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Summit TIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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SKM challenges Chamling to remove Golay from CM's post

Party goes on counter-offensive, says govt is looking into corruption allegations against former CM

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 JUN:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party spokesperson, Jacob Khaling, has challenged Sikkim Democratic Front president, former CM Pawan Chamling, to try his best to remove SKM president, PS Tamang [Golay] from the post of the Chief Minister. He remains convinced that Mr Tamang's appointment as CM was constitutionally sound and today alleged that the SDF was planning to use "money power" to have Mr Tamang removed.

Also, in a clear indication of a tit-for-tat, Mr Khaling also announced today that the SKM Government



will now begin looking into allegations of corruption against Mr Chamling.

The SKM response comes in the wake of media reports that Mr Chamling was in New Delhi to pursue legal options to challenge Mr Tamang's appointment as the Chief Minister of Sikkim.

Addressing a press conference here today,

Mr Khaling alleged that Mr Chamling flexing money-power in Delhi to have Mr Tamang removed. Mr Tamang alleged that SDF was resorting to this "after having failed" to stop Mr Tamang from becoming the CM "legally and constitutionally."

He stated that Mr Tamang became the CM fulfilling two paramet-

ters – first, getting the mandate of the people of Sikkim and then getting the permission from the Governor who evaluated all constitutional and legal aspects.

Mr Khaling also let on that the SKM was going on the counter-offensive now.

"We have won our first battle with the re-

cent election and now we will take up the next challenge of taking account of the people's money and how it was pilfered in Sikkim and punish all involved in corruption. The government has already started the process of collecting details on all corrupt actions of the former CM," he said.

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Will go to court if OFOJ circular is not withdrawn, threatens SDF

No violation of Model Code of Conduct, DoP under political pressure



SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 06 JUN:

Sikkim Democratic Front today threatened to go to court if the Department of Personnel does not withdraw its recent circular on the One Family One Job scheme beneficiaries within one week. The department has misinterpreted the Model Code of Conduct norms under the pressure of the SKM government, the party has said.

It may be mentioned here that the Department of Personnel [DoP] issued a circular on 31 May asking the heads of

all departments to submit a list of 'One Family, One Job' recruits who reported for duty after enforcement of Model Code of Conduct on 08 March. The circular states that many departments accepted the OFOJ candidates while the Model Code of Conduct was still in force in the State. It further stated that allowing candidates to report for duty during the Model Code of Conduct violates the norms of the Election Commission and the concerned department or officer would be liable to be penalised

under the established norms of the Election Commission of India.

On the same, the DoP requested all Secretaries to immediately withhold and cancel the joining of all the candidates under OFOJ scheme along with those candidates appointed under temporary basis who have "reported for duty after the enforcement of Model Code of Conduct and list of such candidates along with their appointment orders may be forwarded to this department by June 10".

turn to pg02

Minister visits Berfok mishap site, hands over ex-gratia

GYALSHING, 06 JUN [IPR]:

IPR Minister LN Sharma, who also happens to be the area MLA, accompanied by DC West Karma R. Bonpo visited Pipalay Dara, Berfok, West Sikkim, where a breast-wall collapse claimed the life of Bhim Bdr. Thapa (Chettri) and injured three others Deo Pd. Rai, Sushil Sanyasi and Bashant Rai.

The Minister, in the presence of DC-West, handed over the ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh to the family of the deceased and ex-gratia of Rs 12,700 to the families of injured persons.

He also met the bereaved family members and assured to provide a government job to one person of the family to cope up with the loss.

Meanwhile, all the injured were forwarded to the District Hospital, Gyalshing, from where they were referred to Siliguri for the further treatment.

The district authorities have also visited the site and begun investigations into the incident and a case of Unnatural Death has been registered at the Kaluk Police Station.

CM visits Gangtok mosque



GANGTOK, 06 JUN (IPR):

Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) visited Jama Mosque here today. The Chief Minister met the Maulana of the Masjid along with the president, vice president, general secretary and senior members of the Muslim community. He was accompanied by Cabinet Ministers, KN Lepcha and Arun Upreti.

The community members wholeheartedly expressed their happiness and gratitude towards the Chief Minister for his visit.

The CM congratulated the community and extended his best wishes. He stated that the state government would embrace all the communities and everyone should support each other with

love and compassion.

He stated that all religions are the same and if we extend compassion to all sentient beings then hatred, violence and casteism will have no place.

The Chief Minister extended all possible support to the community and hoped that we work towards a state free of any class division and casteism.

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 JUN:

Sikkim Democratic Front party president, former Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, has written to the Speaker seeking "immediate necessary action" against those involved in heckling him from the visitors' gallery of the Legislative Assembly on 03 June while the Assembly was in session.

The petition states, "As the leader of the opposition party, SDF and being the senior most Member of the State Assembly, the unfortunate incident which took place during the Assembly session on 03 June was highly objectionable, condemnable and against the very spirit of parliamentary democracy."

The letter highlights that the power to maintain order in the House



and upholding dignity and decorum, was vested in the Speaker on whom also rested the responsibility to "protect the rights and interest of every Member of the Assembly irrespective of their political connections or affiliation."

"As per the tradition, practice and procedure in the Assembly, the permission to attend the Assembly proceeding for the guests or visitors who are seated in the gallery of the House are provided with the rec-

ommendation of the respective Members of the House and with the due approval of the Speaker," it is added.

He insults hurled from the visitors' gallery on 03 June, Mr Chamling states were "defamatory, indecent, unparliamentary and totally inappropriate."

"The sole object of such illegal act committed by the said persons was to intimidate, threaten and humiliate me and the other Members of the SDF party. It is obvious that this entire act of illegality was pre-planned by the SKM party," the letter adds.

The petition points out that the entire incident was witnessed by all present in the House and must also have been recorded in the CCTV of the Assembly.

turn to pg02

State Level World Environment Day Celebration



CM directs SPCB to take action against erring pharma companies

GANGTOK, 05 JUN (IPR):

Sikkim joined the rest of the world and celebrated State Level World Environment Day with the theme "Beat Air Pollution" here at Chintan Bhawan today. Chief Minister, PS Tamang [Golay] attended the occasion as the chief guest. He was accompanied by Minister for Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department, Karma

Loday Bhutia, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Political Secretary to CM, Jacob Khaling and Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava. The programme was also attended by Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Mayor, Deputy Mayor and all HoDs, officials, teachers and students from various schools.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister congratulated the winning schools and the students for coming forward to spread the message of environment conservation which is now a global concern.

turn to pg02

LTVC urges SKM Govt to restore 15% job reservation for L-T

SUMMIT REPORT

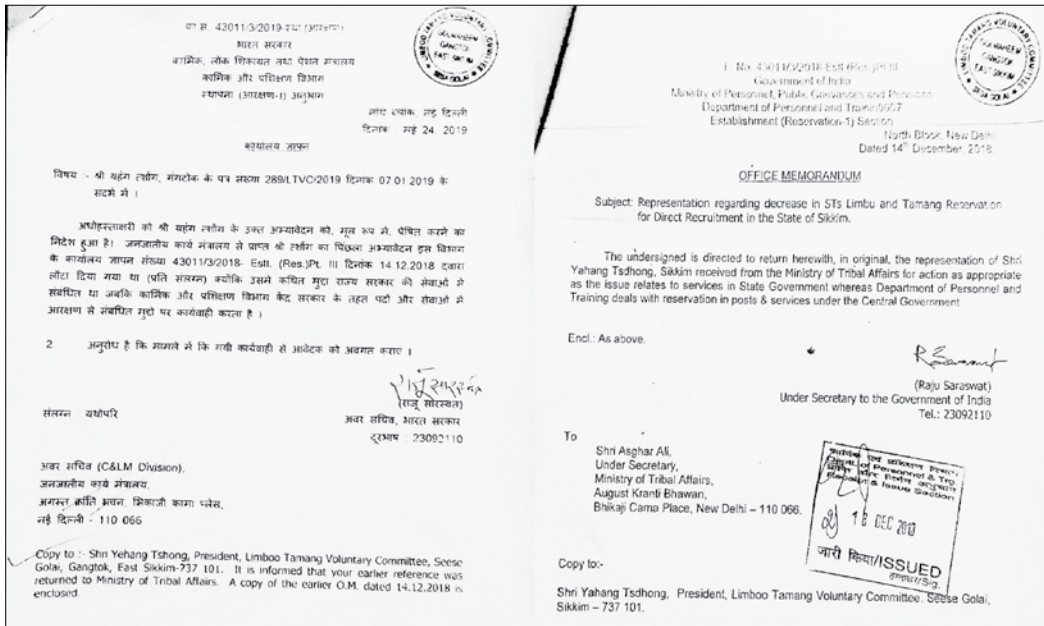
GANGTOK, 05 JUN:

Limboo Tamang Voluntary Committee [LTVC] has urged the new Government to restore reservation for Limboo & Tamang in Government jobs from 13% to 15%. According to LTVC, despite repeated directions from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the previous government failed to take action on this issue.

In a press release, LTVC has said that reservation in Government jobs for Limboo and Tamang was originally 15% but had been reduced to 13%. The Committee had written to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs regarding this which had forwarded the grievance to the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Training.

On 04 June, LTVC president, Yehang Tshong received an acknowledgment letter dated 24 May, 2019 from the Ministry of Personnel.

"The communiqué' from Ministry



of Personnel, Public Grievances and Personal and Training states that the Ministry only deals with reservation in

posts & services under the Central Government and issue related with LT (ST) communities is totally a State subject.

Limboo & Tamang Communities of Sikkim at the earliest," the release states.

Hence matter has been returned to Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)," the LTVC release informs.

LTVC has said that it is sad and disappointing to know that although previous State Governments received so many directions from MoTA still the State government did not comply with the orders of Central Ministries and avoided solving this issue.

"LTVC is hopeful that the newly formed State Government and DoP will comply with the orders of MoTA & SJE&W Department and take the appropriate steps to resolve all the issues raised by LTVC pertaining to Lim-

PLCC research team to study all aspects of Pang Lhabsol

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 JUN:

The Pang Lhabsol Celebration Committee for the Statue of Unity formally launched its research team to study various aspects of Pang Lhabsol, the Signing of the Blood Brotherhood Treaty between Bhutias and Lepchas and the issue of unity among all sections of the Sikkimese society.

The study team will study religious, cultural and historical issues.

The event started with the introduction of all members of the research team and terms of reference of the study by vice-president, Tseten Lepcha, PLCC.



PLCC president T Lachunga offered Khadas to members of the research team and also gave a brief background on the process involved

in the finalization of Statue of Unity and all other events associated with it.

The working committee comprises of Assistant Professors Dr Kun-

zang Namgyal Lachungpa [Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, NBBDC], Asst Prof Dr Anira Phipon [Sikkim University], Assistant Professor

Dr NT Lepcha (SCERT), Assistant Professor, Mr Namdol Bhutia [NBBDC], Assistant Professor Jigme Wangchuck [NBBDC], PGT, Dupden

Lepcha, Lingdok, HRDD, and PhD scholar Jigme Wangchuck Bhutia [Visva-Bharati University].

The research team also has an external/advisory committee comprising of former Director General-cum-Secretary, DESME, SD Tshering; Ex-Additional Director, Ecclesiastical Department, Sonam Dokhampa, Associate Professor Baichung Tsechutharpa [Sikkim University], Director, HRDD, Uygen Shipmoo, Assistant Professor Dr Pano Pazo [Govt College, Kamrang], Assistant Text Book Officer, Saldong Lepcha, HRDD, Assistant Professor(NBBDC), PC Lepcha and Lepcha Editor Dikit Lepcha, IPR.

