the capital today, SPP has decided to postpone the Rashmi Prasad Alley Puraskar which was to be conferred on the occasion of Bhasha Manyata Diwas on 20 Aug till further notice.

The SPP will be observing seven days mourning along with the rest of the country on the death of the late Prime Minister.

## 24,424 girls given first dose of HPV vaccine, no adverse effects reported so far

**Second dose of  
vaccine after  
six months**

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 18 AUG:**

A total of 24,424 girls out of estimated 25,266 girls have received the first dose of HPV vaccine in the state-wide campaign conducted by the Department of Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare from 30 Jul to 14 Aug.

The Human Papilloma Virus [HPV] vaccination campaign for prevention of cervical cancer covered school going girls [both from government and private school] as well as out of school girls between the age group of 09-14 years in the entire State.

A press release from the Health Department informs that 96.67% coverage has been achieved



in the campaign and there have been no reports of any serious/severe Adverse Events Following Immunization [AEFI].

The vaccination campaign was well accepted by the beneficiaries and community as a whole, the release states.

The Department has informed that all girls who received the first dose of HPV vaccine will be given the second dose of the

vaccine in a similar campaign to be held after six months tentatively during the month of Feb in 2019.

The department has extended gratitude to the print & electronic media, HRDD, ICDS, Pan-chayati Raj and other line departments, ASHA, parents, school teachers, CRH Manipal and developmental partner agencies like WHO, UNICEF and JHPIEGO for their

full support and cooperation in implementing HPV vaccination campaign successfully.

The Health Department staff was also involved at all levels, from planning to implementation, for which the authority has expressed heartfelt gratitude.

Sikkim is the first State in the country to introduce HPV vaccine in the State free of cost.

The programme is funded by the State Government and was introduced as per World Health Organisation guidelines.

## Tribeny Rai's 'Chhori' to be screened at Documentary Film Festival in Assam

**REBYNA RANA**

**GANGTOK, 18 AUG:**

A short film by Sikkimese filmmaker Tribeny Rai, 'Chhori' [Daughter], has been selected for the 1st Nagaon International Short and Documentary Film Festival scheduled to be held on 08-09 Sept at Nagaon in Assam.

The 10-minute long film in Nepali language has been selected under the North East India [Short Film] category for the festival. Besides 'Chhori', six other films [five from Assam and one from Mizoram] have also been selected in the category.

27-year-old Ms Rai hails from Nandok near Ranipool in East Sikkim.

'Chhori' is an auto-



biographical short film based on gender discrimination. Made on zero budget, it has been produced by Dalley Khorsani productions. The film has been shot in Nandok and adjacent village, Nimthang," says Ms Rai.

Speaking on the theme of the film, Ms Rai says, "I feel gender discrimination is one the

as cent percent literate.

"The parameters for declaring fully literate State is that population below 05 years and above 55 years are excluded. Floating population is not included. Therefore, the net population in the age group of 05-55 years is taken into account to assess a fully literate State. Further, Sikkim today has a literacy rate of 96.72%. This figure is also subject to fluctuation as it might come down or go up. Sikkim, therefore, has been declared as 'fully literate' State," the release adds.

## Temi Tea Estate on board for Mr Sikkim 2018 Manhunt

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 18 AUG:**

Temi Tea which is known to be amongst the finest of teas has come on board to support the Mega event, Mr Sikkim 2018 Manhunt.

A meeting of the organizers with Managing Director of Temi Tea Estate, Mrinalini Srivastava, was held on 17 Aug to receive the official confirmation.

"We are happy to announce our tie up with a brand which has envisaged a vision to provide Temi tea consumers with organic, healthy, high quality orthodox black and its variety in green, oolong & white tea from high elevation of Himalayas," said one of the organizers, Pragma Satpathy [The Accelerator].



She informed that the new brand, Cordyceps tea, will also be exclusively promoted.

Mr Sikkim 2018 Manhunt is the first of its kind event being held in Sikkim to talk mental health through fashion and glamour. The event is being jointly organized by GBT Entertainment in collaboration with The Accelerator and Sikkim

Chronicle.

"We were looking for a brand from Sikkim to tie up for the event which carries a purpose and intent. We are more than happy to collaborate with Temi Tea and are also looking forward to a rewarding partnership," said co-organizer, Nirmal Mangar [Sikkim Chronicle].

The audition for Mr

Sikkim 2018 Manhunt is scheduled to commence from 25 Aug.

With SummitTimes as its official print partner, the freshness of the event with a dynamic team comprising of promising youngsters has been receiving a record breaking response with a slew of registrations that has gone beyond expectations.

## NDRF launches biggest-ever operation in flood-hit Kerala; 58 teams deputed

**NEW DELHI, AUG 18**

**(PTI):** The NDRF has evacuated over 10,000 people from the heavy rains and flood waters affected areas of Kerala till now as it said it has launched its biggest-ever relief and rescue operation in the country till date.

The deadliest deluge in Kerala in close to a century has claimed 194 lives since August 8.

A total of 58 teams of the force have been deputed to work in Kerala out of which 55 are working on ground. Three teams are on their way, a spokesperson for the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) said.

"The force has intensified its rescue and relief



operations in the flood ravaged state of Kerala.

"This is the highest ever deployment of NDRF in a single state since its raising (in 2006) and hence this becomes this becomes our biggest-ever

disaster response operation till date," he said.

Each team of the federal disaster contingency force has about 35-40 personnel.

He said the teams, till now, have rescued 194 persons and 12 animals

while it has evacuated a total of 10,467 persons.

"Pre-hospital treatment has been administered to 159 people till now. Operations are still on," the spokesperson said.

The NDRF teams are

operational at present in Thrissur (15), Pathanamthitta (13), Alappuzha (11), Ernakulam (5), Idukki (4), Mallapuram (3), Wayanad and Kozhikode (2 each).

The spokesperson said that a control room based here was monitoring the situation round-the-clock and was in close touch with other agencies and stakeholders involved to provide succour to the affected people.

As per information from the control room of the State Disaster Management, since August 8, 194 people have lost their lives and 36 are missing. Over 3.14 lakh people have been moved to relief camps.

**GBT Entertainment presents**

**MR. SIKKIM 2018 MANHUNT**

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# SILTAC holds meet with Minister AK Ghatani in Jorethang

## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 18 AUG:**

Sikkim Limboo-Tamang Apex Committee [SILTAC] organised a meeting on the recent development at the Centre regarding expansion of seats in Sikkim Legislative Assembly. The meeting was chaired by Area MLA-cum-Health Minister, Arjun Kumar Ghatani, at Garib Uthtan Bhawan in Jorethang today, a press release informs.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Ghatani, recalled contributions of former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee and particularly his support and cooperation with Chief Minister Pawan Chamling in providing tribal status to Limboo Tamang community in Sikkim in the year 2002.

He underlined various initiatives taken up by the State Government for the welfare of Limboo Tamang community in political, cultural and social sector since 1994. He also shed light on untiring efforts of the Government to ensure reservation for LT community in SLA.

Mr Ghatani further urged Panchayats and concerned citizens from every ward/Gram Panchayat Units and Nayabazaar Jorethang Municipal Council to collect authentic ground report from every household during door-to-door campaign as per newly designed format as the data will be

immensely useful for future perspectives. Chairperson, SILTAC, CB Subba, talked about the endeavours of the State Government and SILTAC together to provide seat reservation for LT communities at the earliest. He condemned allegations and stated that Article 371F is the most supportive constitutional provision to ensure seat reservation for LT.

He presented documents and information of the entire process started since 1995 and further appealed to people to support the Government for the success of the long pending demand which is reported to be accomplished at the earliest.

Likewise, Advisor, SILTAC, Kalawati Subba, highlighted the agreements signed before the inclusion of Sikkim into the Indian Union. She informed that the State Government has urged the Union Government

several times to grant reservation of Assembly seats for LT communities in SLA and the matter is all set to get through the topmost level of authority within the month of Sept. She further informed about series of meetings and efforts made by SILTAC delegation at Union level to expedite the demands for seat reservation.

Earlier, two minutes silence was observed on the demise of former PM, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.



## Lions Club organises blood donation camp in Mamring

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 18 AUG:**

Lions Club of Rangpo in collaboration with ZYDUS Wellness, Mamring organized daylong blood donation camp at Mamring in East Sikkim today. Lions Club International 322 F, under its one district-one programme, has appealed to all the clubs from Darjeeling, South Bengal, North Bengal and

Sikkim to organize blood donation camps at their respective branches, a press release informs.

The blood donation camp today had the participation 36 males and 30 females while 66 units of blood was collected on the day. Officers and staff from ZYDUS Wellness and members of Lions Club have assured full support for the success of the mission.

# Awareness on Start Up scheme held in Gyalshing

## GYALSHING, 18 AUG

**[IPR]:** An awareness programme on the ongoing Chief Minister's Start up Scheme [CMSS] was held at the conference hall of West District Zilla Panchayat [WDZP] in Gyalshing, West Sikkim. The programme was conducted under the initiative of MLA, Yangthang, Chandra Maya Subba, in association with the District Administration Center.

The program was attended by Yangthang MLA, Ms Subba, Additional District Collector [West], Karma Lodey Lepcha, District Planning Officer [Zilla], SK Pradhan, Zilla Panchayat members, officials from WDZP and Gyalshing Municipal Council, bank officials, and CMSS applicants.

MLA, Ms Subba, in her address stated that the programme aims to understand the perils the applicants have to go through in order to get the CMSS process done. She mentioned that in order to understand the process, a clear understanding between the applicants, concerned departments and the banks has to take place and hence the meeting was an absolute necessity.

She stated that the desire of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling to give the youth of Sikkim an opportunity to stand on their feet and be self-reliant should be understood by all.

"The youth have an opportunity which they must grab and apply in accordance with the norms of the scheme," said Ms Subba.

She also asked the bank officials present to comply with the applicants and make them understand the technicalities involved in a simpler manner. She further requested the applicants to cooperate with the concerned authorities for smooth processing of their respective applications.

Deputy Secretary, Commerce & Industries Department, LN Nepal, who was the resource

person for the event, informed the congregation regarding various procedures and guidelines for proper filling of the application forms to avoid rejection of their projects. He informed that the scheme was a State flagship scheme and it is different from that of the Center.

He mentioned that project reports could be made free of cost from the concerned departments if projects are related to Horticulture, Agriculture, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and other similar departments under the Sikkim Government.

He also informed that projects made should be realistic and in tune with the guidelines of the CMSS and that the applicants can consult with the concerned banks for proper instructions. He further mentioned that the applicants have to comply with the bank's norms in order to avoid rejection.

The programme also housed open discussions wherein interaction between the applicants, officials from the concerned departments and banks were conducted.



# Weekly cataract operation service at Gyalshing District Hospital

## GYALSHING, 18 AUG

**[IPR]:** Health Department, Government of Sikkim provided Ophthalmic [Eye] routine operation theater services for cataract patients at District Hospital in Gyalshing, West Sikkim wherein five cataract patients were operated.

