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SummitTIMES

Vol 05 | Issue 201 | Gangtok | Friday | 31 July 2020

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

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Delayed bridge project claims one more life at Tinkateyria



RUDRA KAUSHIK

GYALSHING, 30 JUL: Sixty-year-old Bhimraj Subba was killed in an accidental fall from a makeshift bamboo bridge constructed over Pheng Khola near Tinkateyria ward under Chingthang Gram Panchayat Unit of Gyalshing-Bermiok constituency in West Sikkim on Wednesday.

The deceased was a resident of Tinkateyria village. The accident took place on Wednesday evening when the deceased Bhim Raj Subba was returning home from work.

Due to lack of a permanent bridge, locals have constructed a makeshift bamboo bridge as a 'cross over' medium to access areas cut off by Pheng Khola.

Locals inform that a project for construction of a permanent bridge over Pheng Khola has been sanctioned but although several years have elapsed since, construction work was still pending after initial start.

"Construction of bridge is pending since several years. The project is at a complete shutdown after an initial start. The contractor and the concerned department should be answerable. It is due to their failure to complete the bridge construction work, the human casualty has taken place", a local said.

Last year also, Bhim Bahadur Thapa was also killed in a fatal mishap at the same spot.

Governor condoles passing away of Padma Shri Sonam Tshering Lepcha

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JUL:

Governor Ganga Prasad expressed grief over the death of the renowned folk musician, composer and lyricist, Padma Shri Sonam Tshering Lepcha.

In his condolence message, the Governor said, "Ren Sonam Tshering Lepcha was a multi-faceted personality, who inspired thousands across generations through his proactive role and contribution in promoting cultural heritage of

Social Depression Pandemic

JIWAN RAI

Environmentalists tell us that the earth is sick. We might add that the world is sick as well. Happiness has never been endemic to humanity. Pain and sorrow are. Happiness is hard-earned. In that sense, every human generation has had to deal with its own share of grief but I would propose that we, the social media driven generation, are probably living the most depressed lives ever in human history.

This is not to downplay the terrible pain the world has had to undergo in the past. The Holocaust, for example, was one of the worst cases of human suffering inflicted on others by human evil. In the past, people in the Indian subcontinent lived, facing the utter shame and pain inflicted by caste system and colonialism. However hard their lives might have been, their struggle against their hardship had a sense of heroism to it. Their struggle was a voice against an oppressive force. Their struggle was a movement towards justice even though justice was nowhere to be seen, let alone found.

Compare their afflictions to our pleasurable existence that we so proudly flaunt on social media. Here are four reasons to demonstrate why social media has made our lives more miserable than it would have been without it:

Sacred secrecy has been stolen: Imagine our parents standing on the roof tops and announcing to the world that they had been happily married for so many years and encouraging onlookers to express their appreciation by clapping for them (likes) and tell others about them (shares) and saying something about them (comments). Imagine them brandishing their beverages (tea or millet bear) for neighbours to see and "like".

Imagine our parents venting their frustration and annoyance from the rooftops every time they were upset. The kind of society they would have ended up creating is exactly the kind that we are living in today. We have removed the four walls of our houses and made society a massive dormitory.

Sikkim recoveries cross 200 mark; Total detections number 610

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JUL:

Sixteen more patients have beaten Novel Coronavirus and were discharged from hospital on Wednesday taking the total number of recoveries in Sikkim to 214. In the meanwhile, the active-case count in the State increased to 395 with the detection of 14 new cases in the 24 hours ending 8AM Thursday. The total number of confirmed cases reported in Sikkim so far stands at 610 now.

In his daily health bulletin on Thursday, Health Department DG-cum-Secretary, Dr Pempa T Bhutia mentioned that all 32 samples tested by TrueNat on Wednesday tested negative and rapid antigen testing of 12 samples also returned negative yesterday.

The 14 new cases were detected

during the testing of 459 samples by RT-PCR at the VRD Lab, STNM hospital yesterday. He informed that out of 14 new cases, 10 were from East District and four from South District.

Out of 610 cases reported so far in Sikkim, 425 cases have been reported from East Sikkim, 41 from West Sikkim, 143 South Sikkim and one from North Sikkim.

While giving a break-up of the 14 new cases, Dr Bhutia informed out of four cases in South Sikkim, one patient is from Majhigaon, Jorethang, and the rest from Alkem Pharmaceutical, Samardung.

Out of the 10 cases in East District, three members are from the same family residing in the Group-D quarter of the Post Office in the Raj Bhawan complex.

On the same, he informed that the

wife, who is a contact of the patient from Working Women's Hostel, Deorali, was admitted in the hospital after testing positive and was discharged yesterday after her recovery but her husband, father-in-law and mother-in-law tested positive and have now been admitted in hospital.

He mentioned that out of remaining seven new patients, two are from Rangpo, one from Majhitar and four from Mamring, whose samples were taken for testing during contact tracing of the patients from the funeral case.

Likewise, the Secretary informed that rapid antigen testing of a 17-year-old girl from Dentam in West Sikkim returned positive today.

On the same, he mentioned that the girl had undergone a brain surgery in the past and after some complaints

was referred from Dentam to Gyalshing district hospital but since the road to Gyalshing was blocked, so she was taken directly to Namchi district hospital and admitted there on 23 July and discharged on 26 July. Her RAT screening came positive today.

He informed that as per reports received from CMO [West] all family members of the girl have been found negative for COVID-19 and she will be shifted to STNM hospital tomorrow morning.

Following the same, he informed that Emergency Ward, Medical Ward, Paediatric Ward and X-Ray and CT Scan sections of Namchi district hospital have been contained. He added that doctors and staffs of these wards have been shifted separately and would only attend patients who were already in these wards.

Sankhu Radhu Khandu GPU contained after recuperating lady tests positive PARTS OF NAMCHI DISTRICT HOSPITAL DECLARED CONTAINMENT ZONE AS WELL

SUMMIT REPORT

GYALSHING, 30 JUL:

The west district administration today declared Sankhu Radhu Khandu GPU under Manybung Dentam constituency a containment zone after a lady from the GPU tested positive for COVID-19.

Zilla Panchayat member of the GPU, Sabitri Thapa, informs that the lady who tested positive had

returned after receiving treatment at Namchi hospital recently and was under home quarantine.

When a medical team conducted swab test, she was found to be COVID-19 positive.

Given her travel history to Namchi District Hospital, parts of the hospital – the emergency ward, medical ward, pediatric ward and X-ray and CT scan sections were also declared containment zones

in South district today.

DC (West) Karma R. Bonpo informs that the lady has been shifted to the isolation centre established at Aayush Hospital in Gyalshing and her primary and secondary contacts are being traced.

MGNREGA and other construction works in the containment zone have been suspended and restricted.

Contained areas of Namchi District hospital sanitized and sealed



Namchi, 30 July [IPR]: Following the declaration of the Emergency Ward, Medical Ward, Pediatric Ward and X-Ray along with CT Scan section of Namchi District Hospital as a containment zone, sanitization and sealing of these wards was done by the South District administration. The procedure was overseen by Incident Commander ADC (South) Satyan K. Pradhan accompanied by District Medical Superintendent Dr SN Adhikari.

Record spike of 52,123 COVID-19 cases, recoveries cross 10 lakh

NEW DELHI, JULY 30 [PTI]: COVID-19 cases in India crossed the 50,000 mark in a single day for the first time, pushing the virus tally to 15,83,792, while the recoveries went past 10 lakh on Thursday, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The country registered a record increase of 52,123 infections in a span of 24-hours, while the death-toll climbed to 34,968 with 775 people succumbing to the disease in a day, the data updated at 8 am showed.

There are 5,28,242 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country presently.

The recovery rate among COVID-19 patients was recorded at 64.44%, while the fatality rate was at 2.21 pc.

The total number of confirmed cases also includes foreigners.

The number of tests for detection of COVID-19 has crossed the 18-million mark in the country.

According to the ICMR, a

cumulative total of 1,81,90,382 samples have been tested up to July 29 with 4,46,642 samples being tested on Wednesday.

Of the 775 fresh deaths, 298 are from Maharashtra, 92 from Karnataka, 82 from Tamil Nadu, 65 from Andhra Pradesh, 41 from West Bengal, 33 from Uttar Pradesh, 26 from Delhi, 25 from Punjab, 24 from Gujarat, 15 Jammu and Kashmir, 13 from Madhya Pradesh, 12 from Telangana.

Nine fatalities have been reported each from Bihar and Jharkhand, seven from Haryana, six from Rajasthan, five from Odisha, four from Assam, three from Goa, two each from Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh and one each from Kerala and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Of the total 34,968 deaths reported so far, Maharashtra has reported the maximum at 14,463, followed by 3,907 in Delhi, 3,741 in Tamil Nadu, 2,396 in Gujarat, 2,147 in Karnataka, 1,530 in Uttar Pradesh, 1,490 in West Bengal,

1,213 in Andhra Pradesh and 843 in Madhya Pradesh.

So far, 650 people have died of COVID-19 in Rajasthan, 492 in Telangana, 413 in Haryana, 361 in Punjab, 348 in Jammu and Kashmir, 278 in Bihar, 159 in Odisha, 98 in Jharkhand, 92 in Assam, 72 in Uttarakhand and 68 in Kerala.

Puducherry has registered 47 deaths, Chhattisgarh 48, Goa 39, Tripura 21, Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh 14 each, Ladakh 6, Meghalaya and Nagaland 5 each, Arunachal Pradesh 3, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and Andaman and Nicobar Islands 2 each and Sikkim 1.

The health ministry stressed that more than 70% of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

ViewPoint

..... **Turn Page 2**

nCoV test for Singtam Hospital staff



YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 30 JUL: The health department has been delivering service irrespective of time and challenges ever since the lockdown started. In their rush to serve the people, the health workers often overlook their own need to be kept safe and screened. This is thankfully changing now, and the staff at the Singtam District Hospital were today screened for Novel Coronavirus. Ever since the virus entered the general population in Sikkim, it has become important to keep the health workers safe.

Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers-North East Chapter meets

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 30 JUL:

A virtual meeting of Agricultural Engineering professionals of North East Region was held with the objective to launch the regional chapter of Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers on 26 Jul.

The meeting was presided over by Professor and Director IQAC, Prof DC Baruah, Tezpur University. Former Head, Prof Manuj K Hazarika, Department of Food Engineering, Tezpur University, highlighted the issues related to the field of Agricultural Engineering and proposed the need for a

common platform for the Agricultural Engineering professionals in the region.

The members nominated various office bearers of the executive committee of the NE Chapter of the ISAE, with In-charge, Professor Pradip K Bora, School of Natural Resource Management,

College of PGS, CAU as the President; Professor Manuj K Hazarika as the Secretary; and Vice Presidents from each of the 8 states from the NE region. The executive committee was approved by the National observers' on-spot and urged to carry forward the activities of the society with zeal.