SKM challenges...

Mr Khaling also alleged today that despite being a long-serving legislator, Mr Chamling violated the decorum and dignity of the Legislative Assembly on the opening day.

He explained that the first session of the 10th Sikkim Legislative Assembly was for the oath taking ceremony of the newly elected legislators and election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker and had no other agenda for discussion.

Despite knowing this, the opposition leader displayed indiscipline and arrogance by trying to break tradition and precedence by taking up a political issue and ignoring the Speaker's directions to maintain discipline and not speak out of turn.

Mr Khaling also painted the incident in cateist colour asking aloud whether the former CM's reaction was triggered by the caste of the Speaker.

On the confusion surrounding the State Government's position on the One Family One Job scheme, Mr Khaling stated that the government has started the scrutiny process to regularise OFOJ employees. He stated that as many appointments under this scheme had been back-dated while the model code of conduct was in place. The appointments and joining made during the model code of conduct have been withheld and cancelled to give justice to the genuine beneficiaries, he argued.

He said that after scrutiny and other State Level...

The Chief Minister stated that the younger generations have to play crucial roles and responsibilities in not only engaging themselves for conserving the natural resources but also in educating others in doing the same. He stated that environment conservation is a top priority of the state government and thus it is very important to protect, nurture and preserve our natural habitat and rich bio-diversity.

Likewise, he also added that teachers should encourage students and inspire the young minds so that they become crusaders of tomorrow in preserving the environment. He thanked the students and teachers for participating in creating awareness for such a noble cause.

The Chief Minister expressed his concern about the rising pollution in urban areas and urged everyone to work towards preservation of environment so that we surge forward not just in developmental path but also have a good healthy life. He reiterated the state government's decision on ban of fire crackers and asked everyone to join hands in abiding for the same. Mr Goley pointed out that some of the pharmaceutical companies are violating the law on pollution and he directed the State Pollution Control Board to take action against those pharma companies violating the law.

The Chief Minister also invited each and every individual and organization to join the Forest Department in conserving environment and its natural habitat. He requested every individual to conduct plantation drive in uncultivated and vacant land so that it will enrich the ecosystem and bear fruits for the generations to come. He urged all the concerned citizens to follow up on plantation of saplings to ensure its sustainability and productivity in the long run. He also appealed to everyone present about the danger of plastics and discouraged its use in the state.

Earlier, Minister for Forest Environment Wildlife Management Department, Karma Loday Bhutia in his

processes, all genuine beneficiaries will get jobs under this scheme.

Further on OFOJ, SKM general secretary [social media], Navraj Gurung, stated that OFOJ was the brainchild of the SKM president and had been included even in the 2014 election manifesto of the party. He alleged that SDF hijacked this scheme and implemented it unethically just before this election. He further alleged that the earlier government implemented the scheme without proper processes and without any resource for employees under this scheme.

"Now, the SDF is spreading rumours on OFOJ scheme and conspiring to create unrest in the State," he alleged.

He stated that SKM government was not removing anyone from the job but revising the scheme to create permanent resource and legal backing for these appointments.

Mr Gurung also refuted all allegations that he hurled insults at MR Chamling from the visitors' gallery of the Legislative Assembly.

The SKM spokesperson Mr Khaling also claimed that SKM was not involved in any violence in the State.

On the former CM's heckling in the Assembly, Mr Khaling stated that the Speaker has constituted a committee to look into the matter and if the report reveals the involvement of any SKM worker, then the party will also take action.

address informed that the state government is working hard on environment and pointed out the various policies which would help in the long run.

Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava, in his address stated that it is our paramount duty to keep the earth safe for the future generations and we have the responsibility to protect and guard it. He appealed to everyone present to work towards a cleaner, greener and a sustainable world by creating awareness on environmental issues. He also suggested making no vehicle day for government officials in a week which would also be a step towards environmental conservation.

During the programme, web portal of Sikkim Climate Inventory and Management System (SCIMS) was launched by the Chief Minister and the department's report was also released.

The Forest Department acknowledged the efforts of various schools in conserving the environment by presenting the Chief Minister's Green School Rolling Trophy and State Green Schools Awards 2019 during the function today.

The Chief Minister's Green School Rolling Trophy was given to Government Senior Secondary School Pelling, West Sikkim along with cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, certificate and gift hamper.

Meanwhile, nine schools were awarded with State Green School Award in different categories.

All these nine schools were awarded with cash prize, certificate, trophy and gift hamper respectively.

Likewise Officials and Staff received Commendation Certificate for their contribution for camera trapping the Royal Bengal Tiger in Sikkim forest.

Besides that environmental songs were presented by the students of Government Senior Secondary, Tadong, East Sikkim and Government Primary School, Gaikhana, North Sikkim.

Principal Secretary-cum-PCF, ML Shrivastava delivered welcome addressed and vote of thanks was proposed by CCF, BP Pradhan.

Sant Nirankari Namchi celebrates World Environment Day



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 JUN:

Devotees of Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation, Namchi branch, organised a plantation and cleanliness drive along with a motivational awareness programme on the occasion of the World Environment Day 2019 at Central Park Namchi in South Sikkim.

Saint, Raj Kumari Devi Jee, member in-

charge of Sant Nirankari Mandal, Delhi headquarters, was the chief guest and was also accompanied by a retired government official, Dinesh Tshering Bhutia, zonal Incharge and central pracharak, KM Chettri and Prem Kishore Keshri among other dignitaries.

It is informed that a huge rally with sewadals of the mission along with slogans of awareness to-

ward our Environment was taken out in Central Park of Namchi bazaar, which was followed by plantation and cleanliness drive in the premises of Namchi District Hospital. The drive was participated by more than 500 devotees from different branches of Pakyong, Jorethang, Mangan, Gyalshing, Makha, Rangpo, Takshang and Ranipool.

Saturday cleanliness drive shifted to Thursday



MANGAN, 06 JUN (IPR): District Magistrate, North, Raj Yadav, has decided to initiate the first Thursday of every month as "Cleanliness Drive Day" in the district from today. Earlier, the cleanliness drive was to be held on first Saturday of every month but since Saturdays are now holidays, the cleanliness drive will be held on first Thursday.

DM, North, Mr Yadav has asked all offices located in different parts of the district to undertake cleanliness drive in their premises positively.

In compliance with the direction of the DM, North all employees of the district have undertaken cleanliness drive in their respective offices by cleaning trash, clogged drains and weed

out old and unwanted things from government office premises.

All Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDM), Block Development Officers (BDO) and Head of Offices of the district are requested to upload photographs of cleanliness drive activities undertaken by them in their respective offices on DAC WhatsApp Group.

Sanju FA tops Group-A; NDFA and Brotherhood FC play out a draw

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 JUN:

Sanju Football Academy, Sombaria, finished its league round of the Sikkim Football Association C-Division Sikkim League topping Group A. On Wednesday, playing its last league match, Sanju FA edged past Sumin Football Club 2-1 to finish the group as toppers with 13 points. With this, the team has secured a berth in the final match for the champion's title of C Division Sikkim League 2019.

Ingsa Subba and Tseten Bhutia contributed a goal each for Sanju FA while the lone goal for



Sumin FC was scored by Yuvraj Gurung.

Sanju FA will take on the topper of Group-B in the final match of the league scheduled for 11 June.

Sanju FA was founded by Indian International Sanju Pradhan at his hometown, Sombaria, in West Sikkim.

Meanwhile, also on

Wednesday, North District Football Association and Brotherhood Football Club played out a 2-2 draw and shared one point each.

Pema Lhendup and Yazor Lepcha scored a goal each for North District FA, while Tika Hang and Samir Pradhan scored one goal each for Brotherhood FC.

Save environment rally by Rangpo school students



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 JUN:

Rangpo Senior Secondary School organised a grand awareness rally to spread awareness on saving our environment at Rangpo, a press release informs. The rally started from

IBM and covered the entire Rangpo market. Students of Little Bells School also participated in the rally.

Essay competition, plantation drive, cleanliness drive, speech competition was also organised in the school.

Chamling writes...

"In view of these facts and circumstances, I request the Speaker to take immediate and appropriate action against all the said persons or culprits who have indulged in such illegal act and have shown total disrespect to the very sanctity and decorum of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly under the rules and relevant provisions of law, the petition added.

Will go to...

Addressing a press conference here today, SDF spokesperson, MK Subba said that government works that have already started at ground level after receiving all administrative approval can continue during the MCC period as per the MCC guidelines.

There has been no violation of the MCC, Mr Subba said further adding that the department misinterpreted the MCC norms under the pressure of the SKM government and issued the circular. On the same, he added that the OFOJ candidates had been selected before the MCC came into force.

Mr Subba also assured the beneficiaries not to worry as the party will fight for them.

Likewise, SDF spokesperson, Neeru Sewa mentioned that it was not the fault of the beneficiaries of the scheme but it was due to the delay of the departments on the appointment of the selected candidates. She added that OFOJ was a flagship programme of the SDF government to ensure at least one government job in every family of Sikkim.

SDF spokesperson Avinash Yakha said that around 10,000 appointees under this scheme have become unemployed due to this DoP circular. He also alleged of political pressure on DoP in taking out this circular.

Mr Yakha also strongly criticised and condemned the recent incident that occurred in the State Assembly where unpleasant slogans were shouted against the former Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling from the visitor's gallery.

SDF general secretary, Krishan Kharel stated that SKM had also accepted this scheme and promised to regularise OFOJ jobs but after getting the people's votes the SKM government is playing with the future of unemployed youth of Sikkim. Mr Kharel suggested that SKM fulfil its election promises and announcements instead of mowing down SDF and its programmes.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

URGENTLY REQUIRED:

Urgent Recruitment for a waiter with atleast 3 years experience and one kitchen helper. Contact: Hotel Paramount, Dentam, West Sikkim- 9735909625 / 8348285444

PLOT FOR SALE:

Vacant plot measuring 0.38 Acres for sale at Amdo Golai, Deorali. Contact: 09717191985/097474651223

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Agriculture Minister chairs first meeting with officials

GANGTOK, 06 JUN (IPR): Coordination meeting to welcome the Minister for FS&ADD, H&C-CDD, AHLF & VS, IPR & Printing Department, LN Sharma was held today in the Training Hall of Cooperative Department, Krishi Bhawan.

Secretary Horticulture Department, DK Bhandari in his opening remarks gave a brief overview of the problems that the Department had been facing. He threw light on the major fact that land for agriculture has been depleting for various reasons and the manpower apart from old age group have been looking for other source of employment rather than farming.

Mr Bhandari elucidated that the Department only has support from Central Sponsored Schemes and there has been no input from the State Plan. He hoped that



in the coming days they would find means to overcome all the issues and could work on increasing productivity, crop diversification and advanced technological inputs.

Secretary, Agriculture Department, Khorlo Bhutia presented the different aspects of the Department in a nutshell. He stated that the main focus of the Department is to escalate production as well as to maintain a consistent supply so that it suffices the local demands. He also reit-

erated the problem of decrease in production and increase in population and consumption in the state.

A Power Point Presentation was given by all the sectional heads of various schemes that gave an overview and talked at length about the Action Plan, fund allocations, funding sources, total management etc.

LN Sharma in his address stated his happiness in being a part of this family. He said that the Chief Minister PS Golay is inclined

towards the welfare of the people and this Department has direct link to the grassroot which make up the real Sikkimese identity and thus it was an honour to be able to work on their behalf. The progress in agricultural sector in the state has been visible and it is our duty to work together and further take the state towards more progress, he said.