A team from Gangtok headed by Head of Department of Ophthalmology, Dr BP Dhakal, Ophthalmic Assistant, Suresh Basnet, staff nurses, Karma Chungden and Pempo Doma Bhutia, along with ophthalmic official from Gyalshing District Hospital conducted the operations.

It may be mentioned here, this is a weekly



Ophthalmic [Eye] routine operation theatre service provided by the Health Department for cataract patients.

# Pest management training for farmers of Lossing

## SUBASH RAI

**GANGTOK, 18 AUG:**

Two-day farmers' training on Human Resource Development during Kharif 2018-19, organized by Central Integrated Pest Management Centre [CIPMC], Gangtok concluded here at Lossing Ward, under Chalamthang GPU, East Sikkim with field demonstration of pest management kits.

The programme, attended by more than 50 farmers, featured demonstrations on proper utilization of various bio-pest management kits presented by Plant Protection Officer, CIPMC, BR Meena.

"Farmers must be vigilant and should visit their fields frequently to know the actual threat posed so that particular kits can be chosen to fight the menace," said Mr Meena.

Deputy Director [Integrated Pest Manage-



ment], FS&ADD, RK Sharma, informed about various remedies for crop diseases by using locally

prepared bio-pesticides. Likewise, member of service provider firm, Ramesh Sharma, urged

for dedicated contribution towards organic farming and asked them to take advantage of various

schemes offered by the State Government.

## DISHA meet for South & West districts held at Karfector

### JORETHANG, 18 AUG

**[IPR]:** Daylong meeting on District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee [DISHA] for South and West districts was held at the conference hall of SIRD & PR in Karfector today.

Lok Sabha MP, PD Rai, chaired the meeting which was also attended by DC [South], Prabhakar Verma, DC [West], AB Karki, SDM [HQ West], Tushar Nikhare, ADC [Dev], Soreng, G Pega, ADC [Dev], Surat Gurung, along with executive members and officials of line departments.

At the outset of the meeting, SDM [HQ West], Mr Nikhare, welcomed the gathering and laid a brief layout of the objective of holding the DISHA meeting.

Addressing the gathering, Lok Sabha MP, Mr Rai, spoke about the significance of smooth and effective co-ordination between the stakeholders and the Government Departments concerning the execution and timely completion of various schemes and projects formulated by the State Government for public benefit.

The MP also delved into the implementation and outcome of both Central and State flagship programmes which are currently being carried out in the two districts of South and West. He highlighted the need to document the outcome of these flagship programs in terms of massive benefits they have brought to the people of Sikkim.

Additionally, Mr Rai acknowledged the substantial work carried out by the concerned Governmental departments in collaboration with the Panchayats and suggested ideas for consideration of the officials and Panchayats in application of the various schemes for the public to tap maximum benefit out of those schemes.

He also urged the District Administration heads to convene a follow up meeting in their respective districts with the concerned departments.

Additional District Programme Coordinator, MGNREGA [Gyalshing], Satyan Thapa, gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin [PMAY-G] and MGNREGA being implemented under West district. He highlighted the status report of various permissible developmental works sanctioned and completed so far.

Similarly, ADPC [Namchi], Manoj Pradhan, presented a PPT on the status report of MGNREGA implemented in all eight blocks under South district.

Nodal officer, Smart City Mission, Navin Rai, also addressed the meeting wherein he updated about a slew of developmental projects that will be undertaken under the mission. He also mentioned that the Smart City project will encompass the entire gamut of civic administration and will include holistic developmental activities which will be shouldered in the smart city project.

In a similar pattern, scheme-wise presentations by line department representatives was also held wherein flagship programmes namely Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana [PMGSY], Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, [DDUGKY], NERLP, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation [AMRUT], Jal Marg Vikas Project [JMVP] and others were discussed.

The meeting also held an open discussion between the stakeholders and line department resource persons wherein various issues and queries raised by the stakeholders regarding government schemes were discussed.

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4th Prize Rs.250/- 2090 2508 2757 3410 3750 3961 4029 4556 4840 9717  
5th Prize Rs.120/-  
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1713 1754 1790 1819 1841 1896 2017 2097 2190 2249  
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2932 3092 3118 3146 3188 3263 3269 3396 3734 3735  
3775 3792 3964 4003 4120 4168 4228 4334 4626 4745  
4757 4879 4987 5091 5092 5093 5236 5239 5472 5500  
5528 5531 5539 5581 5605 5907 6347 6416 6626 6673  
6690 6743 6957 7134 7350 7415 7530 7545 7704 7814  
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Gangtok on  
Sunday,  
19 Aug

Temp: 30°C/17°C  
Forecast: Sun-  
ny and hot day, a  
thundershower  
in the evening.  
Sunrise: 05:08 AM  
Sunset: 6:10 PM

Declare Kerala  
floods as  
national disaster:  
Rahul to PM  
NEW DELHI, AUG 18  
(PTI): Congress presi-  
dent Rahul Gandhi today  
appealed to Prime Minis-  
ter Narendra Modi to de-  
clare floods in Kerala as  
“a national disaster”.

The deadliest deluge  
in Kerala in close to a cen-  
tury has claimed 194 lives  
since August 8. Over 3.14  
lakh people have been  
moved to relief camps.  
“Dear PM, please de-  
clare #Kerala floods a  
National Disaster with-  
out any delay. The lives,  
livelihood and future of  
millions of our people is  
at stake,” Gandhi tweeted.  
He also appealed to  
Congress workers to  
help those in need in the  
flood-ravaged state.  
“Across Kerala & now  
Kodagu in Karnataka,  
heavy rainfall has caused  
widespread devastat-  
ion. This is the time for  
our workers & leaders  
to demonstrate the core  
Congress values of service  
& love. Please focus all  
our resources & people to  
help those in need,” he  
said in another tweet.

Tribeny Rai’s  
‘Chhori’ to be  
screened at  
Documentary  
Film Festival  
in Assam

contd from pg01  
In fact, she insisted that  
I submit the film to this  
particular festival. This  
film wouldn’t see the  
light of the day without  
my mother’s conviction  
and faith in the film.”  
It may be mentioned  
here, the 1st Nagaon In-  
ternational Short and  
Documentary Film Festi-  
val is being organized by  
CINEMALAY in associa-  
tion with Mahapurusha  
Srimanta Sankaradeva  
Viswavidyalaya, Nagaon.  
The festival showcases  
short and documentary  
films from filmmakers  
around the globe. In-  
ternational as well as  
national documentaries  
and short films will be  
screened during the two-  
day film festival.

AFFIDAVIT

I, PRAJITA SUBBA wife  
of Samuel Subba, Res-  
ident of Liza Hill Tea Es-  
tate, P.O. Marybong, P.S.  
Pulbazar, Dist. Darjeel-  
ing, West Bengal, have  
changed my name from  
PRAJITA SUBBA to PRA-  
JITA THAPA SUBBA vide  
affidavit dated 16/08/2018  
before the notary public at  
Darjeeling.

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Press Club of Kolkata members interact with State Govt officials

GANGTOK, 18 AUG [IPR]:  
Minister for Information  
& Public Relations, Ar-  
jun Kumar Ghatani, ad-  
dressed journalists from  
Press Club of Kolkata  
[PCK] at Soochna Bha-  
wan in Gangtok today.  
Twenty-eight journalists  
led by PCK president,  
Snehasis Sur, arrived in  
Gangtok last evening.

Journalists from lead-  
ing media houses and  
organizations namely  
Doordarshan, ETV, Kolk-  
ata TV, Janpath Samach-  
ar, Times of India, The  
Hindu, Sangbad Pratidin,  
Kalantar, Hindustan Sa-  
machar, Ekdin, Ananda  
Bazar Patrika, Bartaman,  
Ei-Samaya, Rajeshthan  
Patrika, Sangbad Prati-  
din, Hindustan Samach-



ar, Vishwamitra, Sadhana  
News, 24 Ghanta, Aa-  
jkaal, Dainik Statesman,  
Sunmarg and The Tele-  
graph are a part of the  
visiting team.

In his address, Mr  
Ghatani extended warm  
welcome by offering kha-

das and mementoes to  
the journalists. He shed  
light on the challenging  
journey of Organic Mis-  
sion accomplished by  
the State of Sikkim under  
the visionary leadership  
of Chief Minister Pawan  
Chamling in the year

2016.  
He touched upon var-  
ious path breaking ini-  
tiatives including the Chief  
Minister’s Rural Housing  
Mission, Ten Minutes to  
Earth, Green Mission,  
Paryavaran Mahotsava,  
forming everlasting bond

with trees called Mith/  
Mithini which is exclusive  
to Sikkim. He also spoke  
at length on the Chief Min-  
ister’s Meritorious Schol-  
arship Scheme, Ambedkar  
Scholarship Scheme and  
about the Khangchend-  
zonga National Park as  
the only Mixed World  
Heritage Centre in the en-  
tire country.  
The Minister also  
highlighted the remark-  
able transformation in  
women’s empowerment  
and social justice in the  
State. He informed them  
about the State Govern-  
ment’s initiative of free  
HPV Vaccine for girls  
[09-14 years] in the State  
which helps in preven-  
tion from cervical cancer  
and also informed about

the State Government’s  
endeavour to eliminate  
Tuberculosis by 2022 in  
Sikkim.  
President, PCK, Mr Sur,  
applauded the State of  
Sikkim in various spheres  
and shared that the de-  
claration of Sikkim as 100%  
literate State, cleanliness,  
poverty elimination, cul-  
tural and political stability,  
Organic Mission, ongoing  
developmental works got  
PCK to organise a study  
tour to Sikkim.  
He also applaud-  
ed the record set by Mr  
Chamling as the longest  
serving CM in the coun-  
try and said that it is an  
extraordinary feat that  
the leader and the State  
has achieved.  
Officials from Tour-

ism & Civil Aviation,  
Commerce & Industries,  
Rural Management &  
Development, Energy &  
Power and Agriculture  
& Horticulture Depart-  
ments gave PowerPoint  
presentations on various  
subjects of notable pol-  
icies/areas in their re-  
spective departments.  
Secretary, Agricul-  
ture, Khorlo Bhutia, also  
briefed on the back-  
ground of agricul-  
ture and floriculture pattern  
in the State of Sikkim.  
Earlier, Director, IPR,  
Tashi Chopel, briefed the  
gathering on the purpose  
of the study visit and an-  
ticipated a cordial bilat-  
eral relation between the  
two States and the jour-  
nalism fraternity.