SDF poses questions to CM to end blame-game controversy

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 30 JUL:

Sikkim Democratic Front spokesperson, Prashant Babu Chettri, today countered that the recent statement of the Chief Minister PS Tamang has deeply hurt the people's sentiment in the state. In a press release issued on Thursday, he has placed six questions to the Chief Minister and sought answers to put an end to the controversy. Mr Chettri has

questioned that if the CM did not blame the people for the spread of coronavirus in Sikkim, why doesn't the Government of Sikkim question and challenge the Press Trust of India (PTI) for misrepresenting the CM's comment.

The release further questions that if the CM was not referring to Sikkimese people as violators, who was he referring to when he said there has been "gross

violation of the lockdown guidelines" and whether the CM be so casual about violation of guidelines and not even make attempt to bring them to the book.

He further questions why the CM did not raise any objection on the Melli and GREF (Rongli) incidents and were they not cases of gross violation of lockdown guidelines.

"A study shows that around 43% Indians are

experiencing varying degree of depression due to COVID-19 and the lockdown related cases. People in Sikkim have been going through unprecedented misery and crisis. Many have lost jobs, source of income, business, enterprises and even lives. After sacrificing all that to cooperate with government, shouldn't the government encourage people and work on confidence building processes," the release adds.

Assam govt reduces quarantine period for returnees to 10 days

GUWAHATI, JULY 29 [PTI]: The Assam government has decided to reduce the quarantine period for passengers arriving from outside the state to 10 days from the existing span of two weeks, officials said on Wednesday.

The period will be inclusive of the days spent in institutional,

hotel or home quarantine, an order issued by the Health and Family Welfare Department said.

"If a passenger spends initial two days in a hotel or institutional quarantine, then he/she will spend the remaining eight days in home quarantine. Similarly, if any passenger directly

proceeds for home quarantine, then he/she shall spend 10 days in home quarantine," it said.

However, if the RT-PCR test results of such passengers turn out positive, steps will be taken as per standard procedure, the department said.

In case of patients discharged after they test

negative, there shall be a mandatory seven-day home quarantine with active surveillance by health workers,

An order issued by the department last week had said due to the evolving situation, the period of home quarantine shall be reduced from 14 to seven days.

EXERCISE AND COVID 19 PANDEMIC

DR PRABIN BASTOLA

How COVID 19 pandemic affecting health?

As COVID-19 cases continue to emerge in the world, all individuals are being requested to stay at home in self-quarantine. The fitness centre and other outdoor locations where individuals are normally active are temporarily closed. Staying at home for prolonged periods of time can pose a significant challenge for every individual. Sedentary behavior and low levels of physical activity can have negative effects on the health, immune system, well-being and quality of life of individuals. Self-quarantine can also cause additional stress and challenge the mental health of the individual. At this situation, Physical activity or exercise can be beneficial for achieving a good immunity, reducing mental stress and maintain fitness in healthy individuals.

WHO recommends 150 minutes of moderate-intensity or 75 minutes of vigorous or moderate intensity physical activity per week, or a combination of both, these recommendations can still be achieved even at home, with no special equipment and with limited space.

Why is exercise important during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Regular exercise is essential for everyone under normal circumstances. However, here are a few reasons why exercise is especially crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Exercise boosts the immune system: Research shows that regular, moderate-intensity exercise has immune-boosting benefits that may help your body fight off infections, including COVID-19.
- Exercise may prevent weight gain: Exercise can help you burn extra calories caused by dietary changes and offset the effects of sedentary activities.
- Exercise reduces stress and anxiety: Exercise is a proven mood-booster and can help adults reduce stress levels and build emotional resilience.
- Exercise improves sleep: There is evidence that suggests regular exercise helps you fall asleep faster and improves sleep quality — and getting a good night's sleep has also been found to boost your immune system.

Exercise may be especially beneficial for older adults and people with chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, arthritis, or heart disease. Regular exercise can help to improve balance, flexibility, strength, mobility, and cardiovascular health. Plus, it can boost energy and overall well-being.

[the writer is a Physiotherapist]

Chamling mourns passing away of Sonam Tshering Lepcha

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JUL:

The SDF party has extended deep condolences on the passing away of Sonam Tshering Lepcha, a celebrated folk musician, who passed away today at the age of 92.

A highly decorated lyricist, musician and composer, the late Mr Lepcha received many awards in his life time including the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award 1995 and the highly prestigious Padma Shri award in 2007.

His contributions to folk music, Lepcha culture and heritage and to Sikkim has been substantial, and SDF

has paid rich homage to his memory and contributions.

SDF president, former Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, wrote in a Facebook post: "It is with a heavy heart that I write about the demise of Sonam Tshering Lepcha, a renowned musician, lyricist and composer. He was born in Kalimpong but he spent most of his life in Sikkim. He contributed tremendously to the folk music genre and was well known and appreciated for reviving the Lepcha folk culture with his compositions of song, dance and drama. He dedicated his

life to the revival and preservation of Lepcha art, culture and heritage and his contributions to this and to Sikkim will not be forgotten. I knew Shri Lepcha well and I was inspired by his work. I am deeply saddened to hear the news of his passing. Shri Lepcha received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1995 and was honoured

with the Padma Shri, the highest civilian award by the Government of India, in 2007 for his contributions to folk music.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. May the almighty give them the strength to weather the pain of losing Shri Lepcha. And may his soul rest in peace."

Social Depression Pandemic...

a free run in spreading their malice. Every peevish and resentful fellow is empowered to spread his negativity in the name of social media participation. Our exposure to their indignant minds by way of social media posts or comments will only add to our depression. Look at how a baser fellow wished Amitabh Bachchan death in his Covid-19 battle. The otherwise complete gentleman and epitome of patience, the megastar, stooped down to his troller's level and penned a reply: "Hey, Mr. Anonymous... you do not even write your Father's name,... because you do not know who Fathered you... there are only two things that can happen... either I shall die or either I shall live. If I die you won't get to write your diatribe anymore, by weathering your remark on a celebrity name... pity."

Our depression is largely self-made and our struggle against it has nothing heroic in it. Unlike the heroic struggle of previous generations, our struggle, to a large extent is our pleasure-seeking backfiring at us. GK Chesterton was bang on when he said, "Meaninglessness does not come from being weary of pain; meaninglessness comes from being weary of pleasure".

Our masked happiness is so fake!

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT:

Two and half storeyed (1st to 3rd floor) complex is available for rent in the heart of Ranipool Bazaar (Opposite UCO Bank). The building area is 35'x60' appx. In each floor ad is fit for offices, shopping complexes, guest houses, banks tec. Contact: 8509755220, 8348007688.

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

Riverside land [General] along Ra-nipool-Rumtek Highway near Adampool, stretching from the roadside down till the river bank. Total area measuring 0.2348 Hectares [approximately 25,274 sq ft]. Ideal for developing a Resort. Parties interested in purchasing the entire plot can contact 9083826462 and 9832556698. Brokers will not be entertained.

FLAT FOR SALE

4BHK flat, total area 2376 sqft
Ninety Bazaar, Near Paljor
Stadium, Gangtok
Contact: 9563083895

LAND FOR SALE

Two plots available – 30X40 sqft and 50X30 sqft JunkeriDara, SamlikMarchak
Price negotiable Contact: 6296366498, 9641878315, 9593262407

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land 30X40 (3 Plots) available for sale at Tadong 6th Mile next to Harka Maya College. Flat Land no cutting required. Price 27 Lakhs (negotiable).

Contact: 9800201335

LAND FOR SALE

A land measuring an area for 50x32 1/2 at Road-side just below housing colony is for sale. It is just a one minute walking distance from Namchi bazaar taxi stand. Interested party may contact 9593373387 and 9434406761

LAND FOR SALE

An area measuring 1 acre at Sadam South Sikkim near Loretto Convent School at Gupti road. Price negotiable any one interested can contact: 78640-04501,62970-03235, 98320-48410



Facebook.com/
SummitTimesSikkim
fresh lot of rapid information

Bright Academy kindergartners enjoy the rain



SUMMIT REPORT
RANGPO, 30 JUL:

The tiny tots of Bright Academy, despite the lockdown, were seen enjoying their "Rainy Day" activity during their online classes. Children danced, sang "Rain Rain Go away" rhymes along with their teachers; they also played with the handmade paper boats.

Jerry Lalrinzuala extends stay at Chennaiyin FC

CHENNAI, JUL 30 (PTI): Talented Mizoram left back Jerry Lalrinzuala on Thursday extended his stay at the Chennaiyin FC after signing a new multi-year deal with the ISL outfit.

In to fifth season for Chennaiyin, Jerry has so far made 65 appearances for the club and played a pivotal role in the 2017-18 ISL title triumph as he featured in all but one game in that campaign.

"I am very happy to have extended my time at Chennaiyin after another memorable season last time out. My journey with the club so far has been an incredible learning experience; everyone associated with it over the years has moulded me into the footballer I am today," the India international was quoted as saying in a press release here.

"I can't wait to wear

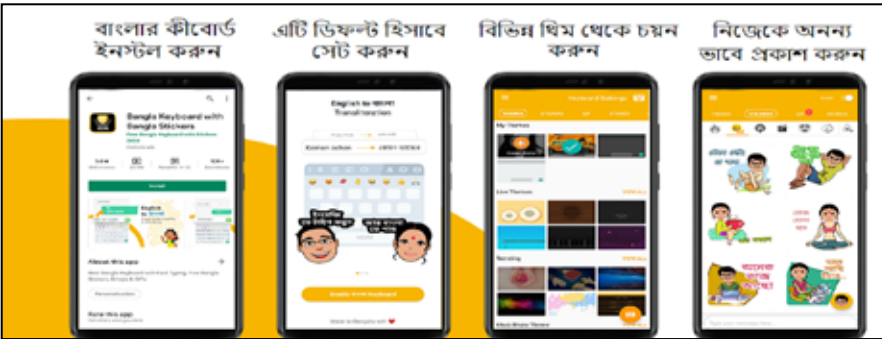
the CFC jersey again and continue fighting for our passionate supporters," he added.

Vita Dani, co-owner of Chennaiyin FC, said, "Jerry is a fantastic talent whose qualities have been nurtured at Chennaiyin FC over the years.

"We are incredibly proud to see the progress he has made, becoming a tenacious and gritty presence who has been a vital component of our recent success. And we are excited to see him developing further and contributing to the club's ambitions."

An AIFF Elite Academy graduate, Jerry joined CFC in 2016 and became the league's youngest goal scorer in a game against FC Goa in the same year. He made his senior debut in June 2017 against Nepal in a friendly.