Mr Sharma stressed that policies should be framed which will directly benefit the farmers at grassroot level and for this District Centres of Agriculture and Horticulture Department need to start playing a bigger role. Instead of farmers commuting to the capital, provisions should be made at District Centres and thus distribution of manpower from Head Offices to districts where it is necessary

should be considered.

He also suggested that policy be made for Collection Centres not just for milk in the rural areas but also for vegetable produce. Talking about Saturdays being declared as a holiday by the state government, he said that now the farmers have an added bonus day to do marketing and business.

The Minister requested everyone present for their support and coordination. He said that the future is in their hands and the next five years should stand testimony to their hard work and fruits of their labour.

The Minister reiterated his stand that there would be no place for any illegal practices in the Department and hoped that everyone would come together as one team and work towards the direction of result oriented development.

Plantation drive in Namchi



NAMCHI, 06 JUN (IPR): On the occasion of World Environment Day, a plantation drive was organised by Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department's South District office in the vicinity of Chardham Road here on Wednesday.

Approximately 150

species of ornamental and flowering saplings of Azalea, Camellia and Cherry were planted.

The day was also marked by plantation drives, awareness programmes and allied activities carried out by various organisations and Institutions in the district.

LTVC team meets Minister Sonam Lama

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 05 JUN:**

A team of Limboo Tamang Voluntary Committee [LTVC] led by its president, Yehang Tshong met the Minister for Rural Management & Development Department, Panchayat Raj and Cooperative Department & Ecclesiastical Affairs Department, Sonam Lama here on Wednesday. They congratulated him for being inducted as one of the Cabinet Ministers in the new SKM led Government and offered best wishes for good and progressive tenure ahead, informs an LTVC press release.

LTVC had a brief dis-



cussion with the Minister and also submitted a letter pertaining to various demands raised by LTVC for the welfare of Limboo and Tamang [ST] communities of Sikkim. The Minister assured LTVC that he will discuss the issues raised by LTVC with the party high command to

resolve the matter at the earliest, the release adds.

LTVC is hopeful that the new Government will give justice to LT people of Sikkim and fulfill their long pending rightful demand for LT seat reservation in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, the release states.

WED at Kalzang Gyatso Sr Sec School



MANGAN, 06 JUN (IPR): World Environment Day was celebrated at Kalzang Gyatso Senior Secondary School at Kabi, a press communique from Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Mahesh Sharma, informs.

The day started with a Green Run followed by plantation drive.

The celebration had Forest Minister, Karma Loday Bhutia, as the chief guest accompanied by the SDM as guest of honour.

Rotary awareness on menstrual hygiene at Bojoghari School



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 06 JUN:**

Rotary Club of Gangtok organized a workshop on menstrual hygiene at Bojoghari Senior Secondary School in collaboration with Project Baala here today.

The workshop was part of the events planned by the Rotary Club of Gangtok to mark its golden jubilee year.

The awareness workshop sought to educate students about menstruation, menstrual hygiene practices and to dispel myths and taboos. Reusable sanitary napkins called Baala Sanitary Pads were also distrib-

uted to the students who were also informed how to use them.

Project Baala was represented by the organisation's project coordinator, Soumya Dabrial.

Project Baala consists of a team of recently graduated college students passionate about improving the lives of women and young girls around the world. The project has been started with University funding.

Soumya is an economics graduate from the University of Warwick and has worked in Africa and Haryana in the development sector.

Rangpo students raise funds for Naveen

**SUMMIT REPORT
RANGPO, 05 JUN:**

Students of Rangpo Senior Secondary School have come forward to support, Naveen Pradhan, a 10-year-old student of Government School, Tikpur, West Sikkim, who needs financial support for his medical treatment.

Naveen is struggling with an 8mmhole in his heart since birth. He was under treatment at Cardiology Depart-



ment STNM Hospital since 20 May, 2019 and has now been referred out since the surgery he requires cannot be carried out in Sikkim.

The parents have also been informed that

the treatment will cost around Rs 5 lakh, money that they don't have.

The Tikpur School management took to social media to solicit support for the family. In response, the Class X students of Rangpo SSS, supported by the principal and staff of the school, began a donation drive and raised Rs 13,000 which has since been deposited into the bank account of Naveen's father.

Nepal Agri officials visit Indian Cardamom Research Institute

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 06 JUN:**

A team of five officials of Nepal Agricultural Research Council, Government of Nepal visited Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Regional Research Station, Spices Board, Tadong on 06 Jun, 2019, as per a press release.

The team, which includes Senior Scientist, Technical Officer and administrative staff, led by Dr Amar Pun (Senior Scientist) is on exposure cum study tour of Sikkim regarding the organic approaches in agriculture.

Ashutosh Gautam (Scientist, Crop Improvement) shared information on organic cultivation of large cardamom in Sikkim and other parts of North East India. He also shared information on impact of climate on crop physiology and phenology.

The officials have shown keen interest to know about the crop



management practices under organic system in large cardamom and other spices, the release mentions. They also discussed about the variation among cultivars for altitude adaptation.

Mr Gautam also discussed about the ongoing activities of collection, conservation and characterization of ger-

mplasm of large cardamom, breeding behavior of crop, genetic diversity among cultivars and richness of flora in the region.

The officials expressed their gratitude to the ICRI, RRS, Spices Board, Tadong for their exposure to the large cardamom and organic methodologies being used in the state.

Power Minister chairs first meeting

GANGTOK, 06 JUN (IPR): The Minister for Energy and Power Department, Mingma Norbu Sherpa received a warm welcome at the office of Energy and Power Department here this afternoon.

Minister was welcomed by PCE-cum-Secretary of Power Department, KB Kanwar, Senior Officers, officials from all four districts and staffs of the department.

In his first meeting with department head, officials and staffs, Minister, Mr Sherpa said, "I have lot of expectation from officials and staffs of the department and I hope many issues pending in the department will now be resolved with mutual support and cooperation. I hope that the department will meet people expectations and we can work together in collectively strengthening the power sector in the coming days."

The Minister stated that his main endeavour would be to take forward the work done in the power sector and work



for the development and betterment of the state. He also raised his serious concerns over

the frequent death of linemen and directed the officials to sensitize the field staffs (linemen) to avoid any power related accident.

He said that the Power Department need to ensure quality of power supply in the state and stated that improving the quality and availability of power supply in the state would be one of his main focus since it has a direct relation with quality of life and socio-economic standard in the modern world. In some parts of the state, the accessibility of power is in pathetic condition, which needs to be im-

proved, he added.

Further, Minister urged the officials to keep and maintain departmental documents properly so that in the near future white paper of the department will have authentic information and can easily be accessed by any agencies.

At the end he thanked everyone present for the warm welcome and elucidated the hope of working together collectively, positively and towards the overall betterment of the state.

The Minister also visited different sections of the department and interacted with staffs. He was accompanied by Secretary, Mr Kanwar and other officials.

Panth attends meeting of Commerce & Industries Ministry



NEW DELHI, 06 JUN (IPR): Minister of Commerce & Industries Department, Bedu Singh Panth, attended a joint meeting of the Board of Trade and Council of Trade Development and Promotion convened by the Commerce & Industries Ministry of the Government of India at Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi.

The meeting was presided by the Union

Minister of Commerce & Industries, Piyush Goyal and Ministers of State for the concerned Ministry.

The issues relating to export and trade promotion especially in relation to removing procedural bottlenecks, facilitating credit to exporters, ease of doing business, public procurement policy to promote internal trade and related matters were discussed

with a view to resolve them in a time bound manner.

The Principal Secretary, Commerce & Industries Department, Dr Thomas Chandy, also attended the meeting. Suggestions relating to Nathula border trade and enhancement of agro-based export potential of the State were appraised at the meeting to the officials of the Ministry.

Greenko

**Sneha Kinetic Power Projects Pvt. Ltd.
2 X 48 MW Dikchu HEP**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: 07/06/2019

This is to inform the general public residing on the bank of River Dikchu between Lingdok/ Lower Phodong to Dikchu that with the onset of monsoon the river level in the downstream of Dam at Lingdok/ Lower Phodong, Rokshay, Lower Rakdong, Lower Tanek, shall increase due to release of excess water from the Lingdok Dam built by M/S Sneha Kinetic Power Projects Pvt. Ltd. and this is regular operational requirement and also in case of emergency regulation of incoming flood. The river water level downstream of Power house at Dikchu shall also increase suddenly due to release of water from the Tail Race Tunnel.

"Sirens Hooters" will be blown at various locations to warn the public on each increase in the water level, release of water from dam and hence, it is requested that all the people should take note of the "Siren Hooter" alarm as and when it is released sounded and take safety measure for self safety.

As such it is advised and appealed at all the people that at this situation they should not enter the river and also not allow their livestock etc. to graze approach near the reservoir periphery or in the downstream areas from Lingdok /Lower Phodong, Rokshay, Lower Rakdong, and Lower Tanek to Dikchu. It is also not advisable to carry out activities like picnic, fishing, boating, swimming, collection of river materials, collection of fire wood and grass, washing etc. close to the river banks during this condition.

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The above information is issued in the interest of the public residing along the banks of River Dikchu from Lingdok/Lower Phodong to Dikchu.

For: M/s Sneha Kinetic Power Projects Pvt. Ltd.

8th June, 1997

Before 18 Sept, 2011, there was this horror

In 2011, Sikkim received a new date to remember natural disasters by on 18 September when the strongest “homegrown” earthquake tore through the State. Close to seven years since, most Sikkimese appear to have forgotten that evening and refuse to live by any of the lessons that the temblor taught. That was perhaps expected since the State has consistently ignored such lessons. After all, before the Quake, there was the cloudburst over Gangtok on 08 June, 1997; a freak of nature of such ferocity that it claimed a total of 52 lives in and around Gangtok and parts of North Sikkim. And no, the monsoon had not arrived early in 1997, as this was technically still a pre-monsoon episode. It was unprecedented in its inundation. Met Office records reveal that on the intervening night of 08 and 09 June, Gangtok received a record rainfall of 223.8 mm. The entire month of June, once monsoon hits Gangtok, receives an average of 650.4 mm of rain. 40% of the month’s quota poured out in a span of few hours twenty-one years ago!

Officially recorded as a cloudburst, this inundation was triggered right above Raj Bhavan and tested the drainage of the capital city and found it wanting right at the beginning itself. Water spilled everywhere and the copious amounts that flowed through Gangtok on the day cleaved away a building from its foundation near Zero Point along NH31A almost directly below where the cloud had supposedly “burst”. A landslide rushed off from just behind Mintokgang and poured slush into a building on the Gangtok-Chandmari axis. Tathangchen suffered a sleepless night as rural houses further down were washed away and families buried alive, not only there, but also up at Chandmari. Baluvakhani suffered too. In fact, all of Gangtok suffered. It is debatable whether better drainage alone could have saved Gangtok that night. A cloudburst, after all is a ferocious event and no drain or jhora is planned with such an inundation in mind.

08 June, 1997, taught Sikkim in general and Gangtok in particular, many lessons. How well either learnt its lessons remains suspect. Take the jhoras for example. Although the deluge was too voluminous that night for Gangtok’s jhoras to manage, they could still have performed better. Although many jhora training works have been undertaken since, their serviceability remains woefully limited. Cosmetic touch-ups in Gangtok defeat the purpose if the jhoras remain under-prepared further downhill. In many areas, the drains fall away from the slope of the road which leaves them collecting only dead leaves and filth with water running riot on the road.