United FC stands unbeaten,  
defeats Sikkim Himalayan SC



SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 18 AUG:  
The second phase of  
the Sikkim Football  
Association Premier Di-  
vision Sikkim-League  
2018 resumed here at  
Paljor Stadium on 17  
Aug. Bouncing back hard-  
er, Unicorn Football Club  
thrashed SAI Namchi 6-1  
to get full three points  
from its first victory in  
the league on Friday.  
Sonam Lepcha scored  
an early lead for Unicorn  
FC in the 5th minute and  
extended the lead to 2-0  
with his brace in the 31st  
minute. With the help of  
goals by Bivek Bhutia in  
the 32nd minute and Su-  
man Kalikotay in the in-  
jury time, Unicorn FC  
ended the first half with 4-0 lead.  
In the second half,  
Sonam Lepcha scored his  
hattrick goal in the 56th  
minute to extend the

lead to 5-0. Bashi Lim-  
boo tried to give some  
relief to SAI Namchi with  
his goal in the 77th min-  
ute but another goal by  
Suman Kalikotay in the  
85th minute sealed the  
6-1 victory of Unicorn FC.  
Before the match, SFA  
officials and members  
of both the teams paid  
tribute to former Prime  
Minister Late Atal Bihari  
Vajpayee by offering kha-  
das on his portrait and  
also observed two min-  
utes silence.  
In another match of the  
league played today, Unit-  
ed Sikkim Football Club  
edged past Sikkim Hima-  
layan Sporting Club 3-2.  
Sikkim Himalayan  
SC finished the first half  
with 1-0 lead with the  
help of a goal by Hissey  
Bhutia in the 16th min-  
ute. Soon in the second  
half, Sonam Lepcha ex-

tended the lead of Sikkim  
Himalayan SC to 2-0 in  
the 50th minute.  
United Sikkim  
worked hard to bounce  
back into the match and  
received some relief with  
a goal by Karan Rai in the  
61st minute. Finally, OT  
Lepcha scored the equal-  
iser for the team in the  
84th minute.  
As the match inched  
closer to a 2-2 draw finish,  
Pelsang Lama scored the  
winning goal for the de-  
fending champion in the  
last minute of the match.  
The unbeaten United Sik-  
kim FC will be playing its  
last match in the league  
against State Sports Acad-  
emy on 24 Aug.  
Boys Club, Gangtok  
will take on the State  
Sports Academy in an-  
other match in the league  
on 19 Aug.

ASATEA apprises CM of problems faced  
by temporary and adhoc employees



NITESH R PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 18 AUG:  
All Sikkim Adhoc Tem-  
porary Employees  
Association [ASATEA]  
held a press confer-  
ence in the capital today  
which was addressed by  
its executive members.  
The association in-  
formed that the mem-  
bers met Chief Minister  
Pawan Chamling and  
apprised him of all the  
problems faced by the  
temporary and adhoc  
employees of the State.  
They have submitted a  
memorandum to the CM

while discussing issues  
faced by them.  
Various issues like  
the regularization of ad-  
hoc teachers and all tem-  
porary employees having  
acquired academic and  
professional qualifica-  
tions, inclusion of teach-  
ers in the notification  
that was released by the  
DOP (F(85) 17/GEN/  
DOP dated 27/03/2018  
on regularising employ-  
ees who have served the  
department for more  
than five years, contin-  
uation of adhoc service and  
formation of rules for ap-

pointment in adhoc and  
temporary employees  
without service break,  
etc., were raised by the  
association before the  
CM, it is informed.  
One of the members,  
Rajesh Dahal, added that  
the CM has assured all  
help and will look into the  
issues sympathetically.  
He further informed  
that the CM has directed  
the authorities to look  
into the problems and  
has assured all support  
to solve their problems  
at the earliest.  
Another member, Yo-

gesh Sharma, stated that  
a mass meeting of tem-  
porary employees will be  
held soon which will be  
addressed by the CM and  
various reforms will be  
declared.  
He added that the  
CM has assured to be the  
chief guest for the said  
programme.  
The association has  
further thanked vice  
president [administra-  
tion] of Sikkim Demo-  
cratic Front, DB Thapa,  
for extending help and  
cooperation throughout  
the process.


SMU mourns passing away  
of Atal Bihari Vajpayee

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 18 AUG:  
A condolence meet-  
ing was organised  
by Sikkim Manipal Insti-  
tute of Medical Sciences  
[SMIMS] to mourn the  
passing away of former  
Prime Minister, Atal Bi-  
hari Vajpayee here at its  
college auditorium in  
Tadong today. Students,  
staff and faculty mem-  
bers of Sikkim Manipal  
University, SMIMS and  
other constituent insti-  
tutions of SMU attend-  
ed the condolence meet-  
ing, an SMU press re-  
lease informs.  
“India has lost one of  
her greatest sons, and a  
great source of inspira-  
tion. Late Atalji was not  
only a great statesman  
but also a poet par excel-  
lence.



His caliber, his vision and  
his unique ability to rise  
above party lines and  
work with a single-mind-  
ed focus towards the bet-  
terment of the country  
cannot be matched. His  
demise is a great loss to  
our country and to dem-  
ocratic ideals across the  
world,” said SMU Vice  
chancellor, Lt Gen Dr MD

Venkatesh, in his address.  
A two minutes silence  
was observed in memory  
of Late Vajpayee.  
Faculty members  
and students read out  
excerpts from Late Va-  
jpayee’s poems and paid  
rich tribute to the de-  
parted leader.



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT ENGINEER (NORTH – II)  
WATER RESOURCES & RIVER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
NORTH SUB DIVISION (II), EAST SIKKIM

Memo No:- 238/A.E(II)/N/WR&RDD

Date:-16/08/18

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer (North – II), Water Resources & River Development Department, Government of Sikkim invites sealed tender from **Class IV grade contractor within the territorial jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat Unit** of the State for the work(s) listed below:

Sl.No.	Name of works	Work Value put to Tender	Earnest Money @2.5% for issue of Tender form	Bank receipt for the Cost of tender document	Completion Period.
1	Restoration of JTW at Gangyap Jhora at Nam-phong, under Lingdok Namphong G.P.U. Kabi Lungchuk Constituency, East Sikkim.	Rs.929966/-	Rs.23249/-	Rs.500/-	Six Months.

The data and time for submission of completed tender/bid document is as under:

i)	Date of Submission of application with bank receipt for issue of Tender Document (excluding Tender Form)	<b>20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (10.00 am to 4.00 pm)</b> Office of the Assistant Engineer, WR&RDD, North Sub-Division II, Nirman Bhavan.
ii)	Date of issue of Tender Form on submission of Earnest Money (TDR)	<b>24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (10.00 am to 4.00 pm)</b> Office of the Assistant Engineer, WR&RDD, North Sub-Division II, Nirman Bhavan.
iii)	Date and Time for submission of Tender	<b>26<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (10.00 am to 1.00 pm)</b> at Office of the Assistant Engineer, WR&RDD, North Sub-Division II, Nirman Bhavan.
iv)	Date and Time for opening of Tender	<b>26<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (2.30 pm)</b> at Office of the Assistant Engineer, WR&RDD, North Sub-Division II, Nirman Bhavan.

For any further queried i/c condition of contract, office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours.

Sd/-

Assistant Engineer – II (North)

R.O. No. 288/ipr/pub/classi./18-19

Water Resources & River Development Department

dt. 16.8.18

Govt of Sikkim



# SummitTIMES

## Drug Related

**The battle cannot be won top-down, wider collaborations are required**

Drug busts form a staple of the diet of newspaper consumers in Sikkim. A substantial drug haul on a chance routine inspection at the check-posts is a routine occurrence.

Prescription drugs continue to be the preferred substances of abuse even though more hardcore “drugs” are also obviously being peddled. The former is in much higher circulation and continues to remain the more pressing concern for Sikkim due to its easy availability and deep percolation among the youth. In fact, because the peddling of these prescription drugs was not covered under the then laws against “drugs”, like the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act, the Sikkim Government framed the Sikkim Anti-Drugs Act in the year 2006.

SADA was envisioned as a law to strengthen the hands of the law enforcement agencies in their effort to curtail the supply and peddling of these substances. Until SADA came about, a peddler could not even be kept locked up overnight since the pre-SADA laws, even on conviction, delivered only a minor fine as punishment... not even a slap on the wrists. All that the confiscation of big hauls at the check-posts succeeded in achieving was pushing up the street price of the prescription drugs of abuse because the peddlers would try to make up for profits lost to seized consignments. When SADA arrived, peddlers faced a jail-term and stiff punishments. In its original form, SADA tried to make a clear differentiation between peddlers and addicts and also took on a social responsibility by working in rehabilitation of addicts into sections of the law. In the ten years that SADA has been around, however, more people than anyone could have imagined to be peddlers have been convicted and it will not come as a surprise if some addicts have also become history-sheeters as peddlers.

The nature of addiction, however, is such that there is a very fine line dividing peddlers from addicts and it is not rare for the latter to sometimes crossover to the peddling business to finance their addictions. The original draft of SADA appeared to understand these nuances. Unfortunately, in the past slightly over a decade, it has become only a policing tool and has lost all its more humane aspects. It would however be wrong to blame the police for this Frankenstein. Like the State's drug problem, even SADA becoming so much lesser than what it had potential for, is because the society continues to fail its young. It is worrying that the only agency involved in the battle against drugs is the Police. Cops are responsible for law & order and invariably treat the people who come to them or whom they chase down, as victims or criminals. Substance abuse, unfortunately, is not as black & white as the police is trained to see cases. It is for the grey areas to be addressed with empathy and long-term impact that one needs the society at large to step up. Social organizations need to have a more involved presence in the efforts against addiction. One should read more about counseling and awareness sessions than drug-busts and arrests.

No, the cops should not stop what they are doing, but that cannot be the only thing Sikkim is doing to address the problem of substance abuse. Addiction cannot be solved by locking up all the peddlers and addicts. Sikkim should have understood that by now because ten years since a specialist law was brought in to address a Sikkim-specific drug problems, there has not been any dip in either addiction levels or peddling or the cost that addiction extracts from families, homes and the State.

And all this failure because the social engagement, the wider collaborations and the community feeling required to build more resolute defences against substances of abuse have not been created. And again, the only effort towards course correction is coming from the State Government again, as was announced by the Chief Minister recently when he shared that the government will be looking out with more empathy towards addicts. This announcement is welcome, but what is still missing is the people's engagement...

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

# Aretha Franklin: sublime soul diva whose voice inspired the civil rights movement

LEAH KARDOS  
[theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com)

It is no coincidence that two of Aretha Franklin's celebrated contemporaries who travelled to Detroit to see the singer in the last stages of her illness were Stevie Wonder and Jesse Jackson. It is hard to overestimate Franklin's importance to both music and the civil rights movement – and the presence of one of music's greatest figures alongside Martin Luther King Jr's right-hand man at her bedside in the final days of her life is a fitting tribute to one of the true greats of Black American culture.

Aretha Franklin was the “Queen of Soul”. One of the bestselling recording artists of all time, she became famous in the 1960s as a singer with a uniquely expressive voice possessing great passion and control. Her hit songs in the late 1960s tapped into the spirit of the civil rights movement while her hit cover (and gendered re-authoring) of Otis Redding's Respect was an anthem of black female empowerment.