BOBBLE AI announces dedicated Bengali Keyboard



SUMMIT REPORT

KOLKATA, 30 JUL: Bobble AI, a conversation media platform, has launched Bangla Keyboard dedicated to the Bengali speakers.

Bobble AI's Bangla Keyboard allows users to

quickly switch between English and Bengali. Users can also type in English while Bobble AI's algorithms transliterate it into Bengali in real-time.

Along with the native language support, Bangla Keyboard also offers

superior technological excellence. Bobble AI is now transforming conversations through its expressive and personalized content including stickers, GIFs, and emojis, representing Bangla culture.

HEART FELT CONDOLENCE



PADMASHREE

Ren

SONAM

TSHERING

TAMSANG (LEPCHA), a Legend born at Bong Busty, Kalimpong, West Bengal on dated 3rd January 1928, an Indian folk musician, composer and lyricist. The first among Lepcha people to air his voice on All India Radio and is credited with the revival of Lepcha culture, one of the indigenous cultures of the Indian state of Sikkim. He is reported to be credited with over 400 folk songs, 102 folk dances and 10 dance dramas.

He travelled in Sikkim, collecting traditional musical instruments and compiling songs and became the first Lepcha to feature on All India Radio in 1960. He is the founder of a museum in Kalimpong which houses several ancient and rare artifacts including indigenous musical instruments, ancient weapons and manuscripts. He received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award of the Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1995. The Government of India awarded him the fourth highest civilian honour of the Padma Shri, in 2007, for contributions to folk music. In 2011, in connection with the 150th Birth day celebrations of Rabindranath Tagore, Sangeet Natak Akademi selected 100 eminent performing artists of the country and Ren Sonam Tshering Lepcha was included in the list of 50 for the Tagore Akademi Ratna Award.

A legend behind every LEPCHA COMMUNITY, who gave an identity with his selfless dedication, and through HIM the Lepchas were known to the PEOPLE in the State and Country, for which the RESPECT & HONOUR towards shall never be decreased amongst the LEPCHAs of the Country and Abroad. Since the Songs composed during the times by Him, reflecting and highlighting the cultural and ethics of LEPCHA COMMUNITY in Dzongu, North Sikkim, this songs shall ever remain in the hearts of the Dzongumus and other places in the world.

I still remember, during my childhood, Ren and his wife Madam Heldamit Lepcha (who was also Sangeet Natak Awardee for giving her mesmerising voice in Lepcha Folk Songs), had visited my house and recorded a song, which was accompanied by "Namgyal Lepcha", former President of Mutanchi Lom Aall Shezum (MLAS) Dzongu (one of the prominent Lepcha Folk Singer/composer), listening to many beautiful songs during their times spent in my house at Nom Kyong in Upper Dzongu, at the time of recording, the soothing traditional flute played by HIM, and also I cannot forget the Historical Play called Rungnyu-Rungnit, which signifies the origins of Teesta and Rangit River; the play was one of its best till date shown in village theatre.

It is saddening and heartbreaking to know that THE LEGEND has left for his Heavenly Abode on this the 30th day of July 2020, leaving behind all the memories and credits he gave to LEPCHA COMMUNITY, as a whole.

I ALONG WITH THE DZONGUMU, SUBMIT OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCE against the loss of SUCH GREAT LEGEND, PADMASHREE late SONAM TSHERING TAMSANG..MAY YOUR SOUL REST IN PEACE.

From

PINTSO NAMGYAL LEPCHA
MLA DZONGU CONSTITUENCY, NORTH SIKKIM.

House imperiled by monsoon damage at Jang



WANGCHUK BHUTIA

DIKCHU, 30 JUL:

Incessant rain damaged the foundation wall of a house belonging to Keshi Maya Chettri at Jang village in East Sikkim this morning.

The house has developed cracks and has tilted.

BDO-Tintek, Pema Wangchen Bhutia, ward

and SKM's ward level committee member, Sonam Lepcha visited the spot and took stock of damage and also shifted the affected family to a safer location.

Meanwhile, landslides triggered at several places along the Mangan-Singtam road has

inconvenienced the people. The road is blocked at Tintek khola near Aapdara on the Dikchu-Gangtok axis and the road is blocked at Sokpay as well.

The power supply line to the area had also been snapped but was restored by evening.

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What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

The Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) is new strain of Coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China. Notorious for mutating quickly and acquiring new qualities, it is a rising epidemic that was previously not identified in humans.

Symptoms of nCoV

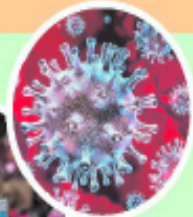
- Fever
- Difficulty in breathing
- Dry Cough
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome
- Pneumonia - like symptoms

Precautions to Prevent nCoV

- Wash your hands often with soap.
- Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Observe good personal hygiene.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people with possible symptoms.
- Avoid contact with animals and consumption of undercooked meats.
- Avoid travel to nCoV affected places.
- Wear a mask if you have respiratory syndrome. and cover your mouth while coughing or sneezing.

Treatment

- Treatment is symptomatic and supportive, based on the patient's clinical condition.
- No vaccinations available as of now
- Visit Doctor in case symptoms detected



If you seek help, you may call :
-Toll free no. 104
District surveillance Officer
EAST : 7028372100
WEST : 9593287809
NORTH : 9641957468
SOUTH : 7407691463
New STNM
AMS : 9434711402

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

10 arrested in connection with Khowai gangrape case: DIG

AGARTALA, JUL 30 (PTI): Ten persons have been arrested in connection with the gang rape of a 17-year-old girl in Tripuras Khowai district, a senior police officer said on Thursday.

DIG, Northern Range, Soumitra Dhar said the girl in her complaint said that five persons have raped her in a jungle in Khasiangmangal area of the district on July 21.

Dhar said the police has

arrested 10 people including three for raping the girl and the rest had either collaborated or given shelter to the accused.

The DIG said two collaborators were arrested from different parts of Sepahijala district on Tuesday and others were arrested earlier.

Two other accused are absconding, police said, adding that a manhunt has been launched to arrest them.

A week after the incident, a group of university and college students in Tripura have started an online campaign to stop "crime against women" demanding fast disposal of such cases and exemplary punishment of the accused persons.

Asmira Debbarma, a student of political science in Tripura University has formed an "SMS" (Stand against rape) group and

at least 25 other students have joined the group.

The group has appealed to all sections of people to stand bravely against the incidents of rape and put up posters in social media - Facebook, WhatsApp - to stop violence against women.

"We want fast disposal of the rape cases and exemplary punishment of the rapists. We want they should be hanged till death," Debbarma said.



in 2008, Francisco also holds Pro License under the AFC.

It is still not clear whether East Bengal will play in the top tier Indian Super League or the

I-League.

Following their split with Ques Corp, the century-old club have already got their sporting rights back and are believed to be

in talks with Singapore-based Universal Success Enterprises Limited owned by Kolkata-born NRI Prasoon Mukherjee.

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee is also keen for the red-and-gold's foray into the ISL and the state government is helping out in roping in an investor.

Their arch-rivals Mohun Bagan are set to debut after their merger with ATK and it remains to be seen whether the top-tier league will see the much-anticipated derby.

KOLKATA, JUL 29 (PTI): East Bengal on Wednesday announced the appointment of Francisco Jose Bruto Da Costa as their new coach for the upcoming season.

"East Bengal is delighted to confirm the signing of new coach Francisco Jose Bruto Da Costa," the red-and-gold brigade said in a late night announcement on their official Twitter handle.

The Goan will replace Spaniard coach Mario Rivera under whom East Bengal finished runners-

up in the I-League last season.

Francisco was the deputy to Nelo Vingada at Northeast United FC in ISL 2016.

Francisco took his first strides in coaching as a 20-year-old with Salcete FC.

The Margao-resident then headed the youth development setup of Salgaocar. He has been the former youth coach of India's U-14, U-17 and U-19 teams as well as AIFF's Elite Academy.

An AFC 'A' Licence holder from Jamshedpur

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

From Representative to Participatory

Since politics is in the air

Sikkim has been enjoying representative democracy for a little over four decades now, and it is time that this structure was reinforced further with a more participatory form of democracy. It is time not only because democracy has matured in the nine Assembly elections the people have participated in, but also because there are too many conflicting ideas being thrown up which can be addressed only if the people invest involvement in democracy beyond the casting of votes. And the timing is also apt now that governance and administration are clearly in need of community support and participation to keep it effective. The only regions and countries which have managed to beat back the virus are ones in which people have faith in the governments they elect and the public servants whose salaries are sourced the direct and indirect taxes that every Indian pays... all the time. Trust is possible only if we participate in our democracy.

But what is participatory democracy all about?

Essentially, it involves informing, discussing and listening. These are actually prerequisites of a democracy, but most tend to end their participation with the ballot. Voting is admittedly a good habit, and Sikkim continues to set new records in as far as electoral participation is concerned, but democracy requires more. While elected leaders are fine for governance, when tricky and unprecedented situations need to be resolved, the people have to increase their involvement. It is however not easy for the people to set up such engagements on their own. And this is where the role of the elected representatives becomes more important - they have to initiate the process of participatory democracy. And this has to be more nuanced and refined than the mad scramble of mohallah sabhas that AAP briefly experimented with in Delhi. Even Sikkim used to have janta darbars at one time, but it quickly became clear that these were becoming more about individual complaints and grievances than community or wider issues. But if people were to find platforms and organizations through which they could express more meaningfully and coherently and with wider consensus on issues which babus or politicians would rather not take a call on their own, there would be fewer instances of inspired conspiracy theories to confuse and confound every one. Don't do that and the government will follow Facebook comments to decide policy. And that is wrong.

It serves the purpose of elected representatives to know where the people stand on different issues and also because then they can truly understand the aspirations of the people and act accordingly. By doing so, they not only serve the people better but also secure their own political futures more resolutely.

The task is not easy though; the public does not and will not speak in one voice, but with many voices, raising different demands. And while a multitude of demands is not a problem, conflicting demands and conflicting interests pose a problem. Within any area there are many communities and with every issue, there are many lines of conflict. What the mediator has to look for is the other common factor - the lines of cooperation and begin the process from there. The development of participatory democracy, if successful, would extend the range of voices beyond those normally heard.

The importance of discussion in participatory democracy is to establish awareness about different positions, to test them against each other and against wider concerns and to see whether, through discussion, new positions can be reached which, even if they cannot reconcile differences, at least explore how far they can be accommodated. It is the responsibility of elected representatives to aid this process and in the end, if required, balance, mediate and judge the differing views. Of course, the people can side-step even such supervision by ensuring that they behave even when they disagree, disapprove or dislike. Ideally, such engagements are moderated by civil society organizations, but since Sikkim still awaits such groups, it will have to be the elected leaders who step up and initiate. Politicians are taking initiative, but at present, it is only to serve their own ambitions. We still don't have leaders supporting deliberations of the more unbiased kind. And Sikkim is the poorer for it. But if more leaders found the courage to support discussions without any preconditions, they will be participating in a healthy engagement and a welcome change from their usual responses which is to please and placate the people, but never, at least not so far, to engage them.