Some genuine initiatives were also taken in the wake of 08 June, 1997. The formation of Civil Defence teams across the State is one example. Its volunteers have served their communities well and brought some coherence to the manner in which the State handles and mitigates disasters. But that group also appears to have withdrawn away from society and since the anniversary of that cataclysmic night is observed as Disaster Awareness Day in Sikkim, it might be a good idea to resuscitate this volunteer organisation.

Other efforts have fared even more poorly. A high-level technical committee was constituted in the wake of the landslides twenty years ago. It must have prepared a report too and submitted it, but no one seems to be aware of its contents, in fact, they also appear unsure of its present location. Some rules have been framed to check against future mishaps, but how judiciously they are followed and enforced is there for all to see. But that’s about the administration. The monsoon is almost upon us, it is already too late to attempt anything grand, but even a quick revision of the do’s and don’ts that 1997 taught the administration and the people might be of some help. At least better than just fretting and praying.

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Many plant species at risk of extinction – and we’re blind to danger this poses to life on Earth

SARAH MCKIM & CLAIE HALPIN
theconversation.com

Up to a million species may go extinct due to human activity according to a recent report, some within decades. We all know the mammals in trouble – polar bears, giant pandas and snow leopards – but how many of us could name an endangered plant? A 2019 report assessed 28,000 plant species and concluded that about half of them were threatened with extinction.

This failure to notice and appreciate plants has been termed “plant blindness”, and it’s particularly worrying because there are significantly more plant species at risk than mammals, despite the latter hogging most of our attention.

Luckily, we developed a one minute cure for plant blindness that’s free and easy to do. Simply stop what you’re doing and look around. Are you in a room with wood or fibreboard floorboards or furniture? Do you see wallpaper, books or tissues? These are all made from plants. Your clothes may be made from plant fibres, such as cotton and linen. Perhaps you have food, fruit juice or a glass of wine nearby. Even if you’re in an office with plastic furniture, carpet tiles and wearing a polyester suit, these were made from oil generated over millions of years from plant and animal remains. Our lives are utterly dependent on plants, so why don’t we see them?

LOST CONNECTIONS

Our lack of appreciation for plants is a fairly recent thing. Our history tells a very different story. The dawn of farming around 12,000 years ago was when people became obsessed with growing plants for food, changing the way we live and our planet forever. Starting with domesticating cereals such as barley, rice and wheat, humanity’s increasing population and sedentary communities depended on their ability to farm, leading to entire civilisations focused on agriculture.

Industrialisation and the more recent “green revolution” in agriculture led to incredible increas-

es in cereal production and farming efficiency, allowing more people to live in cities rather than work on farms. Our agricultural success is a major reason why, for the first time in our history, most humans no longer farm, leaving people free to ignore our complete dependence on plants.

Tragically, our talent for farming has come at a huge cost to biodiversity. Right now, half of the habitable land on earth is used for agriculture, a major reason behind our current extinction crisis.

Should we care about losing the diversity of plant species, as long as we are producing enough food? Absolutely. Plants are the major food producers in most ecosystems, providing nourishment and shelter to microbes, fungi, insects and animal species which themselves play key roles in ecosystems.

While some creatures eat one type of plant – such as the bamboo-dependent giant panda – micro-organisms which live in the soil and make land fertile by recycling plant nutrients, perform better the more different plant species there are growing. Plant diversity also improves how much carbon is pulled from the atmosphere and stored in the soil – vital for mitigating climate change.

The crops that feed us may increasingly depend on the survival of other plant species. Crops are vulnerable to disease and climate change, but wild and ancient species are often resistant to diseases and can grow on poor soils and in difficult environments. These plants will have genes that could make crops disease-resistant and allow them to grow in harsher conditions with less fertiliser and pesticide. We need this invaluable genetic heritage so that more people can continue to eat well in the future.

Our health is also intimately connected with plant diversity. Just under half of all prescription medicines come directly from plants or by remaking plant chemicals. We’ve screened only a fraction of species for potential medicines – we don’t know how many useful plant chemicals and genes remain to be discovered. Even the most overlooked

plants can be enormously important.

You might be surprised to learn that the species most studied to understand how plants work is a genus of tiny weeds called Arabidopsis. Most people have never heard of them and couldn’t identify them, even though they regularly pull them from their garden. By studying Arabidopsis, scientists learned how plants know when to flower, which is being used to improve our understanding of flowering in vegetable crops – key to improving their yield. They also learned how Arabidopsis defends itself from pathogens, which could be used to make crops resistant to disease.

We can cultivate an appreciation of plants and their importance by improving access to parks, botanic gardens and forests, as well as including plant biology throughout the science curriculum in schools. But we also need to ensure there is a future for the thousands of species threatened with extinction. We need to produce more food on less land, so that natural habitats can thrive.

Plants could contribute even more to society’s needs in the future. Technologies already exist for making fuels and plastic from the agricultural waste of straw, grain husks and potato peel. These alternatives sadly won’t compete with cheap oil until we pay the full cost of our current lifestyles with a carbon tax. To avoid mass extinctions, we need transformative change in our politics, economics and technology to preserve and sustainably use the incredible natural resources that Earth provides.

A painless first step towards making this change is something you could do every day: our one minute cure for plant blindness. If we stop, think and appreciate how plants enrich our lives, we will learn to respect our agricultural heritage and natural habitats and better manage the trade-offs between them.

[Sarah McKim is Principal Investigator of Plant Developmental Biology, University of Dundee; Claire Halpin is Professor of Plant Biology and Biotechnology, University of Dundee]

Narcissism – and the various ways it can lead to domestically abusive relationships

AVA VALASHJARD
theconversation.com

Narcissism is a topic that is increasingly spoken about in today’s Instagram obsessed age of self-promotion and vanity. There has also been a significant increase in studies and investigations into narcissism, and that too has brought narcissism far more into the public domain.

Any evidence of increasing self-awareness is to be welcomed. And yet, there is a danger here, because narcissism is a far more complex condition than the popular conception implies.

Popular ideas of narcissism bring to mind the Donald Trumps and Jair Bolsonaro of the world – those with a grandiose self-image, an inflated ego and feelings of entitlement to special treatment. We think of those for whom any criticism is met with anger and rage. (Think Trump’s near-constant accusation of “fake news!” whenever he is challenged or criticised.) In terms of relationships, narcissists are often thought to be self-obsessed self-promoters who are interested in quickly moving from one relationship to the next.

Narcissistic behaviour also involves a lack of empathy, an exploitative attitude towards others and, paradoxically – given that it represents a clear sign that they are unable to convince themselves of their own brilliance – a burning need for peoples’ attention and admiration.

Narcissism, in its medical sense, can be understood as existing along a spectrum. At the lower end, narciss-

ism is an adaptive and healthy state, one which most of us possess, and is closely linked with assertiveness and healthy self-regard. At the higher end, though, narcissism is so extreme that it is classified as a personality disorder. This affects a small percentage of the population.

But to conceive of narcissism as being an easy-to-spot personality trait, typically manifested through grandiose, male type characteristics, ignores a key side to narcissism that could go unseen. At least that is what my recent study shows. And this could influence how we think about narcissism in relationships in important ways.

COMPLICATED NARCISSISM

In conducting interviews with partners of narcissistic individuals, colleagues and I explored the motives underpinning the behaviour of narcissists. Most of the people we spoke to were approached through social media as self-perceived victims of narcissistic partners.

Before the interviews, we deliberately did not provide explicit guidance regarding the definition of narcissism as we wanted people’s own views to channel their thoughts. But participants’ understandings of narcissism in response to the question “In general, how would you describe a narcissist?” were carefully compared and analysed with more common clinical measures to ensure they had indeed been with a partner with narcissistic traits.

We found some manifestations that fitted the standard picture of narcissism. Narcissistic partners who

displayed these standard, grandiose features were likely to react with violence in response to threats to their self-esteem, typically when demands of entitlement, admiration and perceived authority were not met. These relationships were described by participants as swift and vicious – they charmed and disarmed, and subjected partners to abuse, often quite overtly, as a way to defend themselves against the slightest injury and ego-threatening situations.

But the picture was more complex than this. We found that many narcissists, instead of reacting with grandiose responses, reacted vulnerably. Rather than reacting with the threat of abandoning their partners, they commonly reacted with the fear of being abandoned. In other words, the violence was there, but through an act of clinging on rather than throwing away.

This suggests that relationships with more vulnerable narcissists may be more slow and insidious, and potentially more harmful. In these cases, the manifestation of narcissist characteristics was found to be more subtle, leading to sulky, passive aggressive abuse of partners in response to fears of being abandoned.

READING THE SIGNS

What, then, are the identifiable signs that would unmask the behaviour of vulnerable narcissists? At the root of vulnerable narcissism is the profound fear of abandonment. Such individuals have a fearful attachment style, which is indicative of vulnerable narcissists’ hidden entitled expectations of partners to satis-

fy their needs while fearing they will fail to do so.

This suggests that the fear of abandonment is not necessarily to do with the potential loss of the partner. Instead, it relates to the potential loss of what their partner can offer to make the narcissist feel better. Key possible indicators of vulnerable narcissism to look out for are any manipulation and covert psychological abuse that aims to inspire power and control, for instance through adopting a “victim” status to inspire sympathy in partners or to keep them in a heightened state of co-dependent anxiety.

Whereas the grandiose narcissist may become angry and then leave, the vulnerable narcissist will become angry, administer the same level and degree of abuse, but then do everything to stop their partner from leaving.

Of course, things are more subtle and complex in reality. And it’s important to remember here that we’re dealing with people, and that labelling should be avoided at all costs. But there needs to be a shift in how we as a society understand and approach narcissism. Because our research indicates that when narcissism is manifested in its commonly known grandiose form, it is highly damaging, but when it is masked and hidden in its vulnerable form, it can be far more painful, far more drawn out, and in some cases far more damaging.

[the writer is PhD candidate and Associate Lecturer, Edinburgh Napier University]

Students' body calls off indefinite hunger strike in Nagaland

KOHIMA, JUN 6 (PTI): An indefinite hunger strike called by a students' body in Nagaland in support of its five-point charter of demands has been called off following the intervention of Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, the organisers said Wednesday.

The demands included action against erring officials for alleged siphoning of Rs 1.32 crore from the state technical scholarship funds in 2014-16 and resignation of the director of technical education for not revealing the names of those involved.

On the expiry of an ultimatum seeking fulfillment of their demands served to the Technical Education Department on May 25, the All Nagaland College Students' Union (ANCSU) had launched the hunger strike on June 4.

An indefinite Dimapur bandh called by the same organisation from June 5 has also been postponed, ANCSU vice president Benjong Longchar and general secretary Vimeyiekhon Vitso told a press conference here.

The chief minister had called the ANCSU leaders for a discussion on Wednesday following police action against the agitating students at the Secretariat on Tuesday, which was condemned by student bodies and civil societies, Longchar said.

Deputy Chief Minister Y Patton and Minister for Higher Education and Technical Education Temjen Imna Along were also present at the meeting.

Among the other demands were setting up of a nodal cell to implement the scholarship schemes in Nagaland, settlement of Kohima Science College land encroachment issue by making alternative arrangements and initiating necessary actions for the welfare of the college.

The ANCSU also demanded recruitment of 110 professors through the Nagaland Public Service Commission to fill up the vacant posts of assistant professors and an investigation into the implementation of all the 18 scholarship schemes in the state.

Longchar claimed that the state government has agreed to meet their demands immediately.