The first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987, Franklin's voice was declared one of Michigan's important “natural resources” two years before. She won 18 Grammy Awards including the Lifetime Achievement Award (in 1994) and presided over a rich recorded musical legacy preserved in 42 studio albums, 131 singles, six live albums and more. Her iconic performances and productions came to define the term “soul music” in the 20th century, setting the standard for black female vocal excellence.

## GOSPEL ORIGINS

The daughter of celebrity Detroit minister CL Franklin, Franklin was born in Memphis in 1942 and raised in Detroit, starting her singing career in the choir at her father's New Bethel Baptist Church. She belonged to a generation of African American artists who migrated from the south during a time when segregation and Jim Crow law was still in effect, who then went on to participate in mainstream American culture.

Her deep connection to the southern freedom movement was familial and spiritual as well as musical – her father was actively involved with Democratic party politics and the civil rights movement. Politicians and activists – along with many of the gospel superstars of the day – were a fixture in the family home. As a result, Franklin received forma-

tive musical mentoring from stars such as Dinah Washington and Mahalia Jackson in addition to inheriting a strong commitment to social justice. She was to support progressive politics throughout her career.

For people stuck in political struggles for equality and respect, Franklin's voice came to articulate the collective emotion, frustration, strength and depth of their experiences. Her voice rang out at historical political milestones – at the 1968 Democratic party convention in Chicago that shortly followed the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr and Robert F Kennedy, and at the inauguration of the first African American president Barack Obama in 2009. She also performed at pre-inauguration concerts for Democratic party presidents Jimmy

debut for Atlantic, I Never Loved a Man the Way I Love You, was certified gold in the same year of its release. Her work with Wexler at Muscle Shoals during this period spawned many well-known hits such as Chain of Fools, (You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman, Respect, and I Say A Little Prayer.

## GREAT INTERPRETER

While she recorded and performed her own compositions from time to time (hit 1968 single and feminist anthem Think is an original song of hers), Franklin earned a great part of her fame as a unique interpreter of other people's songs. Through gospel-influenced musical rearrangement, and her striking changes to melodic content, she effectively re-authored material written by others, asserting a sense of creative ownership through spirited and dynamic vocal performance.

Franklin often altered the context of the existing lyric through her inflection and emphasis or by introducing call and answer interplay with her background singers. These voices of sisterly support were often provided by her very own siblings, Erma and Carolyn Franklin or The Sweet Inspirations (a girl group founded by Cissy Houston and Lee Warwick, the mothers of Whitney and Dionne). Using these techniques, as she did with Respect, lyrics could be repositioned to reflect the black female perspective. Another later example of this can be found in her interpretation of the Rolling Stones' Jumpin' Jack Flash in 1986, which was used as the theme tune for the Whoopi Goldberg film of the same name.

Music culture owes Franklin a debt for bringing ecstatic pentecostal fervour to popular music, pushing the expressive boundaries of the contemporary singing voice. She was one of the first true great divas of soul (alongside Diana Ross) – fusing gospel and African American spiritual music traditions with the blues, pop and R&B to create the template of vocal expressiveness and authenticity that artists aspire to still. In doing so she set the stage for the technical virtuosity of Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey.

A fierce musical talent not only in sensitive and dynamic vocal interpretation but also as a skilled pianist and arranger, Franklin demanded respect from us. And because of her many great artistic and cultural achievements, it will forever be given.

*[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Music, Kingston University]*



Carter and Bill Clinton.

Inspired to follow in the footsteps of Sam Cooke, Franklin began her solo singing career in 1960 performing on the gospel circuit and signing a record deal with Columbia Records. Her first secular albums in the early 1960s blended R&B styles with pop and jazz and achieved only modest success. It wasn't until her move to Atlantic records and a deliberate return to gospel music stylings in 1967 that Franklin made her commercial breakthrough.

Recording at FAME studios in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, working in partnership with Atlantic co-owner and producer Jerry Wexler and the legendary Muscle Shoals rhythm section, Franklin's

# Why war evolved to be a man's game – and why that's only now changing

ALBERTO MICHELETTI  
[theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com)

One pattern characterises every war that's ever been fought. Front-line fighting in warfare is primarily and often almost exclusively a male activity. From a numbers perspective, bigger armies obviously have greater chances of success in battles. Why then, are half of a community's potential warriors (the women) usually absent from the battlefield?

Previous hypotheses have suggested that this is the result of fundamental biological differences between the sexes. But our new study, published in Proceedings B, finds that none of these differences fully explain why women have almost never gone to war; and nor are they needed to do so. Instead, this state of affairs might have more to do with chance.

Some researchers have proposed that since men are on average stronger, taller, and faster than women, they are simply more effective in winning battles. Others have suggested that this pattern occurs because the costs of warfare are lower for men, as the risks of dying or being injured are offset by the opportunity to obtain more sexual partners in case of victory. This isn't true for women because they can only produce a limited number of offspring and so there's little or no evolutionary advantage to obtaining more partners.

Others still have argued the answer can be found in the fact that females in groups of ancestral great apes and humans were more likely to migrate. This supposedly means that women are less genetically related to their social group than men, and so are less keen to risk their lives for their communities.

Granted, these hypotheses all suggest plausible reasons why more men than women participate in wars. But they fall short on explaining why the fighting is almost always done by men. We set out to answer this question,

developing a mathematical model of the evolution of male and female participation in warfare, building on some of our previous work in this area. Our model looks at the consequences of going to war on a person's fitness, and for the fitness of their genetic relatives, to work out the probability that a person will join in the fighting.

## MODELLING THE EVOLUTION OF WARFARE

Before investigating each of the proposed explanations in detail, we decided we should better understand the simplest case where there are no sex differences. We designed a model that looked at men and women as two identical groups, and didn't take account

that, if there was then even a small reason why men might be more likely to fight, over many generations the incentives for men to join in would grow until warfare became an almost exclusively male practice.

But as our hypothetical model worked on the basis that men and women were identical, for every potential evolutionary trajectory that led to exclusively male warfare, there would be another that led to exclusively female warfare. Whether male-only war or female-only war evolved in our model depended only on the initial question of which sex was more likely to go to war to start with.

So, if both outcomes are equally



of the sexes' different characteristics when working out the probability of an individual joining in a war. To our surprise, we found that exclusively male warfare could still evolve in this case.

Instead, our model showed that what was important was how many members of a person's sex were already taking part in warfare at any given point, and how that affected sexual competition for mates with other people of the same sex. For example, if lots of men are already fighting, then the risks to an individual man would be lower and the potential rewards higher, but the there would be much less incentive for a woman to take part. This evolutionary pressure means

plausible, why is warfare in fact almost exclusively male? Our study also suggests that male competition over mates and resources – an aspect of what biologists call sexual selection – might have caused men to evolve to be generally more aggressive than women. This was probably enough to make men more likely to go to war from the outset. And our model explains why this would ultimately lead to male-only war parties. Greater physical strength, together with lower costs and higher genetic links to the rest of the group, may have then helped reinforce this pattern.

But initial conditions could have – in theory – been different. Had women been naturally more aggressive, they

would have become the warring sex and we would now live in a world of Amazon-like female-only wars. Interestingly, this is the case in some other animal societies that engage in inter-group conflicts. In spotted hyenas, for example, only females attack other packs.

## THE PAST AND THE FUTURE OF WAR

One implication of our study is that past ecological conditions can have very long-lasting effects. The evolution of men as the more aggressive of the sexes led to a pattern of male-dominated warfare that was unlikely to be altered by changing technological or ecological forces.

Consider the role of weapons, for example. When warfare initially evolved, men were likely more aggressive and might have been more effective at fighting, because primitive weapons relied on brute force. As a result, they went on to become the warring sex. Later, inventions such as the bow and arrow made physical sex differences in strength less important. In more recent times, further technological advances have effectively equalised men and women in their ability to fight opponents. But, as male-only war has already evolved, these technological changes have little or no impact. Only initial conditions matter.

As such, this long-lasting effect of ancestral behavioural differences might help explain why women's presence in the armed forces today is still limited. Yet, perhaps culture is now having a greater role, at least partially overriding the biological basis for exclusively male warfare. The countries that have opened military combat roles to women in response to changing attitudes, and the recent reports of Kurdish women fighting Islamic State are testaments to that.

*[the writer is PhD Candidate in Evolutionary Biology, University of St Andrews]*



## 'Guiding force for good': World mourns loss of Kofi Annan

**GENEVA, AUG 18 (AFP):** There was an outpouring of condolences from leaders around the world today after the death of former United Nations Secretary General and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kofi Annan.

Current UN chief Antonio Guterres voiced deep sadness at the news, describing his predecessor as "a guiding force for good".

"In many ways, Kofi Annan was the United Nations," he added.

### Air India initiates probe into flight delay from Dhaka to Kolkata

**NEW DELHI, AUG 18 (PTI):** Air India has initiated a probe into the cause delay of a Kolkata-bound flight from Dhaka on August 8 amid a report claiming that a pilot was attempting to sneak in hilsa fish.

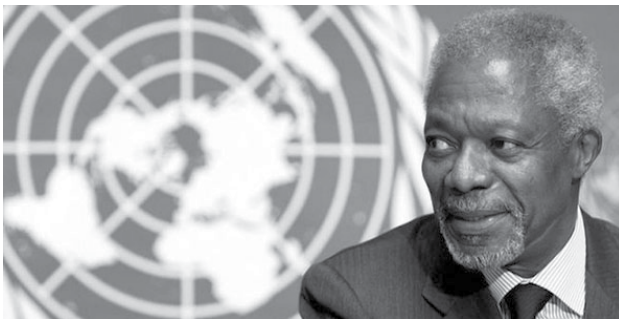
Flight AI229 from Dhaka to Kolkata was delayed by one hour. The flight, scheduled to depart at 9.25 pm, finally took off at about 10.30 pm.

While a report claimed that a pilot had a fracas with the security over carrying the hilsa, sources said that an engineering snag was mentioned in the log book.

When contacted, an airline spokesperson said they were investigating the cause of the delay as there can be several reasons arising from engineering issues to operations and ATC clearance.

"We are investigating the reason for the delay of the flight from Dhaka to Kolkata that day. In fact, Air India probes into the cause for delay of any flight which does not depart on time. There can be so many reasons for a delay from engineering to operations to even ATC clearance.

"It will not be fair to make any unsubstantiated conjecture on the cause of the delay," the spokesperson said.



"He rose through the ranks to lead the organisation into the new millennium with matchless dignity and determination."

"Like so many, I was proud to call Kofi Annan a good friend and mentor."

The UN high commissioner for human rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said he was grief-stricken.

"Kofi was humanity's best example, the epitome, of human decency and grace. In a world now filled with leaders who are anything but that, our loss, the world's loss becomes even more painful," he said.

"He was a friend to thousands and a leader of millions." "There are some human beings who will seem irreplaceable to us, rare human beings. Kofi Annan is high among them. Goodbye my dear friend... goodbye Kofi."

Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo declared a week of mourning, saying the national flag will fly at half-mast at home and in the country's diplomatic missions around the world in honour of "one of our greatest compatriots".