Booker Prize: refreshingly diverse longlist with plenty of new writers – but let's see if Hilary Mantel wins her third

STEVIE MARSDEN
THECONVERSATION.COM

When she announced the 2020 Booker Prize longlist recently, the chair of the judging panel, Margaret Busby, noted that the selected books “represent a moment of cultural change”. And while one could be tempted to see her words as the sort of hyperbole that often accompanies these announcements, the selection of 13 novels (the “Booker dozen”) for 2020 is – in some ways – one of the more interesting and diverse we've seen in a long time.

Two key aspects of the list made for the most discussion for literary commentators and social media. First, the inclusion of Hilary Mantel's latest book, and the final in her Wolf Hall trilogy, *The Mirror & the Light*. Both the two previous books in the trilogy – *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up the Bodies* – won the Booker Prize, in 2009 and 2012 respectively. If Mantel was to win the 2020 Booker Prize for *The Mirror & the Light* she would be the first author to ever win three Bookers.

Second, nearly half of the longlist is made up of debut novels, which even the literary director of the Booker Prize Foundation, Gaby Wood, has admitted is an “unusually high proportion”. This is certainly something the Booker Prize and its judging panel should be commended for.

Like all other creative industries, publishing has been hit hard by the worldwide pandemic. From the cancellation of major events,

including the London Book Fair in March, and the closing of bookshops, to the postponement of major releases, including Ruth Jones' second novel *Us Three*, the 2020 publishing calendar has been turned upside down.

The celebration of debut novels in the Booker Prize longlist, then, is particularly fortuitous, since many debut writers have lost the opportunity to go through the usual new book tours, literary event circuits and bookshop signings.

SPREADING THE LOVE?

Independent publishers in particular have been hit hard in 2020. A survey conducted in May by the Bookseller and Spread the Word found that 85% of the publishers surveyed saw their sales drop by over a half since the UK's national lockdown in March. So the 2020 Booker Prize longlist might also be applauded for its celebration of titles from indie presses.

Six of the 13 longlisted books come from four (admittedly well-known and larger) independent presses: Diane Cook's *The New Wilderness* (Oneworld Publications), Tsitsi Dangarembga's, *This Mournable Body* (Faber & Faber), Colum McCann's *Apeirogon* and Kiley Reid's *Such a Fun Age* (Bloomsbury), Maaaza Mengiste's *The Shadow King* (Canongate) and Brandon Taylor's *Real Life* (Daunt Books Publishing).

The seven other books are from Pan Macmillan, Penguin Random

House, HarperCollins and Hachette. I've written before about how the Booker's terms of submission may sway the prize in favour of big publishers, but this year there is at least some semblance of balance.

I've also written before about how the Booker Prize has historically failed to award writers of colour – an issue which was highlighted once again in 2019 when Bernardine Evaristo became the first black British woman to win the award.

Evaristo's win was considered by many to be a long overdue recognition for a widely acclaimed writer, but the fact that Evaristo had to share the award with Margaret Atwood, a white, former Booker Prize winner, did not go unnoticed. It is perhaps promising, then, that nine of the new 13-strong Booker longlist are women – and more than half are writers of colour.

The overwhelming majority are US-based or born. This is significant since American writers have only been eligible for the prize since 2014 – and the change in rules that led to the inclusion of American writers was criticised by a number of authors and publishers at the time. Since the rule change, only two American authors have won the award: Paul Beatty in 2016 and George Saunders in 2017. The prize is also now sponsored by the American-based charitable foundation Crankstart, founded by Silicon Valley venture capitalist Michael Moritz.

IMPORTANT THEMES

Eliminating coronavirus will be expensive and difficult – but here's why it's preferable to suppression

ANDREW LEE
THECONVERSATION.COM

Any approach to controlling an infectious disease has one of three broad aims: suppressing, eliminating or eradicating it. The UK's strategy so far has seemed to focus on suppressing the virus, trying to limit its spread, but we need to think about whether this is the best course of action.

Independent SAGE, which produces advice on managing COVID-19 alongside the British government's official scientific advisory group, has called for a national effort to work towards a “zero COVID UK”: that is, completely getting rid of the disease from the country. In other words, elimination.

So is totally wiping out the disease actually possible, and if so, what would this entail? Could a less ambitious aim be the right way forward instead? To answer these questions, we need to consider not only what's possible and required, but also how much value we place on the final outcome.

THE THREE OPTIONS

Beyond doing nothing, suppression is the least ambitious way to handle a disease. This is where you attempt to reduce infection, ill health and death to acceptable levels. It's an approach normally applied to low-consequence infections, such as diarrhoeal diseases, where the risk of death is low.

With suppression, infection levels remain within the health system's capacity. The disease continues to circulate in the population, albeit at lower levels than if you didn't act. Consequently, measures continue to be needed to keep infections down and to control localised outbreaks.

limination, on the other hand, aims to reduce infection in a country or region to zero. This has been achieved in the UK with polio, and momentarily with measles in 2017. Diphtheria and rubella are close to being eliminated too.

After a disease has been eliminated, continued measures are needed to stop it re-establishing itself, as new infections can be imported from abroad, either by returning travellers or migrants. Elimination is often pursued for diseases that cause serious illness or death.

The final approach is eradication. This seeks to permanently eliminate a disease worldwide, meaning control measures are no longer



needed. Thus far, this has only been achieved with smallpox.

One important thing to note is that elimination measures aren't necessarily different from suppression ones – lockdowns, social distancing, face masks and so on might be used to control COVID-19 under either strategy. The difference is how rigorously they're applied and enforced. For suppression, the measures intensify as things get bad and ease when they improve. Whereas elimination efforts try to get ahead of the outbreak by being intense from the beginning.

The UK government decided to ease its lockdown in response to cases falling, but with the virus still circulating at relatively high levels. The reason why this seems to be a suppression approach is that if the UK were trying to eliminate the virus, it would be continuing to strictly apply infection control measures to drive transmission down to zero.

WHICH APPROACH SHOULD UK BE TAKING?

COVID-19 is a killer that can affect everyone, but is principally dangerous to the elderly, those with pre-existing health conditions and ethnic minority groups. We know it's contagious and has mutated to become even more infectious. Treatment for it can be costly, especially if intensive care is needed, and survivors may suffer long-term

health impacts.

COVID-19, therefore, is not a low-consequence infection. A suppression approach that leaves the virus circulating at low levels could still mean potentially thousands of deaths in the UK each year, especially in vulnerable populations.

But the public and policymakers may weigh the healthcare costs and burden of death and disease on one hand against the economic and social costs of continuing with strict control measures on the other. Faced with rising unemployment, businesses going bust and economic recession, some may question whether trying to eliminate the disease is too costly. In many major advanced economies, GDP may fall by 20%-25% in response to control measures used so far. So from a cost-benefit angle, suppression may seem the most economical approach.

However, these considerations are seen from a short-term perspective. Societal costs in the longer term cast disease control in a different light.

Take the example of influenza. Each year a billion people get infected, and up to 650,000 die from it. The costs of immunising, treating and controlling influenza are considerable. The US alone spends an estimated US\$10 billion (£7.7 billion) a year fighting the flu, with its economy losing tens of billions more due to people being

Finally, it is worth highlighting the kinds of themes and issues dealt with in the longlisted books. The books examine race, homosexuality, gender and gender identity, poverty, class (and in some cases, intersections of them all), homelessness and climate change.

The subjects foregrounded by many of the longlisted books, therefore, not only speak to current socio-political movements and conflict – most notably Black Lives Matter and the call for active anti-racism. But they also foreshadow the kinds of issues we will undoubtedly come up against (and, in some circumstances, already are) in a post-coronavirus world. In other words, more so than ever before, this longlist feels both born from, and representative of, the very particular moment in history in which we are in.

But only time will tell if this will be reflected in the final shortlist which will be announced on September 15, with the winner being announced in November. If Mantel were to be crowned the winner – receiving her third Booker Prize in just over a decade – it would arguably prove that yet again the Booker Prize acts only to reinforce, as opposed to disrupt as hoped, the systemic inequalities and imbalances of contemporary publishing culture.

[the writer is Research Associate, CAMEo Research Institute for Cultural and Media Economies, University of Leicester]

off work. This has wider economic impacts, affecting productivity and national economic growth. And that's just one year's worth of cost. Extrapolate that across the world over 50 to 100 years and the costs become astronomical.

There are also lessons from the 1918 influenza pandemic, when elimination was not possible. Spanish flu is estimated to have killed 2.1% of the world's population (~40 million) and caused a 6% decline in GDP, similar in magnitude to the 2008-09 recession. Suppression can be a lose-lose solution for both health and economic outcomes.

That leaves elimination as the more desirable option. Zero COVID status has been achieved in New Zealand, Brunei and several island states in the Caribbean. This shows that it's possible. In recent months we've seen what actions are needed.

Crucially, elimination doesn't necessarily demand new measures, but rather wider, more consistent and more prolonged adherence to measures we've already used. Elimination requires physical distancing, widespread adoption of hygiene practices (including hand washing) and ubiquitous use of face coverings. Early detection and isolation of cases will be key, using robust test and trace systems. If the transmission of the virus begins to increase, there needs to be a low threshold for implementing new local and national lockdowns. If and when a vaccine becomes available, then mass immunisation programmes could help boost immunity in the population.

All of these measures taken together can work, but it will come at a cost to society. However, unless elimination is sought, COVID-19 looks very likely to become an endemic disease. We can then expect it to recur every year in outbreaks and seasonal epidemics.

It also won't be enough to eliminate COVID-19 in our own countries. In a globalised world, infections can travel between continents within a matter of days. A coordinated global effort at eradication – eliminating COVID-19 permanently everywhere – is needed. This is considerably more challenging, but if we don't aim for this, the threat of the disease will remain.

We know the medicine – ultimately it's whether we want to take it.

[the writer is Reader in Global Public Health, University of Sheffield]

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Indo-Naga solution should not be delayed: Rio

KOHIMA, JULY 29 [NAGALANDPAGE]: Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today said in the aftermath of different Naga political groups (NPGs) signing three agreements with the Centre, Naga people are hopeful that there should be no further delay in finding a solution to the vexed Naga political problem.