Arunachal govt taking steps to check crime, violence: Minister

ITANAGAR, JUN 6 (PTI): A road map has been drawn to initiate measures to regain Arunachal Pradesh's lost glory as the "island of peace", with involvement of all stakeholders, including community-based organisations and students, state Home Minister Bamang Felix said Thursday.

The new project 'Hamara Arunachal Abhiyan'-is aimed at reducing crime and violence in the state by taking "strict action against those trying to destabilise peace", he said.

"We will involve people from all walks of life to effectively deal with the deteriorating law and order condition in Arunachal. The 'abhiyan' will be soon kicked off by Chief Minister Pema Khandu," Felix told reporters after convening a review meeting of the state police department.

Arunachal has witnessed widespread violence over the past few months, the recent one being the May 21 militant ambush, which claimed the life of Khonsa West legislator Tirong Aboh and ten others.

In February, three people were killed and several injured in clashes over issuance



of Permanent Resident Certificates to six non-Arunachalee communities.

Felix, while addressing the press meet, said the state cabinet has sanctioned the creation of 1000 new posts of civil police officers to strengthen the existing force.

"The government has also proposed the creation of an anti-riot battalion in the state to effectively deal with the law and order situation. The idea is in the conceptual stage and we have written to the finance department for its approval. Once cleared, the other modalities will be worked out," the minister stated.

The state government had last year sanctioned Rs 9.5 crore for police modernisation, and the process of procuring arms and other equipment will be completed soon, he said.

"The government will not tolerate any form of violence nor will it spare anybody trying to destabilise peace in the state," Felix added.

Among other present at Thursday's press meet were DGP SBK Singh and Home Commissioner Ashish Chandra Verma.

Asked about the alleged security lapses in the Khonsa massacre, Singh said, "A joint operation of the Army and the police has been launched

to nab the culprits involved in Aboh's killing. We have directed the Army to seal the border with Nagaland," he added. Felix, on his part, said the government has already announced that it would hand over the case to the NIA.

The newly sworn-in state cabinet members, during their first sitting on Sunday night, had unanimously decided that the Aboh killing case will be handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) as "thorough investigation needs to be carried out in a time-bound manner and justice be delivered expeditiously to the bereaved family members".

Five more arrested in Congress candidate murder case

BERHAMPUR (ODISHA), JUN 6 (PTI): Five more persons were arrested for their alleged involvement in the murder of Congress candidate of Aska Assembly constituency in Ganjam district, police said Thursday.

With this, as many as seven people have so far been arrested for their alleged involvement in the killing of Manoj Jena (46), Congress candidate from Aska Assembly constituency on May 22, a day before the counting of votes, police said.

Anand Swain (24),

Shankar Rout (18), Sibaram Behera (22), Kartika Nahak (26) were arrested from Laxmipur in Koraput district, while Sultan alias Sunil Kumar Nayak (34) was arrested from Balugaon railway station on Wednesday, Superintendent of Police, Berhampur, Pinak Mishra said.

Three motorcycles, two crude pistols, three rounds of live ammunition, two knives, 10 mobile phones and around Rs 3,500 cash have been seized from the accused, the SP said. Earlier, po-

lice had arrested two accused persons, Ganesh Nayak and Hrushikesh Patra, for their alleged role in the murder, police said. The main conspirator in the murder case is, however, still at large. "We have identified the main accused as Bhagaban Sahu, a liquor trader. A special police team has been formed to arrest him," he the SP said.

According to preliminary investigation, personal enmity and rivalry in liquor business appeared to have led to the crime, he said.

Missing Army plane: Arunachal villagers saw smoke in mountain on route



ITANAGAR, JUN 6 (PTI): Residents of an Arunachal Pradesh village Thursday said they had seen thick black smoke billowing from a mountain on Monday, the day an Indian Air Force aircraft carrying 13 people went missing, prompting authorities to verify the claim.

As efforts to locate the missing plane continued, Chief Minister Pema Khandu called up deputy commissioners of Siang, West Siang, Lower Siang and Shi-Yomi districts and directed them to intensify the search operation.

The authorities of Siang and West Siang districts have formed three teams to carry out searches in as many mountain ranges on the aircraft's route, a statement from the Chief Minister's Office said here.

Three people from Tumbin village said that on Monday afternoon

they had seen thick black smoke originating from a mountain towards Molo village in Siang district. "This is being verified," Director General of Police S B K Sing informed the CMO.

The Russian-origin aircraft lost contact on Monday afternoon after taking off from Jorhat in Assam for Mechuka advanced landing ground near the border with China. Mechuka is also the headquarter of Shi-Yomi district of Arunachal Pradesh.

Each of the teams set up by the two district authorities consists of 3-4 local people and they will trek to Bayor Adi Mountain range near Tumbin village, Pari Adi mountain range near Molo village and Sibir-Virgong mountain range between Molo and Tumbin, the statement said.

"Necessary logistical support have been pro-

vided to the teams. Bayor Adi team trekked yesterday and returned without any news," it said.

A joint effort by civil police, Army and Air Force is also in force to search the crash location in an area of about 2,500 square kilometre under Kaying and Payum circles of Siang district.

However, the location is yet to be found out.

The chief minister also appealed to the villagers of the areas falling on the route of the aircraft to provide information, if they had any, to the nearest administrative headquarter or police outpost.

The aircraft took off from Jorhat at 12.27 pm for the Mechuka advance landing ground, and its last contact with the ground control was at 1 pm. A total of eight crew and five passengers were on board the plane.

NCDRC asks WB hosp, doctor to pay Rs 3.4 lakh for deficiency in service, leading to patient's death

NEW DELHI, JUN 6 (PTI): Apex consumer commission NCDRC has directed a hospital in West Bengal and its doctor to pay Rs 3.4 lakh as compensation to the family of a 15-year old girl, who died due to delay in surgery, saying timely treatment would have increased her chance of survival.

The girl was admitted to the hospital suffering from appendicular perforation and she was advised to seek treatment elsewhere.

When her father expressed inability to shift her, the doctor conducted the operation later that night, saying there was no availability of a surgical team earlier.

However, her condition deteriorated further and she was transferred to another hospital with ventilator support accompanied by the surgical team. The girl was declared dead the next day.

Observing that timely treatment would have given her a shot at life, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission directed Arogya Niketan Nursing Home Village in Paschim Medinipore, West Bengal, to pay Rs 1 lakh and

Dr Madhusudan Pal, the treating doctor, to pay Rs 2 lakh to the father of the girl.

They were both directed to pay Rs 20,000 each as litigation cost to the father.

The commission also said the hospital and the doctor knew of the girl's critical condition but still nothing was done by them, saying it was an act of omission on their part.

"There was delay of 12 hours which proved fatal to the patient. In our view, non-availability of surgical team was a lame excuse. It was the total neglect which caused further deterioration.

"In the instant case nothing was done by them (doctor and hospital) but they neglected the serious patient who was just lying in the verandah of nursing home. Thus, during emergency it was not reasonable care from them. It was an act of omission on the part of both when they knew that the patient was knocking on the door of death," NCDRC Presiding member S M Kantikar and member Dinesh Singh said, adding that it amounted to deficiency in service.

IPS officer deposes before CBI in Narada tapes scam

KOLKATA, JUN 6 (PTI): SMH Mirza, an IPS officer who had been shown in the Narada tapes allegedly taking cash from a purported businessman in a sting operation conducted in 2014, deposed before the CBI officials here on Thursday.

Mirza was the Superintendent of Police of Burdwan district when the sting operation was conducted by Mathew Samuels of the Narada News portal.

The CBI is investigating the case to find out who had instructed Mirza to take the cash offered to him and on whose behalf, sources in the probe agency said.

In the sting opera-

tion, which was claimed to have been carried out in 2014, some persons resembling senior Trinamool Congress leaders and the IPS officer are seen accepting money from the representatives of a fictitious company in return for favours.

However, the sting video footages were uploaded in the news portal before the West Bengal assembly elections in 2016, creating a furore in the state politics.

Taking over investigation of the case following a Calcutta High Court order, the CBI had booked 12 top TMC leaders, including MPs and West Bengal ministers, and Mirza.

Jaishankar to embark on two-day visit to Bhutan from Friday: MEA



NEW DELHI, JUN 6 (PTI): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will embark on a two-day visit to Bhutan from Friday, his first overseas trip after assuming charge of the ministry.

MEA Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said during the visit, Jaishankar would call on Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering and is expected to receive an audience with King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

He will also hold talks with his Bhutanese counterpart Tandi Dorji.

"It will be Jaishankar's first visit abroad as the external affairs minister and reflects the importance that India

attaches to its relationship with Bhutan, a close friend and neighbour," Kumar said.

Bhutan has been a close ally of India and bilateral ties between the two countries are on an upswing in the last few years.

"India and Bhutan share a unique and time tested bilateral relationship, characterised by utmost trust, goodwill and mutual understanding," said Kumar.

"During the visit, the two sides will discuss entire gamut of bilateral relations, including the upcoming high-level exchanges, economic development and hydro-power cooperation," he added.

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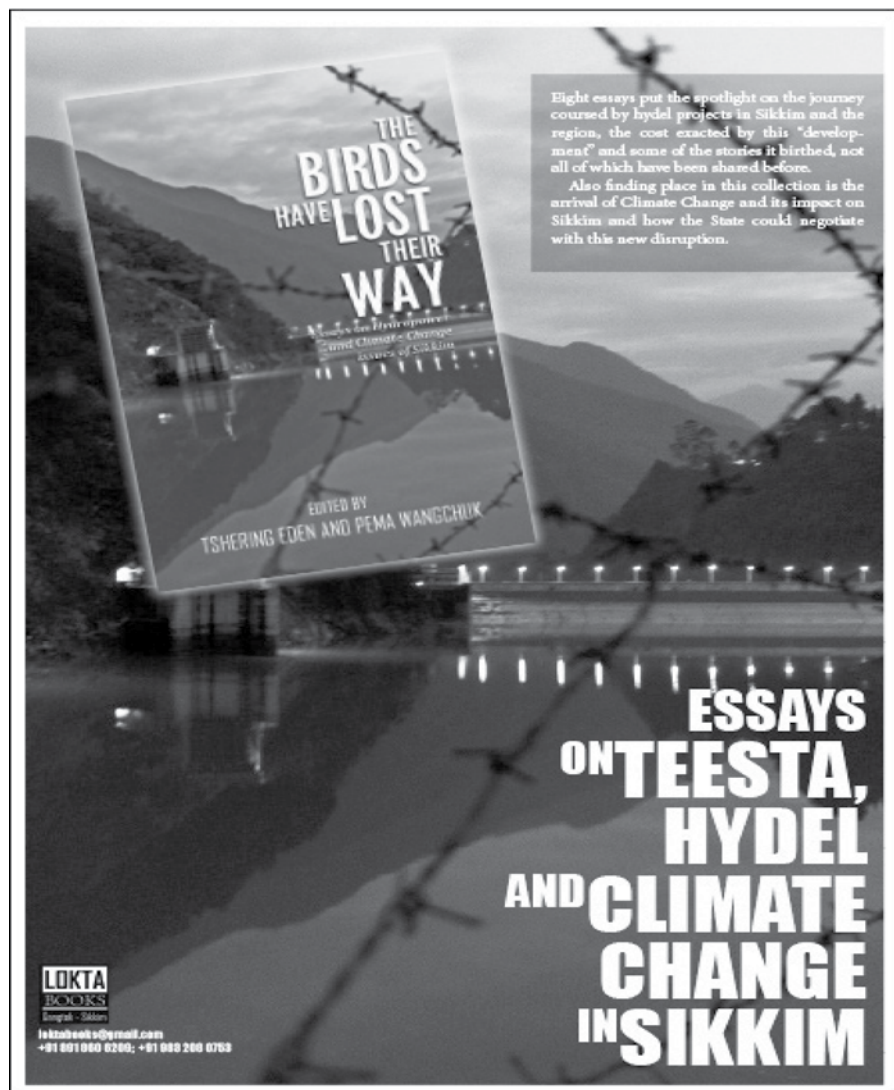
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I want to retire after Tokyo Olympics, says Mary Kom



NEW DELHI, JUN 6 (PTI): After years of speculation over her retirement, six-time world champion MC Mary Kom on Thursday said she plans to hang her gloves after winning the elusive gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics.