"He brought considerable renown to our

country by this position and through his conduct and comportment in the global arena," the president said in a statement.

"He was an ardent believer in the capacity of the Ghanaian to chart his or her own course onto the path of progress and prosperity."

South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC) said Annan was "an eminent and distinguished son of Africa".

"Annan was a great friend of the people of South Africa who played an immeasurable role in shaping the global agenda

in favour of the people of the developing south," the ANC said in a statement.

"Amongst his many passions was silencing the guns on the African continent."

British Prime Minister Theresa May said her "thoughts and condolences are with his family".

"A great leader and reformer of the UN, he made a huge contribution to making the world he has left a better place than the one he was born into," she said on Twitter.

Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said that "today we lose a great humanist".

"Annan... has left us but his legacy remains to keep working for peace, security and to strengthen the defence of human rights," Sanchez tweeted.

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said he was saddened to hear the news.

"His warmth should never be mistaken for weakness. Annan showed that one can be a great humanitarian and a

strong leader at the same time," Stoltenberg wrote on Twitter.

"The UN and the world have lost one of their giants."

EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica said he was "profoundly saddened" by Annan's death.

"He was such a great source of inspiration for all of us and will be greatly missed!" he tweeted.

The Elders organisation -- a group of statesmen co-founded by Annan which speaks out on global issues -- hailed the former UN chief as "a voice of great authority and wisdom in public and private".

"The world has lost an inspiring figure -- but one whose achievements will never be forgotten, and whose commitment to peace and justice will endure to inspire future generations," deputy chair Gro Harlem Brundtland said in a statement.

## DLSA conducts legal services camp in Namchi

### SUMMIT REPORT NAMCHI, 18 AUG:

District Legal Services Authority [South] and Taluk Legal Services Committee [South] in coordination with Sikkim State Legal Services Authority organized a legal services camp cum health camp for senior citizens at Marut Bhawan in Namchi Bazaar, South Sikkim today.

An SLSA press release informs that the purpose of the programme was to spread awareness about welfare legislations, schemes and to strengthen the community's access to the schemes being implemented by the Legal Services Authority and other departments of the State Government.

The programme also aimed at identifying and connecting senior citizens to welfare schemes



to ensure that fruits of the welfare schemes are passed to eligible people. The programme also looked upon understanding legal needs of the senior citizens and address-

ing legal problems of the senior citizens by giving appropriate legal advice.

Chairperson, DLSA [South], Jyoti Kharka, launched the event in the presence of Secretary, DLSA [South], Sonam

Denka Wangdi, Ld Panel Advocates, SDM Namchi, staff from Social Justice Empowerment and Welfare Department, Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, doctors of Namchi

District Hospital, officials from Pension Department, Gangtok, Para-Legal Volunteers of Namchi and members of Sikkim Government Retired Employees Welfare Association.

There were around 169 senior citizens who attended the programme that included 141 beneficiaries.

The attendees interacted with the officers and representatives of the departments present to address their problems and to procure appropriate advice and guidance.

During the health camp, doctors from Orthopedics, ENT, Eye and Medicine departments of Namchi District Hospital conducted medical check-up of the attendees.

## IIT Kharagpur to set up Re-Water Research Center

**KOLKATA, AUG 18 (PTI):** The IIT Kharagpur will set up a Re-Water Research Center, seed-funded by two alumni members to replenish and rejuvenate water resources, a statement issued by the institute said today.

The move is to tackle the challenge of resolving two burning issues faced by urban India sewage disposal and access to clean potable water, it said on the 68th Foundation Day of the premier institution.

"The scarcity of water for drinking and domestic use is becoming acute and will only worsen in the coming years. On the other hand, urban areas are witnessing massive sewage problems. The idea of linking these two crises and coming up with one viable solution is challenging," one of the alumni members Aneesh Reddy said.

The 'Aditya Choubey Center for Re-Water Research' would be networking with government bodies to take up this technology and the process and meet the water challenge in various cities, Reddy said.

The institute is setting up an on-campus plant which will convert 1.35 million litre of sewage water from the hostels to 1.2 million litre of potable water, on a daily basis.

The pilot plant is expected to be ready by March 2019.

"We will conduct

quality assurance tests demonstrating the suitability of the technology for treatment of sewage and the suitability of the treated water for consumption and infuse confidence among all agencies and the public at large related to water supply, treatment," faculty at the Department of Civil Engineering Prof M M Ghangrekar, who will be heading this project, said.

The researchers would also be developing an operationally viable technology so that the plant can be profitably commercialised.

"The project is being developed to attract potential entrepreneurs and government agencies to take up sewage treatment at a large scale and with a business model for banks to gain confidence in funding such businesses," said another alumni Anant Choubey.

Director, IIT KGP, Prof PP Chakrabarti said that similar models of water sustainability have been adopted in foreign countries.

"We are looking forward to participatory models in villages to implement this technology. We would also engage international water experts and professionals from the industry as researchers and advisors in this center. Aneesh and Anant will be advisers as well," Chakrabarti said.

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## WB woman gets 2 months in jail for false sexual assault charge

**KOLKATA, AUG 19 (PTI):** A city court has sentenced a woman to two months' imprisonment for falsely accusing a barber of sexually assaulting her minor daughter.

During examination of witnesses in the case earlier this week, the woman admitted in the court that she had levelled false allegations against the man under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The woman had

lodged a complaint at the Phoolbagan police station here in June, that the barber had sexually assaulted her eight-year-old daughter while giving her a haircut.

The man, who is in his 40s, was arrested following the complaint and was in custody since then.

During trial before the Special judge (P) Jimitu Bahan Biswas at Sealdah Court, when the mother of the child was being questioned as a witness, the woman said

she had made false allegations against the man, public prosecutor Vivek Sharma said.

She admitted before the court that she had also made the allegations in a confidential statement made before a magistrate.

She, however, did not tell the court the reason for levelling the false charges, Sharma said.

The judge acquitted the man of all charges and ordered his release.

The judge then initiated proceedings against

the woman and sentenced her to two months in jail for bringing the false charges against the man, who had also been behind bars for over two months.

Sharma said that under the POSCO Act, there is provision of sentencing a person up to six months in jail for bringing false charges.

The woman was taken in custody and sent to a correctional home here.

## Minister asks JU to ponder whether changing marks will enhance prestige of the institution

**KOLKATA, AUG 18 (PTI):** West Bengal Education minister Partha Chatterjee has said Jadavpur University authorities should ponder whether changing the marks of candidates in the new merit list of History will enhance the prestige of the premier institution.

When asked about 15 new names having figured among the 70 candidates on the revised merit list for under graduate (UG) course brought out by the university, Chatterjee told reporters yesterday, "Yes there has also been instance of someone getting 0 in the

previous merit list, and now having secured 90 in the revised list."

"The authorities of JU should ponder whether such instances will enhance the prestige of the institution," he said.

Chatterjee added, "That is why I had always been maintaining that there should be uniformity in the admission procedure in all streams in JU."

Registrar Chiranjib Bhattacharya said, "After getting complaints from some guardians after publication of provisional merit list in History admission, the JU author-

ities decided to conduct a review of answer scripts of all the 344 students who took the history admission test.

"The revised merit list was compiled after scripts were reviewed by external examiners. Fifteen names, omitted from the first provisional list, are on higher ranking in a second waiting list," the registrar said.

Bhattacharya also said in a humanities subject like History, there can be differences in evaluation process between Plus two Board exams and the JU entrance.

Based on the new

merit list the admission to history will take place on August 21-22.

The Arts Faculty Students Union had resorted to 9-hour sit-in outside JU VC's office on August 8 when the authorities decided to hold back publication of history results and review the answer sheets. The sit-in was lifted after the resignation of Dean of Arts from admission panel.

AFSU leader Somasree Chowdhury said that the comments of the minister "showed he wanted to interfere" in the functioning of the university.





# Teenage shooting sensations face stiff Asian Games test

**PALEMBANG, AUG 18 (PTI):** Teenage prodigies Anish Bhanwala, Manu Bhaker and Elavenil Valarivan will carry India's medal hopes in the shooting event of the Asian Games beginning here tomorrow, and standing in their way will be the mighty Chinese and South Koreans.

Bhanwala and Bhaker, who are 15 and 16 respectively, stormed into the limelight with a gold in the 25m rapid fire pistol and 10m air pistol respectively at Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

But the competition at CWG is much easier than Asian Games and it remains to be seen how they perform under severe pressure.

While India won seven gold medals at Gold Coast, the country has managed the same number of gold medals in the history of the Asian Games. Only four shooters have won an Asiad



gold Jaspal Rana, Ronjan Sodhi, Randhir Singh and Jitu Rai.

Rana, who is now a coach and is here with the Indian team, has already talked about the unnecessary attention on the youngsters though he is not ruling out their medal chances.

Bhaker will be in ac-

tion on the opening day alongside Abhishek Verma in the pistol mixed team event.

Her maturity belies her tender age as she has already tasted success at the highest level, winning two gold medals at the Guadalajara World Cup in March before stepping on the top of the podium

at Gold Coast.

Bhanwala, however, is yet to make a mark at the senior level after bagging a double gold at the Junior World Championships. Asian Games will be a big test for him.

The focus has been on Bhaker and Bhanwala in the lead up to the Games but there is another ex-

ceptional shooter who has quietly gone about her business 19-year-old Valarivan.

She created a flutter by winning 10m rifle gold at the Sydney Junior World Cup earlier this year with a world record score.

The seasoned Sanjeev Rajput, who will aim for gold in the 50m rifle three positions after winning in Gold Coast, too has high expectations from Valarivan.

"She has been shooting really well. Unlike in the past, the youngsters are doing really well for India. There is a sizeable pool (both in rifle and pistol) which has been doing well. It was not the case earlier," Rajput told PTI.

Indian team has been hit hard due to the absence of team events. Rajput himself won three team medals from 2006 to 2014 and is now determined to add an individual medal to his kitty. Akhil Sheoran is the oth-

er Indian shooter in the 50m rifle three positions.

In the absence of greats such as Abhinav Bindra and Gagan Narang, there is a possibility of another star emerging in the rifle events.

Apurvi Chandel and Ravi Kumar will open India's rifle campaign in the mixed team event at the Jakabaring Shooting Range tomorrow. They have a sniff at the medal, having finished fourth at the World Cup in March.

There is a lot of young blood in the squad but seniors like Heena Sidhu (pistol), Manavjit Singh Sandhu (trap) and Shreyasi Singh (trap) too would be itching to perform.

With a gold, silver and seven bronze, India had finished eighth in the shooting event at Incheon, South Korea four years.

China topped the table with 50 medals, including 27 gold, and are expected to dominate again.



## Asiad Hockey: Indian women eye gold to book Olympic berth

**JAKARTA, AUG 18 (PTI):**

Former champions India will have to recover from their medal-less World Cup campaign as they look to clinch the title at the 18th Asian Games and seal a Tokyo Olympics berth when the women's hockey competition begins, here tomorrow.