Nagaland attained statehood in 1963 as the 16th state in Indian Union and second senior most state in NE, but the development activities could not be done satisfactorily because of insurgency, political issue and also the distance and connectivity from the mainland, said Rio while speaking at the inaugural programme of the newly constructed State Banquet Hall at the new Chief Minister's Residential Complex at Thizama here.

The programme was streamed live on Youtube and Facebook.

"We (Nagas) are on the threshold of a good future because the Naga political issue (NPI) have completed 23 years of ceasefire and political dialogue while three agreements have been signed between Government of India (GoI) and NPGs – first was Framework Agreement on August 3, 2015 in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with NSCN (IM), second on October 31, 2019

officially concluding the negotiations and also the signing of preamble with the Naga National Political Groups," he said.

"The three agreements signed by the NPGs with the GoI indicates that they have agreed to be within the Indian Union and the people of the State are hopeful with signing of all these agreements there should be no further delay to bring solution," said Rio.

"The People of Nagaland whom we represent want settlement, peace and development and we as elected members have jointly formed the Joint Legislators Forum on NPI with the Opposition to be united and facilitate a settlement which is honourable, inclusive and acceptable to the people," he said.

Rio expressed confidence that once the final agreement is achieved, all the problems which Governor had mentioned in his June 16 letter on collapse of law and order in the State will go away.

Remarking that the Naga political groups must have gone to the extent of extortion or forcible collection for their sustenance, he said "we wish that settlement comes true".

"We must work towards early settlement as early as possible," he said while affirming that resolution of NPI would usher in peace while developmental activities

would accelerate. It would also open opportunities for the Naga youths while their talent and knowledge can be exploited to the full potential, he said.

"It is our hope, prayer and dream that Nagaland lives in peace and prosperity in this land of festivals," the CM aspired.

Virtually inaugurating the State Banquet Hall in presence of Deputy Chief Minister Y Patton, Minister for PWD (Housing) Tongpang Ozukum, Rio termed it as a 'remarkable day' for the State of Nagaland to finally have a world class banquet hall.

Dwelling on the coronavirus situation, Rio said "Nagaland along with other parts of the world and country is struggling and battling with COVID-19 pandemic".

He commended the prompt response of the essential service providers and frontline workers including the health and family welfare department, civil administration, police, para military and the Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority and various departments like Power, PHE, Information Technology and Communication.

Rio also appreciated all the stakeholders, civil societies, tribal hohos, youth and volunteers for supporting and cooperating with the government in battling and handling

the pandemic while also acknowledging the NGOs and Churches for coming forward to cook food for the returnees in quarantine centres.

"This has shown the community strength and Team Nagaland battling COVID-19 has done a commendable job," the CM said.

Lamenting that four out of the 5 deaths in the State was due to COVID-19, Rio said out of the 1460 confirmed cases till Tuesday, except for three with some symptoms, all are asymptomatic and there is no sickness.

"Our peoples' immunity is strong and with the collective fight, we hope to achieve our goal of defeating the COVID-19," asserted the Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, Minister for Housing, Tongpang Ozukum presenting the technical details of the newly constructed banquet hall said it was completed at a cost of Rs 15.51 crore.

He also said that the new Chief Minister's Residential Complex was constructed at a revised estimated cost of Rs 119.87 crore. CM Rio shifted to the new complex in December 2019, he said.

Chief Secretary Temjen Toy chaired the programme while State Chaplain Rev T W Yamyap Konyak pronounced the dedicatory prayer. Mengu Suokhrie and Veto & Band presented special numbers.

NSCN (K) splits for second time after Khaplang's demise

KOHIMA, JULY 29 [NAGALANDPAGE]: The National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) has reportedly split for the third time in a decade, and the second split after the demise of SS Khaplang.

After the death of NSCN (K) chairman, Khaplang on June 9, 2017, the Myanmar based Naga outfit split into NSCN (Yung Aung) and NSCN (Khang Konyak).

According to reports, again NSCN (K) has appointed a new chairman and general secretary on July 28, after its chairman, Yung Aung reportedly joined NSCN (Isak-Muivah).

But NSCN (IM) source refuted the report of Aung joining their fold, saying he is still with the NSCN (K).

A notification purportedly issued by the NSCN/GPRN said they have elected Lt. Gen (Rtd) Nyemlang Konyak as new chairman and Starson Lamkang as general secretary to fill the void created by



Aung. The meeting was reportedly held under the chairmanship of protem speaker Lt. Gen. Niki Sumi, and attended by several top functionaries of the group.

The chairman is from Mon District in Nagaland, and general secretary is from Chandel district in Manipur, while Niki Sumi is from Zunheboto District in Nagaland.

The notification alleged that Aung had clandestinely established a relationship with the NSCN (IM) and later defected to the rival group, adding under the new leadership the group will follow the footsteps and visions of Khaplang for

sovereignty.

It also accused Aung of trying to change the official seal of GPRN by dispatching a newly self designed seal to be used officially, which the notification said was rejected outright by all officials of NSCN/GPRN.

In retaliation, the NSCN led by Aung has expelled leaders of rival group – Lt. Gen. Niki Sumi, Deputy C-in-C, Starson, Kilonser and Lt. Gen. Nyemlang, General Staff Officer-1, Defence, Naga Army. The press release issued through ministry of information and publicity (MIP) said they have been expelled for organizing illegal meeting without authorization from

the party, failing to report to council headquarters even after repeated callings, heavy misappropriation of party fund and encouraging and spreading "ism" and divisive policies within the party.

"Today due to the above reasons their expulsion becomes a necessity to save the party and our national struggle from further destruction," the release said.

The NSCN (YA) also warned members of facing same fate if found conniving with the expelled members.

NSCN (IM) source here did not comment whether they were in touch with NSCN (K) chairman, Aung, as alleged by the newly constituted NSCN led by Nyemlang Konyak.

According to sources there are nearly one thousand NSCN (IM) cadres operating along China-Myanmar border led by former C-in-C, Phungthing Shimrang and Deputy C-in-C, A. Raman.

Nagaland Assembly Secretariat sealed; session deferred to Aug 13

KOHIMA, JULY 29 [NAGALANDPAGE]: The monsoon session of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) scheduled on Thursday has been deferred to August 13.

"Certain unforeseen developments have emerged prompting the deferment of the sixth session of the 13th NLA scheduled for July 30 at 9:30 am," NLA Commissioner and Secretary Dr P J Antony said Wednesday.

Accordingly, he said, the Governor has indicated August 13 for the deferred sitting of the

Assembly.

6 staff of NLA tests positive Earlier, following the detection of six staff of NLA as COVID-19 positive on Wednesday, the Kohima District Task Force (DTF) as per the SOP on preventive measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 had ordered sealing of the Assembly office for 48 hours with immediate effect.

Kohima Deputy Commissioner, Thejawelie Gregory, who is also the Chairman of the DTF, in a letter to the Principal Secretary

Home informed that the decision to this effect was taken during an emergency meeting of the Kohima DTF today.

The DC also informed that fumigation and disinfection of the Assembly secretariat premises is being initiated, following all health safety measures and SOPs of the Government.

Advisor Mhathung tests COVID positive

Besides, the Assembly staff, Advisor Mhathung Yanthan also tested positive for the virus while his driver and bodyguard and also

results of two support staff of Advisor R Khing had also come positive during the day.

The sealed area is mapped and cordoned off and the public and all concerned have been advised to follow safety precautions of wearing masks all the time, frequently washing hands and maintaining social/physical distances to ensure public hygiene and personal safety within the proximity of the sealed area.

Subsequently, the Commissioner and Secretary issued the deferment order of the session.

48-year-old man dies of COVID-19 in Manipur; toll mounts to 2

IMPHAL, JULY 30 [PTI]: Manipur registered its second COVID-19 death on Thursday as a 48-year-old patient succumbed to the infection at a state-run hospital here, a senior doctor of the medical establishment said.

The man, a resident of Leimakhong area in Kangpokpi

district, was admitted to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) on June 8 with chronic kidney disease and lung infection and he had tested positive for COVID-19 on July 26, the hospital's director, Dr Ahanthem Santa Singh, said.

The fresh fatality comes a day after the state registered its first

COVID-19 death as a 56-year-old patient succumbed to the disease early on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, two resident doctors at RIMS have tested positive for COVID-19, taking the count of infected hospital staff to 22, sources said.

The state has registered 2,458 COVID-19 cases till Wednesday.

Arunachal's COVID-19 caseload rises to 1,410

ITANAGAR, JUL 30 (PTI): Eighty more people, including 26 security personnel, tested positive for COVID-19 in Arunachal Pradesh, taking the northeastern state's tally to 1,410 on Thursday, a senior health official said. Seventeen Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and eight Assam Rifles personnel and an Army jawan are among the new patients, he said.

Six Border Roads Task Force (BRTF) personnel have also contracted the disease, State Surveillance Officer Dr L Jampa said.

The Capital Complex

region, comprising Itanagar, Naharlagun, Banderdewa and Nirjuli areas, reported 19 fresh cases, followed by 18 in Changlang district.

The new infections were also reported from 12 other districts, including Shi-Yomi that registered coronavirus cases for the first time, he said.

Barring six, all the new patients are asymptomatic and they have been shifted to COVID-19 care centres, Jampa said.

Sixty patients, including 36 from the Capital Complex region, were discharged from

hospitals on Wednesday, he said.

So far, 677 people have recovered from the disease. The number of active cases stands at 730 and fatalities at three, the official said.

The Capital Complex region has the highest number of active COVID-19 cases at 336, followed by Changlang (68), Papum Pare (45), Namsai (44), Tirap (42), Tawang (32), West Siang (30) and East Siang (26), the official said.

Arunachal Pradesh witnessed a spurt in coronavirus cases after the residents of the state started returning from

other parts of the country during a nationwide lockdown.

As many as 1,219 people have tested positive for the infection since July 1, Jampa said.

The recovery rate among the COVID-19 patients in Arunachal Pradesh is 35 per cent, he said, adding that the state has tested 72,739 samples for the disease so far.

Arunachal Pradesh reported its first COVID-19 case on April 2 and the patient recovered from the disease on April 16. The state registered its second case on May 24.

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Paulo Dybala: ‘Lots of people pay more attention to footballers than to presidents’

SIMON BURNTON
London, 30 Jul [theGuardian]: It is only a few days since Juventus beat Sampdoria to seal their ninth consecutive Scudetto, and Paulo Dybala already has his mind on other challenges. Football still has plenty of those in store for him, of course, particularly with his team taking a one-goal deficit into next Friday’s Champions League game at home to Lyon, but recently he has been considering other matters entirely.

The most significant outcome is his decision to join Common Goal, pledging at least 1% of his salary to a collective fund which uses football as a tool to educate and empower children and young people and joining Juan Mata, Jürgen Klopp, Megan Rapinoe and his clubmate Giorgio Chiellini on its list of donors, now 159 strong. It is a movement that is slowly increasing in size and momentum, a process that Dybala’s intervention – as the first major South American footballer to sign up – could accelerate. But the 26-year-old’s decision is also a step on a personal journey.