The 36-year-old has been the inspiring force in Indian boxing. In her 18-year long illustrious career, she has won six World Championships, an Olympic bronze medal, and five Asian Championships.

Besides being an active and top-level boxer,

she is also a sitting Rajya Sabha MP.

"After 2020 I want to retire. So my main mission is to get a gold for India. I really really want to win (gold)," Mary Kom said on the sidelines of an event organised by Colgate. Mary Kom won the the bronze medal in the flyweight category at the 2012 London Olympics. She now aims to change the shade of her medal to gold.

"I always try my best to give a medal to the country and if possible a gold. I will be starting

my preparation for the Olympic qualifiers and the World Championship. I want to win a gold medal this time."

The boxing fraternity is facing tumultuous conditions in the run up to the Olympics next year. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has stripped the International Boxing Association (AIBA) from hosting events at the Tokyo Olympics.

The IOC has announced that it will prepare a new calendar for Olympic qualifiers be-

tween January and May next year and it may even have a re-look at the weight categories. Indian pugilists are stuck in a limbo but Mary Kom feels it is beneficial for her if the qualifiers are held next year. "It is actually better for me I will get more time to prepare," she said.

"We are training regularly for all competitions not just the Olympics. In the World Championship, I will get to know the opponents, what their strengths and weaknesses are. Accord-

ingly I can prepare. I will also get extra time for preparing if the qualifiers are held later."

After failing to qualify for the Rio Games, Mary Kom had changed her weight category to 48kg in December 2016 but now the pugilist from Manipur is back to competing in the 51kg.

Asked about the transition, Mary Kom said: "51kg category is not new for me. I was fighting in this category 4-5 years back. It was not continuous because I kept changing my weight."

Players from 23 nations for Mumbai Mayor's Chess

MUMBAI, JUN 6 (PTI): Venezuelan Grand Master Iturrizaga Bonelli-Eduardo is to lead a field of 225 players, representing 23 countries, in the open category of the 12th Mumbai Mayor's International Chess Tournament scheduled here from June 9-16.

Players from Russia, Spain, Brazil, Georgia, Belgium, Belarus, America, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Sri Lanka, Armenia, Australia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Chile, Iran, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Tajikistan, Venezuela, Slovakia, Vietnam and hosts India will be participating in the tournament, a media release said Thursday.

Apart from Bonelli-Eduardo, with an ELO rating of 2637, defending champion GM Amonatov Farrukh of Tajikistan, with an ELO rating of 2624, and GM Pantsulaia

Levan of Georgia (ELO 2614) are the second and third seeds. GM Deepen Chakravarthy from Tamil Nadu, seeded 11th in the tournament, is the highest ranked Indian player, while WIM Divya Deshmukh will lead the Indian female contingent.

The players in the open international section would be vying for the first prize of Rs 3 lakh from the total prize fund of 14 lakhs.

The event is a 10-round tournament with a classical time-control of 60 minutes + 30 seconds increment from move 1.

In addition, the players also stand a chance to earn the GM/IM norm.

B and C category events, with prize fund of Rs 11 lakh each, would also be held simultaneously from June 9-13, therelease added.

This is Rohit's best ever ODI innings, says skipper Kohli

Kushan Sarkar Southamton, Jun 6 (PTI): Virat Kohli has watched Rohit Sharma score quite a few 'Daddy Hundreds' but the Indian captain rated his deputy's unbeaten 122 against South Africa in their World Cup opener as his best innings in one day cricket. Rohit, who has an unprecedented three double hundreds in 50-over format, hit his 23rd ton on a bouncy Ageas Bowl track under overcast conditions.

"I think in my opinion this is by far his best ODI innings because of the kind of pressure the first game brings from a World Cup point of view," Kohli said at the post-match press conference.

"And then I know, as a batsman, when you go in and a few balls bounce like that, it's not easy to gather yourself again and play in a calm manner."

According to Kohli, the best part about Rohit's innings was his composure as he was ready to curb his natural attacking instinct and put his head down and be patient.

"A lot of times batsmen tend to hit their way out of the situation. But he was very composed. He's played so many games, we expect a lot of maturity and a lot of responsibility from someone like him," he said.

"In my opinion, of all the brilliant innings I have seen him play, I think this, for me, was the top of the pile because of the way he compiled his innings and at no stage did we feel like, or he felt like he is going to throw it away," the skipper said.

Rohit hit 13 boundaries and two sixes in his 144-



ball innings to help India overhaul the victory target of 228 in 47.3 overs for a six-wicket win. Kohli said the best part about Rohit's innings was the manner in which he set the pace, dropping anchor while others had the freedom to attack. "I think controlling the game so beautifully from one end and allowing the others to display themselves and string in small little partnerships, looking at the fact that they were only chasing 228..." he said. "Rohit played the perfect innings for that kind of a situation on that kind of a wicket against a bowling attack that was threatening to pick up wickets at any stage. So, yeah, in my opinion, by far his best knock" the skipper had no doubt.

Yuzvendra Chahal's four wickets and Kuldeep Yadav's tight spell set it up nicely for the Indian team as South Africa were restricted to 227 for nine in 50 overs.

Once again after their away tour in 2018 when they had picked up an aggregate of 33 wickets between them, 'Kul-Cha' were again at the forefront picking up five wickets for 96 runs in their combined 20 overs.

"A massive factor. We spoke about the fact the last time we played them, they were not that confident against our spinners. What we ex-

perienced was they were not able to rotate strike so well," Kohli said. "They were trying to hit their way out of a situation which, for a captain, any day I would love batsmen trying to hit boundaries to get out of trouble rather than rotating strike because the risk factor is high." The skipper termed the performance of his team as a "professional" one as they had to also battle the conditions.

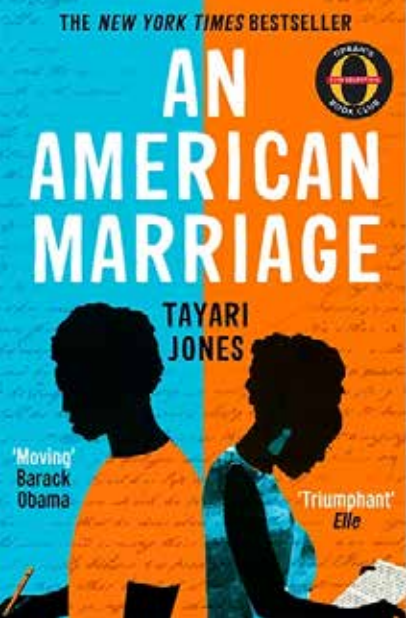
"I think it was a professional effort from us. It was a low-scoring game, not the highest of totals you will see in one-day cricket nowadays."

"That was because of the way the pitch was throughout the course of the game and I think, from that point of view, we were very professional with the new ball as well as in the middle overs," he said.

A good start is always essential for any team and Kohli said this win over South Africa will help in creating positive vibes in the team.

"Starting off well is always an important thing and we got together nicely as a team in the first half on the field. It is very important to create that energy and we were able to do that in the first ten and from there, we really built the game nicely and finished it off in a professional manner," he said.

American author Tayari Jones' 'An American Marriage' wins Women's Prize for Fiction



LONDON, JUNE 6 (PTI): American author Tayari Jones has won the Women's Prize for Fiction for her book, "An American Marriage". The book, which portrays a young African American's wrongful conviction and how it affects his marriage, has beaten two former Booker prize winners to take home "one of the biggest international celebrations of women's creativity".

Last year's Booker prize winner "Milkman" by Anna Burns and former Booker winner Pat Barker's new novel, "The Silence of the Girls", were also shortlisted for the women's award.

"This is an exquisitely intimate portrait of a

marriage shattered by racial injustice. It is a story of love, loss and loyalty, the resilience of the human spirit painted on a big political canvas that shines a light on today's America. We all loved this brilliant book," Kate Williams, Chair of Judges, said on Wednesday.

The author received the 30,000 prize and the Bessie', a limited edition bronze figurine, at an awards ceremony hosted in Bedford Square Gardens by novelist and Women's Prize Founder Director, Kate Mosse.

"This is a powerful story about love and family, injustice and strength. Through 'An American Marriage', Tayari Jones proves she is not just a

masterful storyteller, but also a visionary writer, unafraid to address important issues about race, class and society head-on," organisers said in a statement.

The Women's Prize for Fiction one of the biggest international celebrations of women's creativity is the UK's only annual book award for fiction celebrating excellence, originality and accessibility in women's writing from throughout the world.

Now in its 24th year, the prize was set up in 1996, to celebrate and promote international fiction by women throughout the world to the widest range of readers possible.

De Villiers wanted to come back for WC but SA rejected offer with 'no regrets'

JOHANNESBURG, JUN 6 (PTI): AB de Villiers wanted to come out of retirement for the World Cup but Cricket South Africa (CSA) refused to accept the offer as the batting great had ignored pleas to not retire last year.

According to 'ES-PNCRicinfo', de Villiers made the offer to come back in May, barely 24 hours before the final squad for the ongoing showpiece in the UK was to be announced by CSA.

The revelation came amid a disastrous start to South Africa's World Cup campaign, which has seen them lose three matches including one to Bangladesh. While Wednesday's six-wicket defeat to India turned the situation from bad to worse, the loss of pace great Dale Steyn to a shoulder injury has also considerably weakened the team.

CSA selection panel convenor Linda Zondi confirmed that de Villiers did make the offer and that skipper Faf du Plessis and coach Ottis Gibson were quite keen to have him back as well.

However, de Villiers' omission was based on principles, Zondi said.

"I pleaded with AB de Villiers not to retire in 2018. Although there was a perception that he was picking and choosing when to play - which was not true - I did give him the option to plan and monitor his season to get him to the World Cup fresh and in a good space," Zondi said in the CSA release.

"He turned down the offer and said he was at peace with his decision to retire," he recalled.

"For Faf du Ples-



sis and Ottis Gibson to share AB's desire to be included in the squad on the day we announced our World Cup squad on April 18th was a shock to all of us. AB left a big vacuum when he retired, we had a year to find players at franchise level to fill the gap," he added.

Amid the revelations, de Villiers expressed his support for the beleaguered team.

"All that's important is that we should all focus on supporting the team at the World Cup. There is a long way to go and I believe the boys can still go all the way," de Villiers wrote on his twitter handle.

The three straight defeats have left South Africa with an improbable task of winning all six of their remaining preliminary fixtures, just to keep their prospects of reaching the semi-finals alive.

Zondi said that de Villiers dropped no hints of wanting to come back in the year gone by.

"We had players who put in the hard work, who put up their hands and deserved to be given the opportunity to go to the World Cup.

"At no point in the year that he had retired did he make himself available for selection. It was no option when

I received the news on the day of the squad announcement, our squad was finalised and confirmed," he said.