Indian women's team had won the gold medal at the 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi and ended runner up to South Korea in 1998 in Bangkok.

They have managed to return with at-least a medal in all the nine editions, including a bronze at the 2014 Games at Incheon, South Korea.

At world no 9, Indian women's team are the top-ranked side in the competition and will open its campaign against hosts Indonesia, ranked as low as 64, in a Pool B match here tomorrow.

However, India's real test would be against defending champions Korea (ranked 10), China and Japan.

Both China (ranked 11) and Japan (ranked 14) are in Pool A and India will not clash with them before the semifinals.

Clubbed in pool B, India will face their toughest test in the league stage against Korea on August 25. They play Kazakhstan on August 21 and conclude the Pool engagement with a clash against Thailand on August 27.

Rani Rampal and Co. are still recovering from their heart-breaking World Cup quarterfinal loss to Ireland.

The women's team had entered the World Cup quarterfinals after 40 years but the defeat against Ireland via penalty shootout is still ranking the Indian players, especially captain Rampal, who had missed her shootout stroke for the

first time in her career.

She had locked herself inside her hotel room, finding it difficult to digest the missed chance.

It was a personal failure for her and Rampal will look to set things right by guiding the team to a title win and earning India a place in the Tokyo Games as the Continental champions.

Prior to the Games, the low-intensity camp in Bengaluru, which focused more on recovery after the World Cup, coupled with some sensible talk by the team management has allowed the team to regroup.

The team management, including team's scientific advisor Wayne Lombard, chose to show the players, through the video footage, how excellent their defense was and how they executed most of the plans.

It definitely had a positive effect on the morale of the team.

"I feel that this is a great way to forget the World Cup disappointment. If I keep thinking about the World Cup, and it affects our performance at the Asian Games, then that resentment will stay in my head throughout my life," said Rani.

As India looks to put behind the World Cup disappointment, it remains to be seen how this side, guided by Dutch Sjoerd Marjine, handles nerves at business end of the tournament.

Both the men's and women's team had reached the finals in 1998 but clinching the double gold remained elusive for India in Bangkok with only the men's team emerging champions.

Considering the strength of both the Indian teams and their opponents, the historic double could be a real possibility this time.

# Federer strikes down fellow Swiss to reach Cincy

**CINCINNATI, AUG 18 (AFP):** World number two Roger Federer posted his second win of the day, amid a lightning fear interruption, to reach the semi-finals of the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Masters on Friday.

The seven-time champion beat fellow Swiss Stan Wawrinka 6-7 (2/7), 7-6 (8/6), 6-2.

The match was interrupted for 21 minutes with players being sent off court and crowds told to seek shelter as a storm cell passed near the site.

But after the pause, the pair came back out, with Federer finally securing the first break of the match on his seventh chance to take a 4-2 lead over his longtime rival.

Federer closed out victory two games later and will face David Goffin after the Belgian beat Juan Martin del Potro 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/4).

Federer began his day by beating Leo Mayer 6-1, 7-6 (8/6).



"It's quite unusual to stop for lightning," Federer said after beating Wawrinka for the 23rd time in 26 meetings.

"I didn't know if it meant the end of the night or that we would come back.

"I got my energy back for the third set, a momentum shift was good for me. It was also good

that I was serving first.

"I played a cleaner third set. I was clear with my game plan. It was good to win two matches today," Elsewhere, former world number one Novak Djokovic also won his second match of the day to set up a semi-final clash with Marin Cilic.

Djokovic, a five-time finalist here who has nev-

er broken through, is aiming to lift the trophy at the only one of the Masters 1000 series events that he has never won.

The Serb tenth seed followed up a 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 third-round defeat of holder Grigor Dimitrov earlier in the day of a rainy week by beating Milos Raonic 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.

It was the ninth win

without a loss for Djokovic in the series with the Canadian.

"I've played five finals here," Djokovic said.

"But I do wish to win the title.

"I'm here to enjoy a sport that I love, I've got plenty of motivation. I'm in a good position, so I'll take it step by step."

Djokovic had to come from behind in the first and third sets, and helped seal the victory with a break for 5-3 in the third.

"Milos is one of the best servers in the game," Djokovic said.

"Just a few points decided the winner.

"It's tough to play against someone serving so big," Cilic put out Spanish 13th seed Pablo Carreno Busta 7-6 (9/7), 6-4.

"I haven't played any matches on the centre court. I feel and I heard that it's completely different. It's much faster," Cilic said.

"Definitely Novak is playing really well. His level was definitely high and he's in definitely really good form.

"We played tough match in Queen's, but that's grass and definitely different. So I have to get ready and give it a full shot."

Women's top seed Simona Halep recovered from 1-4 down in the opening set to defeat Lesia Tsurenko 6-4, 6-1.

It was the second fightback of the day for Halep, who came from a break down in each set to overhaul Australian 16th seed Ashleigh Barty 7-5, 6-4 several hours earlier in the third round.

Double Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova reached the final four over Belgian Elise Mertens 7-5, 5-7, 6-3.

She will face Kiki Bertens after the Dutchwoman defeated Ukrainian fifth seed Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-3.

## Djokovic to face Cilic as Cincinnati title dream draws closer



**CINCINNATI, AUG 18 (AFP):** Former world number one Novak Djokovic won his second match of the day to set up a semi-final clash at the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Masters with Marin Cilic.

Djokovic, a five-time finalist here who has never broken through, is aiming to lift the trophy at the only one of the Masters 1000 series events that he has never won.

The Serb tenth seed followed up a 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 third-round defeat of holder Grigor Dimi-

trov earlier in the day of a rainy week by beating Milos Raonic 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 yesterday.

It was the ninth win without a loss for Djokovic in the series with the Canadian.

"I've played five finals here, so that's pretty OK," Djokovic said. "But I do wish to win the title, without a doubt.

"I'm here to enjoy a sport that I love, I've got plenty of motivation.

"I'm in a good position, so I'll take it step by step." Djokovic had to come

from behind in the first and third sets, and helped seal the victory with a break for 5-3 in the third.

"Milos is one of the best servers in the game," Djokovic said. "Just a few points decided the winner.

"It's tough to play against someone serving so big.

"I was fortunate to read his serve on several occasions. I must be very pleased with fighting spirit and staying mentally tough to overcome deficits in both matches."

Cilic put out Spanish

13th seed Pablo Carreno Busta 7-6 (9/7), 6-4.

"I haven't played any matches on the centre court. I feel and I heard that it's completely different. It's much faster," Cilic said.

"Definitely Novak is playing really well. His level was definitely high and he's in definitely really good form.

"We played tough match in Queen's, but that's grass and definitely different. So I have to get ready and give it a full shot"

## Impressive performance by Hero MotoSports Team Rally

**COPIAPO (CHILE), AUG 18 (PTI):** After enduring some tough moments in the previous phase, fourth stage of the 2018 Atacama Rally proved to be full of positives for Hero MotoSports Team Rally with both riders making it to the finish line safely.

The penultimate stage of the Atacama Rally saw Oriol Mena finish at the 11th place, while Joaquim Rodrigues ending at the 13th position here.

Mena rode well avoiding mistakes and ensured that he enters the last stage of the Rally in a good position.

A huge extra for the Team was that Rodrigues was able to start today, although with heavy penalty for not finishing the stage yesterday.

He started right at the back and had to tackle poor visibility throughout because of the dust raked up by the riders ahead of him.

It was a difficult and risky situation but he rode with his trademark calm and confidence to finish the stage.

Rodrigues was happy that despite some odd circumstances, he was successfully completed the race.

"After the technical issue yesterday I was happy to make a start today. It was a very difficult stage for me as I started behind all the bikes, especially a couple of quads.

"The stage was really fast and with all the dust in front of me, it was very risky to ride. It was anyways difficult to pass the riders in front so I decided to take it steady and safe. The bike was working really well today so I am happy to ride again and arrive at the finish line safely," said Rodrigues.

At the end of the penultimate stage, Mena stands at 12th place and Rodrigues at 17th place in

the overall rankings.

"Today was really fast, with mix of soft piste and sand. I decided to not push too much today and focus on arriving at the finish line safely," Mena said after the fourth stage.

"One day more done and now it's one day less to bring another rally in the books. There has been a lot of learning for me throughout and I am happy with the way I am riding, the bike and the team."

This Stage turned out to be very fast with a mix of soft piste and dunes in the 253 km timed special today. With the liaison included, the competitors had to cover a total of 371 km during the day.

The Rally will move to its final day tomorrow with a relatively shorter stage 5 to be done entirely in the region of Copiapo, after which the winner of the 2018 Atacama Rally will emerge.



UN chief ‘saddened’ over destruction caused by Kerala flood

**UNITED NATIONS, AUG 18 (PTI):** UN chief Antonio Guterres has expressed sadness over the flooding and extensive damage and displacement caused in rain-battered Kerala.

Kerala is witnessing the worst flooding in 100 years. About 80 dams have overflowed and more than 300 lives have been lost. Over 3.14 lakh people have been moved to relief camps.

“Our humanitarian colleagues as well as the country team in India have been following the recent floods very closely. The United Nations is of course saddened by the loss of life, destruction and displacement caused by floods in India,” Stephane Dujarric, the UN Secretary-Generals spokesperson, told reporters here yesterday.

When asked if the UN been asked for help in India in the Kerala floods, he said the world body has not received any direct request from the Indian Government for aid.

“As you know, India has quite a well-operated machinery to deal with natural disasters but of course our country team I was in touch with our Resident Coordinator today they’re following closely and they’re in touch with partners on the ground,” he said.

6.0 quake shakes Costa Rica near Panama; no major damage

**SAN JOSE, AUG 18 (AP):** A strong earthquake shook southern Costa Rica near the border with Panama, toppling items from store shelves and knocking out power in places, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or major damage.

The US Geological Survey reported that the quake that occurred last evening had a magnitude of 6.0 and struck at 5:22 pm local time at a depth of about 12 miles (19 kilometers).

Its epicentre was about 12 miles (19 kilometers) north of the town of Golfito.

Ellery Quesada, a journalist with Channel 9 in Palmar Norte, near the epicenter, told The Associated Press that it was felt strongly in the region.

“We have reports that in Puerto Jimenez the power was out and some power poles toppled,” Quesada said by phone, adding that aftershocks were felt in the minutes afterward.

The USGS recorded at least one subsequent tremor of magnitude 4.9.

Photos circulating on social media showed shattered wine bottles and other products lying on shop floors in Palmar Norte.

Costa Rica’s National System for Monitoring Tsunamis ruled out a tsunami alert.

In neighboring Panama, civil defense officials said via Twitter that the quake was felt strongly in the border provinces of Chiriqui and Bocas del Toro there were no immediate reports of damage.

Panamanian media reported that it was felt at a stadium in the city of David where a youth baseball championship game was being played, but play was not halted.

**ISLAMABAD, AUG 18 (PTI):** Cricketer-turned politician Imran Khan struggled for 22 years to fulfil his dream of becoming Pakistan’s Prime Minister to transform the corruption affected country into an Islamic welfare state.