“I’ve given to charity before,” he says, “but I’ve always done it anonymously, because the purpose is not to get publicity but to help those in need. But I think to be part of this initiative, to be one of 159 people working



together, is important in a different way. We’ve come together as a group and we want to work as a team in solidarity with people less fortunate than ourselves.”

Footballers who sign up to Common Goal can input into where they want their money to be used, and Dybala’s will go towards projects not only in his native Argentina but also in Israel, Palestine, Pakistan, India and Rwanda. “It is something that I decided with my family and the people I work with, and my mother is going to be very involved in the movement,” he says. “For her this is a very beautiful and very important project. We have always tried to help people – my mother always likes to tell me it’s something I have to do, and of course I have to respect her opinion.

“Sometimes I look at society and I see

things that I would like to change. It sounds ridiculous, but I would love to be able to change the world in just a small way. The truth is that football is a powerful weapon. For whatever reason, the things we say are heard around the world, and lots of people pay more attention to footballers than they do to presidents and prime ministers and important politicians. I think we have to use the power we are given to send positive messages, and to be strong role models. I believe that if everyone in football came together we could give so much and achieve so much, to help people in need and to fulfil the ambitions of so many children.”

Dybala says that “football is my passion and it has been my life since I was three years old”, but he is aware that

had he failed to make it as a player he would have faced an uncertain future as someone with no qualifications and few outside interests, and the focus of his charitable work is informed by his own experience.

“I know so many people, friends of mine, who came so close but football is like life – a lot of the time it is not just about what you do, but about who sees it, and what they think about it. Along the way you need a lot of luck. A lot of my friends never made it, and at a certain moment found themselves a bit lost, not knowing what to do and which way to go.

“I had the good fortune to get where I have, but if it hadn’t happened for me I’ve no idea what I would have done. That’s what I keep thinking about. Many young people who dream of going into football never learn anything else, and they never know about all the alternative paths that might have been there for them. I think education is such a powerful tool for giving people a helping hand. Once a person has an education there is so much they can achieve that might otherwise have been beyond them. Football can help bring people into education, give them a future and the potential to live a full life.”

Dybala talks of his life after football, in

which he hopes “to have more time to spend with my family, but also more time to help other people”. He has much to achieve before that, with his sporting CV featuring no international or European trophies but plenty of Italian domestic honours including five Scudetti. In England no team have won more than three league titles in a row, and before this Juve side the Italian record stood at five.

“It can be hard to maintain concentration and ambition, but every victory is special,” he says. “I think that’s the most important thing. I like to win, my teammates like to win, and the club likes to win, and it’s that desire that makes us winners – but of course it helps that we have the strongest players in the world in every position. We’re proud of ourselves, to win nine titles in a row is incredible, and we’re already thinking about a 10th.

“First though we need to turn our attention to the Champions League. It’s been such a long season already. The first game against Lyon was five months ago and so many things have happened in between, but we know what we can still achieve. It’ll be strange to play in the Champions League without fans, and to play just one tie in each round, but first we have to win in Turin. For now, that’s all that matters.”

Anand loses to Ivanchuk, ends disastrous Legends campaign after 8 defeats



CHENNAI, JUL 30 (PTI) Indian chess ace Viswanathan Anand’s signed off second from bottom after his disappointing campaign at the Legends of Chess online tournament ended with a loss to long-time rival Vasyi Ivanchuk in the ninth and final round. It was Anand’s eighth loss in the USD 150,000 tournament. The 50-year-old ended in ninth position behind GM Peter Leko who finished last.

After all the four games ended in draws, the Anand-Ivanchuk contest went into the Armageddon (a tie-breaker), which also ended in a stalemate.

The Ukrainian emerged victorious as he played black in the decider late on Wednesday.

Anand started the match with a 57-move draw and the tie progressed in a similar vein with the players opting for quiet draws.

The Armageddon

game was a 59-move affair before the former world champion signed peace with Ivanchuk.

The 50-year old Indian finished ninth in the standings with 7 match points and a solitary win (over Boris Gelfand) on his debut in the Magnus Carlsen Tour.

In other matches, world No.1 Magnus Carlsen beat Vladimir Kramnik 3-1 to finish with an all-win record after nine matches in the preliminary stage.

The Norwegian will now play Russia’s Peter Svidler in the semi-finals, while Anish Giri (Hungary) takes on Ian Nepomniachtchi (Russia) in a repeat of their Chessable Masters semi-final.

Legends of Chess is an event in which Carlsen, Liren,

Nepomniachtchi and Giri, semifinalists at the Chessable Masters (part of the Magnus Carlsen Tour), received an automatic invite and are up against six legends

aged 40-52, who have been at the top of world chess at various points in their career.

The tournament is part of the Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour. The winner of this event qualifies for the USD 300,000 Grand Final scheduled from August 9 to 20.

Results of Round 9: Vasyi Ivanchuk (Ukraine) beat Viswanathan Anand (India) 2.5-2.5 (Ivanchuk wins by playing black after Armageddon is drawn); Magnus Carlsen (Norway) beat Vladimir Kramnik (Russia) 3-1; Boris Gelfand (Israel) beat Ian Nepomniachtchi (Russia) 3-2; Anish Giri (The Netherlands) beat Peter Svidler (Russia) 2.5-1.5; Ding Liren (China) beat Peter Leko (Hungary) 2.5-1.5.

Final standings: 1. Carlsen 25 match points, 2. Nepomniachtchi 20, 3. Giri 18, 4. Svidler 14, 5. Ivanchuk 13, 6. Kramnik 12, 7. Gelfand 11, 8. Liren 7, 9. Anand 7, 10. Leko 6.

Boateng recounts pain of racist abuse to Bayern teammates

MUNICH, JUL 30 (AP): For weeks Bayern Munich players had been showing solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement at games when Jerome Boateng was approached by teammates for a deeper conversation.

“Before our break, I talked actually to Joshua Kimmich and Leon Goretzka about it,” Boateng recalled on a video call.

“They asked me how to support, how does it feel, what happened to you when you were younger.

“So I could tell them my story, what were my experiences, and why is it so painful and hard to hear those things, or (have those) experiences, and then imagine people who are younger, maybe they face this for the first time, what you can do, how can people support it.”

The 31-year-old Boateng, who was born in Berlin to a German mother, and father



from Ghana, has faced monkey chants in the past at games.

“There are some situations of course that are really hard to help, but you can always help in a situation,” the defender said.

“Of course, when it’s a group against one, and there’s nobody near, you never know, but if there’s somebody near, please call police, help, whatever, because that can help and save maybe a dangerous situation.”

Bayern players

were taking a knee at games before the pandemic-delayed Bundesliga season ended in June. Now the German champions are preparing to take the field again in the Champions League next week, in the round of 16 against Chelsea where they lead 3-0 from the first leg in February.

“I think it’s very powerful and very important that we continue this (gesture) in the Champions

League, especially of course in the final, because the whole world will look,” Boateng said.

“I think it’s important to continue, and also in other sports, and hopefully in some sports that are not back yet, hopefully they will join us.”

Beyond gestures like taking a knee, Boateng hopes for change across German football to ensure there is greater diversity at the top of the game and

more Black coaches. Daniel Thioune, the first German-born Black coach in the country’s professional leagues, was hired by Hamburg earlier this month.

“I would wish of course to see that more in Germany,” Boateng said, “because you see it more in the UK and different countries.”

The brutal police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May sparked worldwide calls for an end to racial injustice and discrimination a message that has been carried onto football pitches across Europe.

“I think about racism you never can do enough as you see how bad it is still in the world right now,” Boateng said.

“If we were doing enough we’d not be in this situation still and talking about it. I am really clear about that and everybody has to know that this is not something that goes in a month.

BARRY GLENDENNING

LONDON, 30 JUL

[THE GUARDIAN]:

As implausible and preposterous as it may be, let’s imagine a post Covid-19 world where football fans are finally allowed back into Premier League grounds but elect en masse not to go. Not because home drinking, tedious family Zoom quizzes and banana bread baking have eclipsed the sport in popularity, but because after months spent locked out of stadiums match-going supporters have realised the importance of their role cannot be overstated and unilaterally opt to stay away until certain conditions are met.

Even before a ball has been kicked it is reasonably safe to assume that Saturday’s FA Cup final will be the worst of all time. A traditionally grand occasion that will be memorable for all the wrong and weirdest of reasons, the Football Association’s showpiece event has been reduced to little more than a surreal meander through the motions this season, in order to fulfil contractual obligations and keep the financial and football record books up to date.

Carnations may well adorn lapels, there will be half-hearted pre-match smoke and mirrors, and Arsenal or Chelsea will prevail. The trophy will be handed over and hoisted skywards following an awkward presentation soundtrack by a pyrotechnic display designed to divert global attention from the depressingly bare look of the cavernous empty and

iconic stadium in which one of the most famous games in world football has just been played.

Contested to the sound of no hands clapping or fans chanting, the game itself may well be a classic but the occasion will be uncharacteristically desolate and grim. It will still matter; of course it will. For all its neatness as a soundbite, the notion that football without fans is nothing is just not true and a Cup final played with nobody in attendance is, at least for those on the pitch, marginally better than no Cup final at all.

Every day all over the world, footballers of all ages, shapes, sizes, levels of ability and fitness gather to play their own cup finals without an audience for their own amusement and invariably have a fine time. Whether it’s on pitches, indoor and outdoor courts, gymnasiums, back gardens and yards, waste ground, scrubland, these finals are generally played wherever there’s room for one enthusiast or more to chase a rolling, bouncing ball. But for the presence of those playing, these locations would more often than not be forlorn, empty and unattended, demonstrating that football without fans is generally a very healthy, popular and largely beneficial use of the players’ time.

It is not widely known but the sum total of no spectators were in attendance to witness the best goal ever scored. An Exocet header from outside the penalty area – or where the penalty area would have been if the

pitch had been marked – the ball was fumbled on to the inside of the upright by a butterfingers schoolboy nicknamed Beaver before bouncing over the goalline that also wasn’t there. The young goalkeeper’s clumsy intervention was not enough to keep the ball out but probably prevented the silence from the sidelines that greeted the stunning effort being broken by the satisfying sound of a rippling goal net. I say probably, because in the absence of anything so glamorous as an actual goal net it was impossible to tell.

In the absence of applause or pleasing sound effects, the scorer was forced to settle for the usual congratulatory pats on the head and boots up the arse from a few surprised teammates before a bell went and arguably the most insignificant kickabout in the history of the sport came to an end. Except it wasn’t completely insignificant because more than 30 years later I still recall that wonderful header I scored with fondness and crystal clarity. Far more importantly, it is finally a matter of public record.