The 35-year-old swashbuckler is considered a modern-day great for his innovative shots and more importantly, his ability to decimate rival attacks, making him a game-changer.

"AB is undoubtedly one of the best players in the world, but above all else, we have to stay true to our morals and principles, there is no regret in the decision," Zondi said.

Retirement in 2018, exactly a year before the World Cup, meant de Villiers could not fulfil the selection criteria, which included playing domestic or international cricket in the intervening months. The report stated that it was recalling the dashing batsman at the last moment would have been unfair on the players who have been performing in his absence, such as Rassie van der Dussen. Dussen made three fifties in his first four ODI innings after making his debut against Pakistan in January.

Before the cricket community trained its eyes on the World Cup, de Villiers turned out for his IPL franchise, Royal Challengers Bangalore.

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Pak S&T minister now announces dates of Eid & Muharram

ISLAMABAD, JUN 6 (PTI): Pakistan's science and technology minister Fawad Chaudhry has replaced the country's clerics in announcing the dates of major Muslim festivals and the holy month of Muharram.

Chaudhry, a close aide of Prime Minister Imran Khan, on Thursday announced this year's dates for Eidul Azha and the beginning of the holy month of Muharram according to scientific evidence. He had announced the date for Eid-ul-Fitr in Pakistan last month, angering the clerics.

In a tweet, the minister said that this year, Eidul Azha will fall on Monday, August 12 while the holy month of Muharram, which marks the start of the Islamic year, will begin on Sunday, September 1.

"Now that the argument over this Eid has ended, what are the [dates] for the next two most important Islamic days, i.e., Eidul Azha and [beginning of] Muharram: According to the Hijri calendar, Eidul Azha will fall on Monday, Aug 12 while Muharram will [start] from Sunday, Sept 1," Chaudhry tweeted. The dates have been derived from the lunar calendar that was launched by the Ministry for Science and Technology last month, seeking to end the controversies over the sighting of the moon for Islamic months, Dawn newspaper reported.

The calendar, which can be accessed through Pakistan's "first official" moonsighting website as well as a mobile application, indicates scientifically determined dates for all major Islamic festivals/days for the ongoing and next years.

Putin says Russia prepared to drop START treaty

SAINT PETERSBURG, JUN 6 (AFP): President Vladimir Putin on Thursday said Russia was prepared to drop a nuclear arms control agreement with the US, known as New START, if there was a lack of interest in renewing it. "If no-one feels like extending the agreement - New START - well, we won't do it then," Putin said at an economic forum in Saint Petersburg, referring to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. "We said a hundred times that we are ready (to extend it)," Putin said, lamenting that Washington was "not conducting any talks" on the issue with Moscow.

"There is no formal negotiating process. And in 2021 everything will end." The treaty was signed by US President Barack Obama and Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev in Prague in 2010. The agreement, which caps the number of nuclear warheads well below Cold War limits, is set to expire in two years' time.

Together with another agreement known as the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty, New START is considered a centrepiece of superpower arms control.

Fiat Chrysler slams brakes on Renault merger offer

PARIS, JUN 6 (AFP): Italian-American carmaker Fiat Chrysler on Thursday withdrew its blockbuster proposal to merge with Renault, blaming political objections in Paris and sparking a war of words with French officials.

Fiat Chrysler (FCA) had stunned the markets last week by proposing a "merger of equals" with the French group that would create an auto giant spanning the globe.

The plan was welcomed by analysts as one of the few deals in the auto sector that might prove a success, given the companies' complementary range of vehicles and regional markets.

The French government, which controls 15 percent of Renault, gave it a conditional green light but also warned against "haste".

In a statement issued after a board meeting Wednesday evening, FCA said it "remains firmly convinced of the compelling, transformational rationale" of its proposal, which it said was "carefully balanced to deliver substantial benefits to all parties".

"However it has be-



come clear that the political conditions in France do not currently exist for such a combination to proceed successfully," it added.

Renault, whose longstanding alliance with Japan's Nissan is in trouble, expressed its "disappointment".

Shares in the French company plunged by almost seven percent in early afternoon trades in Paris. In Milan, FCA shares also slid at the open but then recovered

to show a small gain.

The deal would have created a group worth more than 30 billion euros (34 billion) across the two companies' namesake brands as well as Alfa Romeo, Jeep, Maserati, Dacia and Lada.

Renault's board had said on Tuesday that it was studying "with interest" the FCA offer but held off on granting approval pending further deliberations.

On Wednesday, all Renault directors favoured

the merger, apart from an employee's representative affiliated with the powerful CGT union and two from Nissan who abstained, a source close to Renault said.

The two Nissan directors were said to have asked for more time to approve the deal. There was no official comment from Nissan headquarters in Tokyo.

Relations in the partnership have been under strain since the arrest in November of former

Renault and Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn, who awaits trial in Japan on charges of under-reporting his salary for years while at Nissan and using company funds for personal expenses.

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said Wednesday that Renault plans to bring its own case against Ghosn after identifying 11 million euros of questionable expenses.

Le Maire had set conditions for the FCA

tieup, including no plant closures and that the Renault-Nissan alliance be preserved.

A combined mega-group that included Nissan and Mitsubishi would be by far the world's biggest, selling 15 million vehicles and surpassing Volkswagen and Toyota, which sell around 10.6 million each.

The Renault source said Le Maire had asked for another board meeting next Tuesday after he returns from a trip to Japan where he was to discuss the proposal with his Japanese counterpart.

A source close to FCA blamed the "sudden and incomprehensible" objections of Le Maire's ministry for causing the collapse of the deal.

"New demands imposed by the French government have led to this damaging situation for all parties," the source told AFP.

Italian Deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio said: "When politics tries to intervene in economic procedures, they don't always behave correctly, I don't want to say any more."

But Le Maire stressed

that of his conditions for the FCA alliance, only the explicit approval of Nissan remained to be secured, while aides denied that the ministry had played politics with the deal.

A source close to the finance ministry said the French government "regrets the hasty decision of FCA".

"From the beginning, the (French) state has wanted the necessary time to examine" the deal, the source said.

"Despite significant progress, a short delay was still necessary so that all conditions set by the state could be met." Foreign takeovers of major French firms are highly controversial and successive governments have sought to defend domestic industrial groups that are seen as important for their technology or jobs.

French Budget Minister Gerald Darmanin said the government was right to demand guarantees of FCA.

"And to seek (more) time for a wedding is normal," he told Franceinfo radio, while keeping the door open for the deal to be revived.

Sudan denies more than 100 killed in protest crackdown

KHARTOUM, JUN 6 (AFP): Sudanese authorities admitted dozens of people were killed in a crackdown on protesters but denied doctors' claims the death toll has topped 100, as heavily armed paramilitaries guarded the tense capital.

Members of the Rapid Support Forces, who rights groups say have their origins in the Janjaweed militias of Darfur, were on the streets of Khartoum on Thursday in pick-up trucks mounted with machine guns and rocket launchers, witnesses said. It follows a raid by security forces Monday on a long-running sit-in outside the army headquarters that marked the start of a brutal crackdown on demonstrators demanding civilian rule. The Central Committee for Sudanese Doctors said Wednesday that 40 bodies had been pulled from the Nile, sending the death toll soaring to at least 108.

The committee, which is close to protesters and relies on doctors on the ground for its information, warned the figure could rise. Some life had returned to the streets of the capital on Thursday, with limited public transport operating and only a few cars on the roads.

A small number of shops and restaurants were open on the second day of the Eid al-Fitr holiday.

But there was still widespread disruption around the capital.

At Khartoum's airport relatives of travellers stayed late into the night waiting to see if their flights would arrive, following a slew of cancellations over the past few days. Internet blackouts contin-

ued to beset the city. The military ousted longtime president Omar al-Bashir in April after months of protests against his authoritarian rule, but thousands of demonstrators had remained camped out in front of the army headquarters calling for the generals to cede power to civilians.

Despite several initial breakthroughs, talks between the ruling military council that took power after Bashir's ouster and protest leaders reached a deadlock over who should head a new governing body. On Monday, security forces moved in to disperse the weeks-long rally outside the army headquarters. As international condemnation mounted, the health ministry said "no more than 46" people had been killed in "recent events". The United Nations and the British embassy announced they were pulling non-essential staff from Sudan, and the United States warned its citizens to exercise "extreme caution" amid the ongoing uncertainty.

Despite the heavy presence of security forces on Khartoum's main streets, the groups that spearheaded the demonstrations against Bashir made a fresh call on Thursday for civil disobedience.

"The revolution continues and our people are victorious despite the terrorism and violence of the militias," the Sudanese Professionals Association, the group that initially launched the anti-Bashir campaign, posted on Twitter. It urged an "indefinite strike and civil disobedience," warning against

calls for violence. In the northern suburb of Bahri, connecting and smaller roads in the neighbourhood were blocked by protesters putting up makeshift barricades made from rocks, bricks and tree trunks. The protesters blamed the bloody crackdown on the "militias" of the military council.

The Rapid Support Forces have been singled out by protesters.

Heavily deployed in the streets of the capital, some residents seemed wary of the paramilitaries as they moved around the streets.

RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, widely known as "Himediti," said he was on the side of the "revolutionaries," but warned he would not "allow chaos," referring specifically to the barricades put up in some neighbourhoods. The ruling Military Council issued a statement hitting out at the "campaign organised on social media aimed at spreading lies and fabricating accusations." It claimed the RSF "refused to carry out the orders of the former regime to expel demonstrators from the sit-in by force." The armed forces also issued a statement urging citizens to stay away from military sites, without giving a reason.

African and Western governments have been strongly supportive of the protesters but Arab governments, led by Saudi Arabia, have backed the military rulers.

The United Arab Emirates urged resumed talks to "realise the aspirations of the brotherly people of Sudan," echoing a call by its ally Saudi Arabia a day earlier.

Shehbaz Sharif to return to Pakistan on June 8

ISLAMABAD, JUN 6 (PTI): Opposition leader in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif, facing corruption charges, will return to Pakistan on Saturday following a "quick visit" to London, a media report said Thursday.

Shehbaz, 67, served as the chief minister of the politically crucial Punjab province from 2013 to 2018.

He became Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president after his elder brother and three-time Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was disqualified as the par-

ty president following a Supreme Court verdict in the Elections Act 2017 case. Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz will be returning to Pakistan on June 8, the Dawn newspaper reported, quoting a member of his personal staff.

Earlier, lawyers had informed an Accountability Court that Shehbaz will return to Pakistan on June 11.

Shehbaz had announced a "quick visit" to London on April 9 after his name was removed from the no-fly list on La-

hore High Court orders. Party sources said at the time that he intended to return within 10-12 days, the report said. He faces court cases for corruption and dishonesty.

In the Ashiyana housing scam, Shehbaz is accused of ordering the cancellation of a contract given to a successful bidder for the low-cost housing scheme, resulting in a loss of Rs 193 million to the national exchequer.

In the Ramzan Sugar Mills corruption case, Sharif and his son Hamza Shabbaz are accused

of "fraudulently and dishonestly" causing a Rs 213 million loss to the national exchequer.

Shehbaz was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau in October 2018 and released on bail on February 14.

His brother Sharif has been serving a seven-year prison term at Kot Lakhpat Jail in Lahore since December 24, 2018 when an accountability court convicted him in one of the three corruption cases filed in the wake of the apex court's July 28, 2017 order in Panama Papers case.

BEIJING, JUN 6 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping next week on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit at Bishkek, the first meeting between the two leaders after the formation of the new government, Indian envoy Vikram Misri announced Thursday.