Khan took oath as Pakistan’s 22nd Prime Minister after leading his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party (PTI) to the victory in the elections and subsequently proving his majority in the National Assembly.

The 65-year-old flamboyant former captain, described as one of Pakistan’s greatest cricketers who transformed his shaky team into champions in the 1992 Cricket World Cup, emerged as an inspiring leader in politics too.

The Oxford-educated Pashtun launched Tehreek-e-Insaf, which means the movement for justice, in 1996, but struggled to break the dominance of the Pak-



kistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) - the two main political parties that dominated Pakistan’s political scene when the powerful military was not ruling the country.

Khan became a Member of Parliament in the 2002 elections. He was again elected to the National Assembly in the 2013 elections, when his party emerged as the second largest in the country by popular vote.

One year after elections, in May 2014, Khan alleged that the polls were rigged in favour of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz led by then prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

In August 2014, Khan led a rally of his supporters from Lahore to Islamabad, demanding Sharif’s resignation and investigation into alleged electoral fraud.

Within a month, Khan entered into an alliance with influential

Pakistani-origin Canadian cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri with both pressing for dismissal of the Sharif government. The violent protests ended after Khan and Qadiri entered into an agreement with the Sharif government to set up a judicial commission to probe the allegations of poll rigging.

During his campaign in the 2018 elections, Khan promised to crackdown on corruption, enact anti-poverty programmes, improve

healthcare and education and turn his country into an Islamic welfare state.

Khan, who is believed to have the backing of the powerful military, has vowed to make a ‘Naya Pakistan’ which would be an Islamic welfare state. He believes the “most viable” policy to ensure peace in the region was to cooperate with India, including on the Kashmir issue.

His party has prepared a 100-day plan to meet serious economic and administrative woes faced by the country.

In his victory speech last month, Khan said he was ready to improve Pakistan’s ties with India and his government would like the leaders of the two sides to resolve all disputes, including the “core issue” of Kashmir, through talks.

Khan also said that he wants balanced relations between Pakistan and America which should be mutually beneficial, not one sided. Additionally,

Khan said he and his party wanted stronger ties with both Iran and Saudi Arabia - the two rival powers in the Middle East.

As a politician, Khan’s vision is to turn Pakistan into a just society, based on humane values, by creating an independent and honest judiciary that will uphold democracy, protect human rights and ensure the rule of law and, by promoting a merit based system that provides equal opportunity to all, according to Khan’s profile on his party’s website.

Khan, once touted as Pakistan’s most eligible bachelor for his rugged Pathani good looks, married thrice. His previous two marriages ended in divorce.

His first marriage was with Jemima Goldsmith, daughter of a British billionaire, in 1995, which lasted 9 years. Khan has two sons from her. His second marriage with TV anchor Reham Khan in 2015 ended after a brief

10 months.

Early this year, Khan married for the third time. This time with his “spiritual guide” Bushra Maneka.

Khan was born in Mianwali in 1952 to Ikramullah Khan Niazi and Shaukat Khanum. His father descended from the Pashtun (Pathan) Niazi tribe of the Shermankhel clan, his family is settled in Lahore, however, he still considers his background Pathan as per his autobiography.

He attended Aitchison College in Lahore and the Royal Grammar School Worcester in England. In 1972, he enrolled in Keble College, Oxford where he studied philosophy, politics and economics, graduating with honours in 1975.

Khan played Test cricket for Pakistan between 1971 and 1992, and was captain of the national team when they won the World Cup in 1992.

Saudi Arabia prepares for the annual Muslim hajj pilgrimage

**MECCA, AUG 18 (AP):** Saudi Arabia is preparing to host the annual hajj pilgrimage beginning Sunday, as over 1.6 million Muslim faithful from abroad have arrived in the ultraconservative kingdom.

The pilgrimage represents one of the five pillars of Islam and is required of all able-bodied Muslims once in their life. In recent weeks, the faithful have arrived in Mecca from across the world, all chanting “Labayk Allahu-ma Labayk,” or “Here I am, God, answering your call. Here I am.”

The hajj offers pilgrims an opportunity to feel closer to God amid the Muslim world’s many challenges, including the threat of extremists in the Mideast after the Islamic State group was beaten back in Iraq and Syria and the plight of Myanmar’s Muslim Rohingya minority.

“My feeling is indescribable to perform the hajj,” said Imad Abdel-Raheem, an Egyptian pilgrim.

“I also want to pray for all Muslim countries, for them to live free in all places, in Palestine and in Burma, in all places, in Afghanistan and in India.”

Men attending the hajj dress in only terrycloth, seamless white garments meant to represent unity among Muslims and equality before God. Women wear loose clothing,

cover their hair and forgo makeup and nail polish to achieve a state of humility and spiritual purity.

Since arriving, many have circled the cube-shaped Kaaba in Mecca Islam’s holiest site. The Kaaba represents the metaphorical house of God and the oneness of God in Islam. Observant Muslims around the world face toward the Kaaba during their five daily prayers.

Muslims believe the hajj retraces the footsteps of the Prophet Muhammad, as well as those of the prophets Ibrahim and Ismail Abraham and Ishmael in the Bible.

After prayers in Mecca, pilgrims will head to an area called Mount Arafat on Monday, where the Prophet Muhammad delivered his final sermon. From there, pilgrims will head to an area called Muzdalifa, picking up pebbles along the way for a symbolic stoning of the devil and a casting away of sins that takes place in the Mina valley for three days.

At the hajj’s end, male pilgrims will shave their hair and women will cut a lock of hair in a sign of renewal for completing the pilgrimage. Around the world, Muslims will mark the end of hajj with a celebration called Eid al-Adha.

The holiday, remembering Ibrahim’s willingness to sacrifice his son, sees Muslims slaughter sheep and cattle, distributing the meat to the poor.

While a holy, once-in-a-lifetime experience for pilgrims, the hajj is by no means an easy journey. The temperature in Mecca and Mina will be around 42 degrees Celsius (107 degrees Fahrenheit). Pilgrims walk between 5 to 15 kilometers a day.

Long lines and even longer waits can strain even the most patient as they weave through the throngs of people. For Saudi Arabia, the hajj is the biggest logistical challenge the kingdom faces. Its ruling Al Saud family stakes its legitimacy in part on its management of the holiest sites in Islam.

King Salman’s official title is the “Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques,” at Mecca and Medina. Other Saudi kings, and the Ottoman rulers of the Hijaz region before them, all have adopted the honorary title. The kingdom has spent billions of dollars of its vast oil revenues on security and safety measures, particularly in Mina, where some of the hajj’s deadliest incidents have occurred.

The worst in recorded history took place only three years ago. On Sept. 24, 2015, a stampede and crush of pilgrims in Mina

killed at least 2,426 people, according to an Associated Press count.

The official Saudi toll of 769 people killed and 934 injured has not changed since only two days afterward. The kingdom has never addressed the discrepancy, nor has it released any results of an investigation authorities promised to conduct over the disaster.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia also faces threats from al-Qaida militants and a local faction of the Islamic

State group. Days earlier, the Interior Ministry acknowledged arresting a Saudi wearing an explosive vest in the kingdom’s central al-Qassim region who shot at security forces.

Politics often intrude into the holy pilgrimage. Saudi Arabia under King Salman and his son, the assertive 32-year-old Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, have had strained ties with Iran, which boycotted the 2016 hajj. They will be there this year, as

will Qataris, whose small country on the Arabian Peninsula is being boycotted by Saudi Arabia and three other Arab nations.

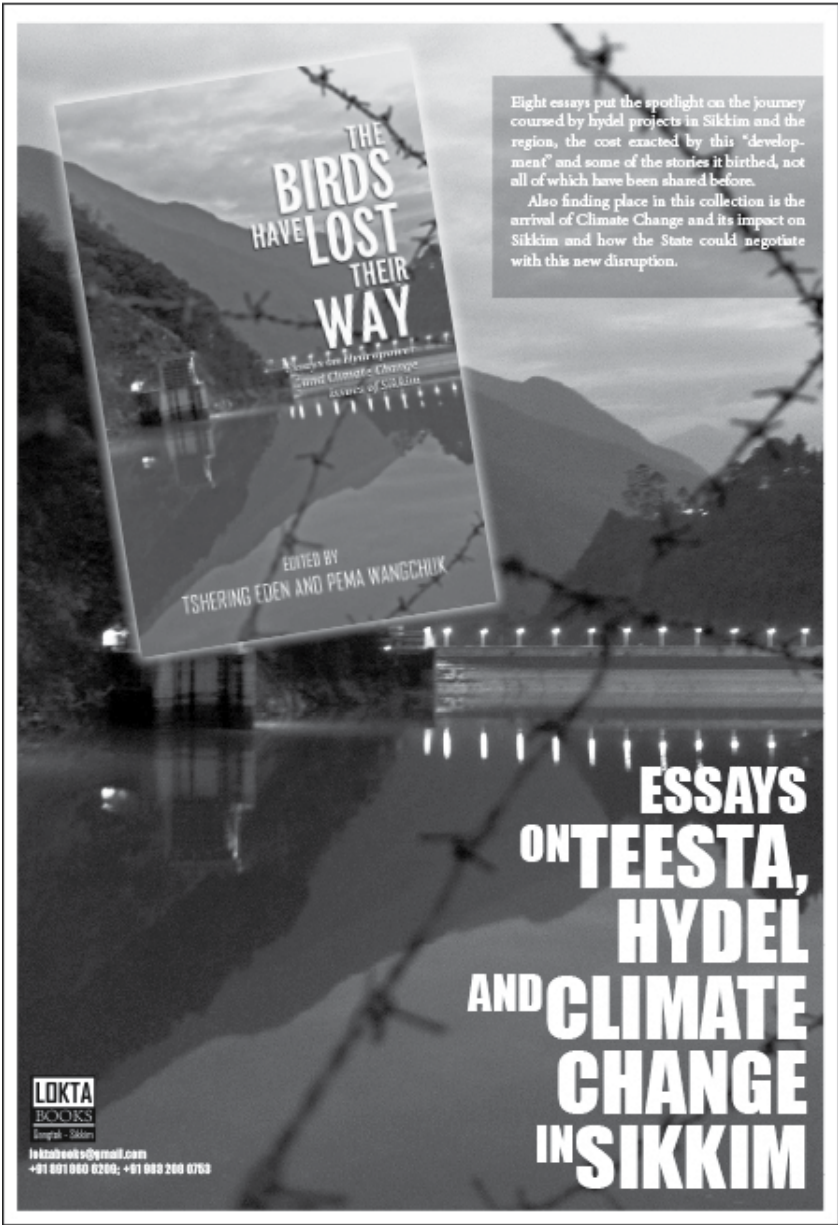
Meanwhile, a Saudi-led war in Yemen against Shiite rebels drags on without an end in sight. The rebels have fired over 150 ballistic missiles on the kingdom during a conflict that has seen Saudi airstrikes hit markets and hospitals, killing civilians.