The 15-year-old me had long since made peace with the fact he would never score in an FA Cup final but on Saturday somebody else who dreamed of doing so as a child almost certainly will. Technically, achieving such a milestone in front of 90,000 unoccupied and utterly indifferent seats will not render their accomplishment any less significant, except it almost certainly will.

Ciro Immobile strikes again for Lazio, champions Juventus sunk by Cagliari

MILAN, 30 JUL [THEGUARDIAN]: **C**iro Immobile has moved to within one goal of Gonzalo Higuaín’s single-season Serie A scoring record with a late strike in Lazio’s 2-0 win over Brescia.

Simone Inzaghi’s side kept their hopes of a second-placed finish alive with a dominant display against opponents who have already been relegated back to Serie B. Immobile set up the opener, exchanging passes with Joaquín Correa who

weaved his way through several defenders before scoring from close range.

The hosts had plenty more chances to add to their lead, with Immobile skimming the post, but the striker had to wait until eight minutes from time, finishing from a tight angle for his 35th goal of the season as Correa turned provider. Lazio’s last game of the season is away to Napoli on Saturday.

Immobile is now four goals clear of Cristiano Ronaldo in Serie A’s Capocannoniere race, after the Juventus forward drew

a blank in a sobering 2-0 defeat at Cagliari.

Maurizio Sarri made eight changes from the side that sealed a ninth successive title against Sampdoria on Sunday, with only Ronaldo, Miralem Pjanic and Juan Cuadrado keeping their places against hosts that had been in dreadful form.

Walter Zenga’s side had scored just three goals in a run of eight matches without a win, but took the lead after only eight minutes through striker Luca Gagliano. The 20-year-old reacted quickest

to prodhome Federico Mattiello’s low cross to score his first goal for the club.

Giovanni Simeone smashed a right-footed shot beyond Gigi Buffon to double the hosts’ lead just before half-time. Ronaldo had seen a goal ruled out for offside and could not find a way past the Cagliari defence in the second period despite Juve dominating possession, with keeper Alessio Cragnò in superb form.

In Wednesday’s other late games, Chris Smalling got on the scoresheet as

Roma secured fifth place with a 3-2 victory at Torino, while Federico Chiesa’s hat-trick earned Fiorentina an emphatic 4-0 home win over Bologna.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice as Milan maintained their unbeaten run since the restart with a thumping 4-1 win at Sampdoria. Ibrahimovic opened the scoring after four minutes, heading Ante Rebic’s cross home. Hakan Calhanoglu added a second for Milan in the 54th minute, and then set up Ibrahimovic to score four minutes later.

Japan court recognizes atomic bomb 'black rain' victims

TOKYO, JUL 30 (AP):

A Japanese court on Wednesday for the first time recognized people exposed to radioactive "black rain" that fell after the 1945 US atomic attack on Hiroshima as atomic bomb survivors, ordering the city and the prefecture to provide the same government medical benefits as given to other survivors.

The Hiroshima District Court said all 84 plaintiffs who were outside of a zone previously set by the government as where radioactive rain fell also developed radiation-induced illnesses and should be certified as atomic bomb victims. All of the plaintiffs are older than their late 70s, with some in their 90s.

The landmark ruling comes a week before

the city marks the 75th anniversary of the US bombing.

The US dropped the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, killing 140,000 people and almost destroying the entire city. The plaintiffs were in areas northwest of the ground zero where radioactive black rain fell hours after the bomb was dropped.

The plaintiffs have developed illnesses such as cancer and cataracts linked to radiation after they were exposed to black rain, not only that which fell but also by taking water and food in the area contaminated with radiation.

They filed the lawsuit after Hiroshima city and prefectural officials rejected their request to



expand the zone to cover their areas where black rain also fell.

In Wednesday's ruling, the court said the plaintiffs' argument about their black rain exposure was reasonable and that their medical

records showed they have health problems linked to radiation exposure.

One of the plaintiffs, Minoru Honke, who was exposed to black rain at age 4, said more than a dozen people died

during the trial. "I want to tell them that we won," he said.

Osamu Saito, a doctor who has examined atomic bomb survivors in Hiroshima, welcomed the ruling for considering the survivors' welfare

based on an assumption that anyone who was in these areas and hit by the rain could have been affected by radiation.

Earlier in the day, dozens of plaintiffs walked into the Hiroshima court in the rain, showing a banner saying "Certificates to all 'black rain' victims." As soon as the ruling was issued, lawyers for the plaintiffs ran out of the court, showing a banner saying "Full victory," and their supporters applauded and cheered.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters that the government will closely examine the ruling and respond after consulting with related government agencies and Hiroshima officials.

India's US envoy discusses trade, investment with Wisconsin governor



WASHINGTON, JUL 30 (PTI): India's US Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu has discussed trade and people-to-people relations with Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers, highlighting the investment opportunities in India for win-win outcomes.

Sandhu, during a virtual meeting with Evers, discussed strategies to tap the potential in the agriculture, infrastructure and manufacturing sectors common to India and Wisconsin that would lead to win-win outcomes for both, the Indian Embassy here said in a statement on Wednesday.

During the meeting, the Indian envoy briefed the governor about the initiatives India has taken in healthcare and education and discussed collaboration in these sectors.

India and Wisconsin share a robust trade and investment relationship.

The total trade between India and Wisconsin is over USD 1 billion. Many Indian companies in the IT, engineering services, medical equipment and manufacturing sectors have invested in the state.

These companies have invested close to USD 185 million in Wisconsin, creating over 2,460 jobs, the embassy said, referring to the recent reports.

These companies also add value to local economies and communities through

their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

Similarly, Wisconsin-based companies in the automobiles, electrical equipment, financial services and technology sectors have established a strong presence in India. They include Harley Davidson, Rockwell Automation Inc., ManPower Group among others.

The Indian community has a vibrant presence in Wisconsin, which is also an important destination for Indian students.

Close to 1,500 Indian students are studying in educational institutions in Wisconsin. India has a strong education connection with Wisconsin. The tradition of Indian studies started on the University of Wisconsin campus in the mid-1880s, when a Professorship of Sanskrit was established.

Renowned biochemist Dr Hargobind Khorana received his Nobel Prize in 1968 for research he conducted at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was on faculty.

During the meeting, the Indian envoy underscored the need to revive and strengthen the university-to-university linkages between India and the US, including in the fields of research and development and bio-health.

Sandhu and Evers agreed to further strengthen the multifaceted engagement between India and the state of Wisconsin, the statement added.

Trump says India, China and Russia don't take care of their air

WASHINGTON, JUL 30 (PTI):

US President Donald Trump has alleged that India, China and Russia do not take care of their air, while America does, noting that he withdrew from the one-sided, energy-destroying Paris climate accord which would have made it a non-competitive nation.

Trump, in his address on energy and the Permian Basin in Midland, Texas on Wednesday, said that by imposing these punishing restrictions -- and beyond restrictions the Washington radical-left, crazy Democrats would also send countless American jobs, factories, industries to China and to other foreign polluting states.

They want us to take care of our air, but China doesn't take care of its air. In all fairness, India doesn't take care of its air. Russia doesn't take care of its air. But we do. Not on my watch, it's not going to happen -- I can tell you that. Because as

long as I'm President, we will always put America first. It's very simple, he said.

For years and years, we put other countries first, and we now put America first. As we have seen in cities and towns across our nation, it's not just Texas oil that the radical Democrats want to destroy; they want to destroy our country, he said.

Such radical Democrats, he alleged, do not love the country in any way, shape or form.

There's no respect for the American way of life. There is no way of life ever in history that's been like the great American way of life. There is no respect, but there is by you, and there is by 95 per cent of our people. Our people love our country, and our people love our anthem and they love our flag, he said.

Trump said that under the last administration, America's energy industry was under relentless and unceasing



attack.

But the day I took the oath of office, we ended the war on American energy and we stopped the far-left assault on American energy workers, he said.

Observing that he withdrew from the one-sided, energy-destroying Paris climate accord, he said this was a disaster and cost the US billions of dollars.

The US in November

last year formally notified the UN of its withdrawal from the Paris climate accord, a global agreement in which President Trump's predecessor Barack Obama had played a key role.

Although Trump announced his decision to withdraw from the historic pact on June 1, 2017, the process began last year with the formal notification and the US

will be out of the pact on November 4, 2020.

It (Paris climate accord) would have made us a non-competitive nation. We cancelled the Obama administration's job-crushing clean power plan, he said as he listed some of the steps being taken by his administration.

For the first time in nearly 70 years, we have become a net energy

exporter. And the United States is now the number one producer of oil and natural gas on the face of the Earth. To ensure we maintain this dominant position long into the future, my administration is announcing today that export authorisations for American liquefied natural gas can now be extended through the year 2050, Trump added.

India is the fourth highest emitter of carbon dioxide in the world, accounting for 7 per cent of global emissions in 2017, according to the projection by the Global Carbon Project published in December, 2018.

The top four emitters in 2017, which covered 58 per cent of global emissions, were China (27 per cent), the US (15 per cent), the European Union (10 per cent) and India (7 per cent), it said.

Trump vs. Biden: Where they stand on health, economy, more

WASHINGTON, JUL 30 (AP):

President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, both promise sweeping progress over the next four years - via starkly different paths.

Trump, like many fellow Republicans, holds out tax reductions and regulatory cuts as economic cure-alls and frames himself as a conservative champion in seemingly endless culture wars. But the president, still trying to fashion himself as an outsider, offers little detail about how he'd pull the levers of government in a second term.

Biden, for his part, sounds every bit the Democratic standard-bearer as he frames the federal government as the collective force to combat the coronavirus, rebuild the economy and address centuries of institutional racism and systemic inequalities. A veteran of national politics, Biden also loves framing his deal-making past as proof he can do it again from the Oval

Office.

It leaves Americans with an unambiguous choice. A look at where the rivals stand on key issues:

ECONOMY, TAXES

D e c a d e s - l o w unemployment and a soaring stock market were Trump's calling cards before the pandemic. While the stock market has clawed much of its way back after cratering in the early weeks of the crisis, unemployment stood at 11.1 per cent in June, higher than the nadir of the Great Recession. There were still about 14.7 million fewer jobs last month than there were prior to the pandemic in February.

Trump has predicted that the US economy will rebound in the third and fourth quarters of this year and is set to take off like a rocket ship in the new year, a prediction that bakes in the assumption that a coronavirus vaccine or effective therapeutics have hit the market that allow life to get back to normal.

He's still advocating

for a payroll tax cut, though such a measure faces stiff bipartisan opposition. Winning a second term and a mandate from voters might be his best hope at getting it through.