"In recent years, India and China have been able to build a very mature and stable relationship. The informal summit between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi in Wuhan last year was a milestone and has been instrumental in taking our relations to a new height," Misri said.

The Indian ambassador was speaking after inaugurating India's Synthite Industries' 3rd manufacturing facility at Wucheng county in Dezhou in China's Shandong province.

It is worth mention-

ing that last year, our leaders met four times on the sidelines of different multi-lateral meetings. Next week, they are again meeting in Bishkek on the sidelines of the SCO Summit," he said.

The SCO summit is due to be held on June 13-14 in the Kyrgyzstan capital.

The SCO is a China-led 8-member security bloc with India and Pakistan being admitted to the grouping in 2017.

This will be their first meeting after Modi's re-election following the stunning victory of the BJP in the general elections. Xi extended his "heartfelt congratulations" to Prime Minister Modi for winning the general elections, in a rare gesture of greeting a foreign leader well before the official announcement of the results. Misri said the economic and commercial engagement between India and China constitutes a major com-

ponent of the bilateral relations with bilateral trade which crossed USD 95 billion last year and is set to cross USD 100 billion this year.

In December last year, Prime Minister Modi met President Xi on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Argentina and discussed joint efforts to further enhance mutual trust and friendship between the two giant neighbours. The April 27-28 Wuhan summit between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi was largely credited to have turned around the bilateral relations soured by the 73-day Doklam standoff, triggered by Chinese troops attempts to build a road close to Indian border in an area also claimed by Bhutan in 2017.

After the Wuhan summit, both the countries stepped up efforts to improve relations on different spheres including the military-to-military ties.



I've had my self destructive heartbreak moments: Shahid Kapoor

BY JUSTIN RAO

MUMBAI, JUN 6 (PTI): Shahid Kapoor says he has gone through his share of “intense self destruction” after a heart-break and one way of overcoming negative emotions for him was to channelise them into his performances.

In his latest, “Kabir Singh”, Shahid plays a surgeon who descends into self-destruction after a heartbreak.

“I’ve had my very intense, self destructive, heartbreak, angsty moments, where I’ve not been in control,” Shahid told PTI.

Describing “Kabir Singh” as a phase in everyone’s life, the actor says some people are “very explosive about how they’re feeling” while others keep it within.

“But that feeling of falling apart, of self destruction for not being able to deal with loss... Only from great love can come great anger. He is a phase in everyone’s life and that how I connected with the character.”

Shahid says as an actor, he is required to channelise negative emotions, including heartbreak.

“You have to channelise all kinds of negative emotions and turn them into positive, otherwise they can take you down, heartbreak being one of them. You’ve to learn to channelise these energies, if you can’t, you become Kabir Singh!”

The “Haider” actor says everybody breaks at some point but it’s one’s call to choose that to “define that moment as your permanent reality.”

“The worst thing to do is to delve in self pity because it keeps you in a place way longer than you need to be. The first thing I do is to try and run away from it. I don’t like to indulge in self pity, it’s

very dangerous.” While the 38-year-old has often played dark characters, Kabir Singh is an obviously flawed man, the one with anger and territorial issues.

When asked how does he approach a character like him, Shahid says, “by not

a happy film. It’s romantic and it has its dark parts but obviously what will attract you in those promos are these edgy scenes but the film has a lot more going for it.” Drawing a parallel with his drug addict rapper Tommy Singh in



judging him.” “He’s real. He’s not trying to fake anything. We do that ourselves also, telling ourselves we are bad in our low phase. That doesn’t help because you’re giving yourself a wrong message.

“You need to tell yourself that you’re a nice person and will come out of this bad phase and find yourself.”

Humanising flawed characters can be tricky and the actor says he doesn’t need to do that.

“They are real, I need to just represent them. Sometimes reality is a bit too real. ‘Haider’ and ‘Udda Punjab’ we’re in dark places, Kabir Singh isn’t at all. He’s an edgy character.

“As a subject matter in totality, it’s

“Udda Punjab”, Shaid says, Kabir Singh’s reasons to do things aren’t selfish.

“I have to find why he’s doing what he is doing otherwise I have no understanding of the character I’m doing. Tommy Singh is an empty guy who is self-obsessed. He’s only thinking about himself and realises later that he needs to do something for someone else.

“Kabir is the opposite. He loves so purely that he actually destroys himself in that emotion, becomes self destructive.”

Remake of the Telugu hit “Arjun Reddy”, “Kabir Singh” is directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga. Co-starring Kiara Advani, the film is set to release on June 21.



EASY BREEZY! The actress, Bella Thorne is out in Los Angeles in a casual and trendy pink outfit.

I'm lucky that I can walk away from a job: Julianna Margulies on 'The Good Fight' pay dispute

BY RADHIKA SHARMA

NEW DELHI, JUN 5 (PTI): Julianna Margulies’ disagreement with bosses at CBS network about her pay in “The Good Wife” sequel did not break into the media from the word go.

The actor, who led the critically-acclaimed legal drama as housewife-turned-litigator Alicia Florrick for seven years, decided to break her silence as she gradually realised she was “covering up the reasons” for not starring in “The Good Fight”.

“... Whenever I do press someone asks me, why aren’t you going on ‘The Good Fight’? I had already said yes to going on ‘The Good Fight’. It was CBS’s decision not to pay me my salary. I realised that I just wasn’t doing any service to the other women in my business by staying quiet.

“I felt very good about finally just letting the truth out and saying it’s not that I don’t want to do the show, it’s that CBS has chosen not to value my contribution to the show, and therefore I won’t be doing it,” Margulies told PTI in a telephonic interview from New York. She said it was “not a feud” with CBS and she is currently in a deal with the network.

“We actually have a great relationship, but they need to be aware that

women need to be treated equally to men.”

Margulies, who won a Golden Globe and two Emmy awards for her performance in “The Good Wife”, said she is “lucky” to be at a juncture in

a number one show on CBS for seven years and then there was a spinoff show, that man would have been paid much more than I was even asking for. I was only asking for my ‘Good Wife’ salary, which seemed fair and



her career where she can afford to turn down a project.

“I’m in a very lucky position that I can walk away from a job. Most actors can’t do that. So I felt it was my responsibility to shed light on the fact that if I had been a man who had had

just,” she said.

“I want to stop this ridiculous inequality that women face constantly when it comes to salary. I needed to clarify that and stop protecting the men that made the decision not to pay me,” she added. The 52-year-old ac-

tor currently stars in “The Hot Zone” as real-life figure Dr Nancy Jaax, a US Army scientist who is appointed to work on the Ebola outbreak operation for their United States Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID).

The six-part limited series from National Geographic is based on Richard Preston’s 1994 book of the same name. From Alicia to Nancy, Margulies has mostly played layered and accomplished women dealing with a personal and professional life, something that she believes is increasingly becoming the norm rather than being an exception. “The truth of the matter is, this is the first scripted television show that Nat Geo has done where a woman was the lead, so that in and of itself is a huge feat I think for women in general. Rome wasn’t built in a day, you know?”

“So, it’s not exactly where I would love it to be, but I see a huge change and a huge shift in the landscape of my business, film and television, celebrating women and hopefully getting to the place where it’s an equal playing field,” she said.

“The Hot Zone”, which hails from Fox 21 Television Studios, is streaming on Hotstar Premium.

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Opp. Kanchan Bhog Near The Regal Hotel Tadong-737102 East Sikkim

ARIES: Ready, set, socialize! Today’s new moon in Gemini supercharges the most outgoing zone of your chart, giving you maximum mingling power. Reboot your summer by committing to events like weekend camping trips, festivals and local fairs. While you might prefer spontaneity, putting these activities on your calendar will give you lots to look forward to.

TAURUS: Zoom in and give your bank statements a thorough review. Today’s new moon in your money sector helps you evaluate your finances with a critical eye. Those boozy dinners and sample sales DO add up—and if you aren’t mindful, they can seriously subtract from your savings. And since your landlord won’t be impressed by your Gucci sandals if you can’t pay your rent, you might need to make some adjustments.

GEMINI: Your future is looking bright, thanks to the dazzling glow from today’s new moon in Gemini—the only one to land in your sign in 2019. Your celestial New Year starts now, giving you an en-

ergetic reboot and plenty of positive momentum. With the universe on your side, take (at least) one concrete step to get your big plans into motion!

CANCER: Ask, believe, receive. Today, the soulful moon unites with intuitive Neptune in Pisces and your broad-minded ninth house. This is the day to imagine what you want, because you can magnetize your dreams to you through creative visualization. The ninth house is all about expansion, so don’t just aim for the “safe,” low-hanging fruit. Go bigger, Cancer! Feeling out of touch with your power to manifest? Try writing up a gratitude list. When you recall all the things you’re thankful for, you’ll begin to attract more abundance.

LEO: You SAY that you want happiness, love and freedom, but do you actually believe that your desires are possible, Leo? Today’s moon-Neptune conjunction in your mystical eighth house encourages you to examine your own limiting beliefs. Since you may need tangible proof to REALLY change

your mind, hunt for people who are living the life you want for yourself.

VIRGO: Relationships can be hard work, we know, we know. But they can also be a haven from stress and struggle so stop telling yourself that you don’t need people. Today, the moon and compassionate Neptune align in Pisces and your partnership house. The tranquilizing effect can be beneficial to your bonds with the ones who matter most. Soften your stance with your partner, and be gentler in your interactions with close friends.

LIBRA: Arm candy can be fun to play with, but you need more than empty calories to satisfy your romantic appetite. On Saturday, reserve your final rose for someone with style AND substance. It’s a lot easier to teach someone the finer points of fashion than it is to imbue them with a great character. With the right raw materials—a caring heart, a sense of integrity, compatible interests—you’ll have more than enough to work with.

SCORPIO: Still musing over the week-end’s romantic escapades? Don’t rush to

“back to business” mode. Today, the moon and quixotic Neptune embrace in your fifth house of passion, adding a sensual spin to your agenda. An attraction could spark, or you could be feeling especially amorous. Nobody to sidle up to (yet)? Get glamorous for yourself, Scorpio.

SAGITTARIUS: Home is where your heart is today, as the moon conjoins with sensual Neptune in your domestic fourth house. If you must trek into the office, bring the cozy vibes with you. Keep an open-door policy so coworkers can plop down and share tales of their weekends. (That expense report can wait).

CAPRICORN: Straight to the point? Not today, Capricorn. The reflective moon and compassionate Neptune meet in Pisces, your communication house. Doling out tough love and stern reprimands will get you nowhere. Validating the other person’s emotions and experience? That will help you feel connected. Sometimes, a person just needs to be heard before you rush them into problem-solving mode. Instead of being emphatic, be em-

pathetic. Catch yourself if you’re being too hardcore, and dial back the intensity.

AQUARIUS: Snap that selfie and post it with pride! (On Instagram AND Tinder, if you’re single.) Today’s new moon in Gemini glitters in your fifth house of fame and romance, bringing a beautiful confidence boost. The actions you take today can help your star rise—and burn brighter than ever by the corresponding full moon on December 11. Identify the milestones you’d like to hit during this fortuitous time, from personal successes to leaps in the game of love.

PISCES: ADon’t forget to show the squad some love, Pisces. You’ve been killing it on the career front recently, but have you neglected your friendships in the process? Today’s new moon in Gemini reconnects you with your ride-or-die besties. Balance is key, and you’ve got to keep your relationships alive, even as you push for professional success. You’re bound to hit a speed bump at some point, and you’ll need a few good BFFs to support you during those difficult times. Feeling like you need to shake things up on the home front?