And perhaps most surprising, Canadians recently found themselves

in the cross-hairs of Saudi anger over their diplomats tweeting their desire to see detained women’s rights activists released.

Those on the hajj said they hoped for better relations across the Muslim world.

“I hope this year would be a good one for the Islamic nations,” said Ahmad Mohammad, an Egyptian pilgrim. “I hope the situation will be better, and I ask Allah to accept my pilgrimage.”







## Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas engaged!

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas are the talk of the town and how! Like their whirlwind romance wasn't enough – which they never admitted to by the way – the couple pulled off long-distance and put a ring on it has melted everyone's heart.

What did you not see the way they made their love official on Insta? If you've somehow missed the memo, the two have finally sealed the deal and their pictures going viral across the internet are proof. They did so in an intimate Roka ceremony Priyanka's bungalow amidst close friends and family.

Nick Jonas, 25, treated fans to a glimpse of their romantic occasion as he shared a cosy snap of the pair on Instagram, where he branded his wife-to-be, 36, his "Future

Mrs. Jonas", "heart", and "love". Their roka ceremony comes just a few days after Priyanka finally confirmed their engagement with an Instagram snap of her diamond sparkler on Wednesday.

Nick reportedly brought his own family along for the ceremony hosted by Priyanka's mum and dad, marking the first time that the two families have met ahead of the wedding.

Ahead of their intimate bash, a source recently told E! News: "It's a tradition for them to meet before the wedding and Priyanka's family insisted on hosting the Jonas family in their country. Priyanka wants everything to be traditional to respect her family's values and definitely an Indian wedding."

The brunette beauty is

currently in Mumbai to film the movie The Sky Is Pink, based on the life of motivational speaker Aisha Chaudhary, who died in 2015 at the age of 18. The Mary Kom actress has her hands full as well as planning a wedding and acting in the film, she is also serving as co-producer on the project.

It's believed that she and Nick got engaged while in London celebrating her 36th birthday on July 18.

Needless to say, the entire Bollywood has come together to wish the couple on their special day. Priyanka's social media is flooded with comments and they're all sweet. Ranveer Singh, Hrithik Roshan, Alia Bhatt, Varun Dhawan, Sonam Kapoor and others have taken their time to leave her wishes.



**MAKE WAY FOR THE LOVE BIRDS!** Priyanka Chopra, 36, and fiancé Nick Jonas, 25, continue to celebrate their recent engagement as they head out for a romantic meal in Mumbai.

## Game of Thrones' Richard Madden predicts final season of the HBO series' end

The hotly-anticipated eighth season of Game Of Thrones is set to be released in early 2019. And Richard Madden, who portrayed Robb Stark in the first three seasons of the HBO series - now in its eighth - has given his theory about how the forthcoming final episode will play out.

The Scottish actor, 32, jokingly told i newspaper: "Jon Snow saves the day and kills everyone," with a gleeful smile on his face.

But he then confessed: "People often ask me if I know what's happening next. I don't, but I'm going to start making things up."

And while he's happy to fabricate elaborate plots about the fantasy drama series' finale, he won't even touch on his personal life.

The actor - who is reportedly dating actress Ellie Bamber, 21 - is fervently intent on keeping his private life, private, refusing point blank to speak about it. Richard did reveal, however, that he made the decision to keep his private life just that, early on in his acting career.

He said: "I think you have a choice. If you choose to bring your personal life into the public domain and actively do that then once you open that door it's very hard to close it."

And despite starring in Game of Thrones, he admitted: "I don't feel famous. I



choose to stay out of that world as much as possible."

While he won't talk about his personal relationships, Richard is happy to open up about his thoughts on stripping naked for acting roles.

After starring in Game of Thrones, in which the depictions of nude sexual encounters detailed in George R. R. Martin's never-ending novels certainly weren't shied away from, Richard admits he worries about his appearance, "all the f\*\*king time."

The actor confessed that in every script he reads, his character is required to take his shirt off within 15 minutes, telling the publication: "It's relentless. I try to take jobs where the nudity is rele-

vant. You talk to someone differently when you're naked than when you're clothed so if it's necessary that I'm naked because it is showing an intimacy or a comfortableness - such as a scene when I'm naked in bed with a partner - I take those things into consideration. But if it's just a gratuitous: And now we'll have a scene of him in the shower then that's pointless."

Following his rise to fame in Game of Thrones, Richard went on to play a diverse range of characters, including Prince Charming in Disney's 2013 live action version of Cinderella alongside Lily James, and Oliver Mellors in the BBC's adaptation of Lady Chatterley's Lover, in 2015.

Now he's breaking away once again, to play a troubled former soldier in a new six-part BBC drama, Bodyguard.

Richard told inews: "It was good to take on a much more adult character. We tried to handle his PTSD in a delicate way that wasn't all defining about his man but in a way that we could kind of touch on it sensitively and gently and see what was happening with it and how it was affecting this man's everyday life."

The actor discussed the issues surrounding PTSD, including the reluctance of many sufferers to speak openly about it and support for those who need it.

## HBO confirms new Watchmen TV series will arrive in 2019

HBO has announced that Damon Lindelof's Watchmen TV series will arrive on the network in 2019. Announcing the news on Twitter, the upcoming series received a full series order from HBO and will feature Regina King, Jeremy Irons and Don Johnson.

Back in May, HBO revealed more details about the TV series with director Lindelof describing it as a "remixed" version of the original story, to take place in the present day.

In a lengthy post on Instagram, the director also said: "We have no desire to 'adapt' the twelve issues Mr. Moore and Mr. Gibbons created thirty years ago...Those issues are sacred ground and will not be retread nor recreated nor reproduced nor rebooted."

He added: "They will however be remixed...the bass lines in those familiar tracks are just too good and we'd be fools not to sample them.



Those original twelve issues are our Old Testament. When the New Testament came along it did not erase what came before it. Creation. The Garden of Eden. Abraham and Isaac. The Flood. It all happened. And so it will be with Watchmen."

The original comic was created by writer Alan Moore, artist Dave Gibbons, and colourist John Higgins and depicts an alternate history where superhero presence in the 1940s and 1960s meant the US won the Vietnam War, and the Watergate scandal - a major political

scandal in the 1970s - was never exposed.

Previously, Zach Snyder directed a 2009 film adaption of the book. Lindelof praised Snyder's version of the film calling it "the most married-to-the-original-text version of Watchmen that could've been made."

Back in January, HBO gave another update about the project with the TV network's president Casey Bloys describing the script as "amazing" during a presentation at the TCA. He added: "I'm thrilled, I imagine we'll shoot that this year."



## Pierce Brosnan says Bond franchise has lost its humour

Actor Pierce Brosnan has criticised the recent James Bond films, saying they lacked humour.

The 65-year-old actor, who starred as the iconic British spy

in four films from 1995 to 2002, said the franchise, now being led by Daniel Craig, stopped having fun as it faced competition from the Bourne action movies, fronted Matt Damon.

"I knew there had been a seismic shift [with films like 'The Bourne Identity'], and little did I know I was going to be part of

that in the curtain falling on my contract. I knew they had to make adjustments. They had strong competition and they haven't reinvented it, but given it a much more muscular, dynamic twist," Brosnan told Rake magazine.

"When I played him [Bond], you have to let the audience in that this is a fantastic joke. What

I am doing here, jumping off a motorcycle and catching up a plane, is completely preposterous. But for me you had to let them in," he added.

The franchise will be getting a new face to lead after Craig bows out with one final film, scheduled to release next year.

**ARIES:** Aries, you'll probably find that you have a ton of energy to put into all kinds of activities. Finish any work that still needs completion, consider doing some cleaning and organizing, or see about getting out for a little warm weather fun. Whatever you choose, make sure it's active. You'll need a place for all that energy to go and quiet activities won't cut it today.

**TAURUS:** This is an excellent day to express your natural creativity, Taurus. The arts will more than likely be very important to you. You may find that nothing brings you more pleasure on days like this. Consider putting this to good use by painting, sculpting, or doing crafts. You'll find the perfect thing for you is engaging in art activities with a focus on giving.

**GEMINI:** If you feel tired, Gemini, you may need to close your eyes and listen to soothing music. You work hard most of the time, so do your body and mind some good and just relax and listen to your favorite music. Even a few minutes will make a difference. You can always use the quiet time to plan if you feel you need to accomplish something.

**CANCER:** Today could bring some strong feelings, Cancer. This may not be new, as you generally have a tendency to feel things deeply. Finding a way to express this could sometimes be tough for you. While you're creative, it isn't always easy to find the right activity to get you going. Visit a bookstore and look for some appealing craft or art books. They may spark ideas for expressing yourself.

**LEO:** Leo, consider that artistic expression can happen in many ways. It isn't always about drawing a picture, singing a song, playing music, or acting. The way you arrange your home or workspace is an artistic expression, as are how you dress and do your hair. Each thing you do is an expression of your style. You are uniquely artistic. Enjoy this gift today.

**VIRGO:** You may find that today brings great physical strength and energy, Virgo. You may want to do some really challenging, physical work. This is the day for it, so why not go to it? Do some yard work or clean out closets, cupboards, drawers, and filing cabinets. Consider donating items that you don't use anymore or plan a garage sale to make a couple bucks.

**LIBRA:** Get into doing things to-

day, Libra. Activities that require focus or creativity are supported. Your physical strength and energy will compel you to do something active. If you've been feeling tired or under the weather, this can put an end to it. Consider artistic projects that take strength, such as building something out of wood or carving. Make something special for someone.

**SCORPIO:** Your active side may really show today, Scorpio. While you can be extremely focused on "thinking" work, you can also love keeping active and enjoy physical work. When you have a project like cleaning your home, you can be quick when you put your mind to it. This is a good day to get a lot accomplished. You'll probably enjoy it very much and bask in the satisfaction afterwards.

**SAGITTARIUS:** If you've been feeling tired or sick lately, this will probably turn around for you today, Sagittarius. Bouts of moodiness can be a real drain. Your emotional state has a pronounced effect on the way your body feels. Be sure to take care of your feelings as well as your body. If there are things that need to be worked out, do that now. The two really do go together.

**CAPRICORN:** You'll probably be busy today, Capricorn, and this may suit you just fine. This can really work in favor if you have some tasks to catch up on. Being energetic, active, and productive is natural for you. In fact, when you have to sit too long you probably feel restless or anxious. You may fidget, too. If you find yourself doing this, go find something active to do.

**AQUARIUS:** Today, Aquarius, your ability to stand up for your decisions and not let others sway you may be enhanced. This will be especially strong if you've solved a problem. You may find that others often try to change your decisions, but not today. Things are working in your favor and you'll feel new strength as a result. Follow your heart.

**PISCES:** You may feel a need to get moving today, Pisces. Almost everyone at times prefers quiet activities, books, art, and even just sitting around to physical activity. But your health can suffer if you're too inactive. Fresh air, exercise, and sunshine are vital to your well-being. Don't resist the urge to get up and do something active. Chances are good that you'll really enjoy it.