Biden pitches sweeping federal action as necessary to avoid an extended recession or depression and to address long-standing wealth inequality that disproportionately affects nonwhite Americans. His biggest-ticket plans: a USD 2 trillion, four-year push intended to eliminate carbon pollution in the U.S. energy grid by 2035 and a new government health insurance plan open to all working-age Americans (with generous subsidies).

He proposes new spending on education, infrastructure and small businesses, along with raising the national minimum wage to USD 15 an hour.

Biden would cover some but not all of the new costs by rolling back much of the 2017 GOP tax overhaul. He wants a corporate income tax rate of 28 per cent (lower than

before but higher than now) and broad income and payroll tax hikes for individuals with more than USD 400,000 of annual taxable income.

All that would generate an estimated USD 4 trillion or more over 10 years. Biden frames immigration as an economic matter, as well. He wants to expand legal immigration slots and offer a citizenship path for about 11 million residents who are in the country illegally but who, Biden notes, are already economic contributors as workers and consumers.

EDUCATION

Trump has used his push for schools to fully reopen this fall amid the pandemic as an opportunity to spotlight his support for charter schools and school choice.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, a longtime proponent of charter schools and school voucher programs, has suggested that families be allowed to take federal money allotted to school districts that don't open and spend it in private schools that do open.

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SummitTIMES

Court says Judd can sue Weinstein for sexual harassment

Los Angeles, Jul 30 (AP): A federal appeals court on Wednesday restored a major part of Ashley Judd's lawsuit against Harvey Weinstein, finding that the producer had power over the actor which should make her able to sue under a California sexual harassment law.

A three-judge panel of the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals found that Judd should be allowed to pursue both parts of her lawsuit against Weinstein. A lower court judge dismissed her sexual harassment allegations but left intact her claim of defamation.

Judd filed the lawsuit in 2018, alleging that in a meeting at a Beverly Hills hotel in late 1996 or early 1997, the producer tried to coerce her to watch him shower and give him a massage, then smeared her in Hollywood as a "nightmare" to work with after she rejected him.

Judd's attorneys had sued Weinstein under a California law that prohibits sexual harassment by people, other than employers, with professional power, including teachers and landlords.

The court agreed that the law could apply to situations like the one Judd faced, when she was dealing with Weinstein but not working for him.

"Weinstein was uniquely situated to exercise coercive power or leverage over Judd, who was a young actor at the beginning of her career at the time of the alleged harassment," US District Judge Mary Murguia wrote in the opinion.

"Moreover, given Weinstein's highly influential and 'unavoidable' presence in the film industry, the relationship was one that would have been difficult to terminate 'without tangible hardship' to Judd, whose livelihood as an actor depended on being cast for roles." Judd's lawyers made it explicit when she filed



the lawsuit that she was suing in part to broaden the use of the law to protect against predatory relationships in Hollywood, and praised the 9th Circuit decision Wednesday.

"This is an important victory not only for Ms. Judd but for all victims of sexual harassment in professional relationships," Judd's attorney Theodore Boutros Jr. said in a statement. "The court correctly holds that California law forbids sexual harassment and retaliation by film producers and others in powerful positions, even outside the employment context, and we look forward to pursuing this claim against Mr Weinstein at trial."

An email seeking comment from Weinstein's attorney, Phyllis Kupferman, was not immediately returned. Kupferman said previously that Weinstein did not hurt Judd's career but promoted it, approving her for roles in two of his films.

The ruling comes two weeks after a judge in New York rejected a USD 19

million settlement between Weinstein and many of the women suing him for sexual misconduct. Judd was not involved in the proposed agreement.

The 52-year-old star of "Kiss The Girls" and "Double Jeopardy" was among the women who told their Weinstein stories to the New York Times and the New Yorker in 2017, making the #MeToo movement a global phenomenon.

She sued Weinstein the following year after director Peter Jackson said in an interview that Weinstein had warned him against working with Judd when he considered her for the "Lord of the Rings" films.

The lawsuit had been on hold through the completion of Weinstein's criminal trial in New York, where the 68-year-old producer was convicted of rape and sexual assault against two women. He faces similar charges in Los Angeles.

Weinstein has repeatedly denied engaging in any non-consensual sexual activity.

Kanye West's NJ ballot petition falls short, complaint says

TRENTON (US), JUL 30 (AP): Kanye West's petition to appear on New Jersey's ballot as a presidential candidate fails to pass legal muster because signatures are incomplete, and in some cases appear written with very similar handwriting, according to a formal complaint filed with the state Wednesday.

Election law attorney Scott Salmon, a registered Democrat, filed the objection with the state Division of Elections after reviewing the more than 1,300 signatures the rapper had submitted.

New Jersey requires presidential candidates to get 800 signatures to appear on the ballot, but Salmon said in an interview that he counted more than 600 that were in some way defective.

"Mr. West's petitions do not contain the valid signatures of 800 qualified voters and should have been rejected by the Division," Salmon wrote in the complaint.

The petition shows that a number of signatures appear nearly identical, including lower-case i's dotted with a small circle. Some signatures lack complete addresses.

West's spokesperson directed questions to what appeared to be a campaign email address. A message seeking comment was sent to that address.

The Division of Elections did not respond to an emailed message seeking a response.



The status of the rapper and fashion designer's presidential campaign and whether he is truly seeking the White House remains a question. Kim Kardashian West last week asked for empathy for her husband and said he is bipolar.

Earlier this month in South Carolina, Kanye West delivered an unconventional campaign introduction speech during which he proposed a USD 1 million payout to mothers and decried Harriet Tubman for her work on the Underground Railroad.

New Jersey law also allows for someone other than the candidate herself or himself to gather signatures. Those people are required to submit paperwork avowing they're who they say they are and the people whose signatures were collected are also who they say they are.

Those documents were not filed, according to Salmon's complaint.

Sometimes similar handwriting in some of the fields can be explained because the so-called circulator filled out the paperwork after the petition was signed, especially in cases where someone could be short on time, for instance, according to Salmon.

In five years as a New Jersey election law attorney there hasn't been an application with as many issues as West's, Salmon said.

Salmon said he did not file the letter on behalf of any Democratic organization and filed the complaint on his own behalf.

News of the complaint was first reported by Politico.

New Jersey is a reliably Democratic state in presidential elections, siding with the Democrat since 1988.

WORKING OUT! The actress, Olivia Munn is seen leaving the gym in a monochromatic fit.

Primetime Emmy Awards going online for 2020 edition

LOS ANGELES, JUL 30 (PTI): The 72nd Primetime Emmy Awards will be held virtually this year due to coronavirus pandemic.

The development comes a day after the nominations for the annual award ceremony was announced.

The ceremony, which was originally to be held at Microsoft Theater here, will now be shot from the actors' homes across the US.

It will take place on September 20.

According to Variety, Emmy executive producers, including host Jimmy Kimmel, have sent a letter to all the acting nominees, asking them to be prepared to participate in the ceremony from their homes.

"We are assembling a top notch team of technicians, producers and writers to work closely with Jimmy Kimmel and with you and your team, to make sure that we can film with you (and loved ones or whomever else you

choose to be with) at your home, or another location of your choice.

"We're going to make you look fabulous we're exploring the cutting edge of technology to allow to use good cameras and lighting and look forward to working with you to produce your unique 'on screen' moments," the letter read.

They said that the world is going through a challenging time and it is not yet safe for everyone to assemble for an event like the Emmys.

"We'll be producing an event that is filled with warmth and humanity, which celebrates the power of television to bring us together and to help us shape our world. You are an essential part of that story," the letter said.

As for the dress code, the letter said the nominees have the freedom to decide what to wear given the informal theme of the ceremony.

an unexpected turn, things you've worried about could solve themselves, restoring peace and harmony in your Universe. Sit back, relax, and enjoy every page of this chapter. Know that you are worthy of all the good stuff.

CANCER:

Robert Evans once said, "There are three sides to every story: my side, your side, and the truth." This is just the wisdom that will help you get through the current set of challenges. Instead of letting your biases get the better of you, think objectively. Practice active listening and embrace compassion as a virtue. Remember, every action we take has consequences, which is another thing you want to keep in mind when you find the scales of justice in your hand.

LEO:

Leo, you're made of both stardust and soil. You're a starseed—a magical being—hiding inside the costume of a human being. Today, the cards are urging you to tap into your inner magician and look at your entire life as a blank canvas, irrespective of what unfolded in the past. The Universe does give us second chances, and this is yours. As such, this is time of rediscovering your hidden gifts and talents. The things you took pleasure in as a child were no coincidences at all.

VIRGO:

What's the big deal about being busy and why are we always glorifying it? Today, you're being asked to examine where this narrative is coming from. You don't need to

be buried under a pile of work in order to justify your existence. The old structures are falling apart, making way for a new way of life, one that honours both the yin and yang aspects of creation. But, the pendulum needs to swing to the two extremes before it finds its balance.

LIBRA:

It is said that all forms of judgement stem from self-judgement. Could this hold true for where you are, Libra? The cards are urging you to look within and ask yourself why a certain somebody's behaviour is triggering all sorts of negative emotions within you, as you focus on bringing forth the gift of compassion. In the immortal words of Baba Ram Dass, "Treat everyone you meet like God in drag."

SCORPIO:

When things start to get chaotic around you, watch with mild interest as if it were a show. Being an observer is not the same as being indifferent, and that's something you're being asked to understand, even when somebody makes a personal attack. Does that mean you are an enabler of unhealthy behaviour? Anything but, Scorpio

SAGITTARIUS:

They say the road to success is paved with failures, and that's something you need to keep in mind when you're faced with challenges that seem unsurmountable, 'seem' being the operative word here, Sagittarius. Call upon your spirit team for extra strength and support over the next few days so you can clear the roadblocks that are

standing in your path.

CAPRICORN:

We spend so much time weighing the pros and cons that we tend to forget our first instinct. Could this hold true for where you are? Tune in. Listen to your inner guidance. Truth is, you already know what needs to be done. You're shying away from putting this wisdom into practice. Remember, nobody else can make this decision for you. Let go of the need to discuss your dilemma with other people, or seek validation.

AQUARIUS:

Life does give us second chances, and this is yours! The real question is: will you go back to living a mediocre existence or make the most of the opportunities being offered to you? 'Go big or go home' is a big mood right now. What's more, the roadblocks that once stood in your way are clearing themselves in order to give you the go-ahead.

PISCES:

Five deep breaths in, five deep breaths out. Release the tension stored in your system, and with it, the anxiety that has been weighing you down. Better days are coming—of this you are sure. You now have more clarity on the chosen path, and a definitive plan of action to help you surmount the given challenges. Remember, you don't have to do this alone. Your family is standing by your side, ready to offer you the support you could need in these trying times.