

SBICAR LOAN
 the *most* convenient option
Sanction and disbursement in One day
Lowest interest at 9%
No prepayment
No processing charge
Loan up to 90%
Free accident insurance
Repayment up to 84 months
 contact PT Bhutia 98320 35786
 or Chettri 94340 12824

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
NOTICE
 It is notified that Telephone Adalat will be held on 28/05/04 at 11 A.M. in the chamber of General Manager, Telecom, GtK. The Subscribers are requested to kindly file their complaints regarding (1) excess billing (2) Service (3) Non-provision of New Telephone due to various reasons etc. by 20/05/04 addressed to the AO (TR) O/o the GMT/GTK

NOW!

DAILY
FIRST WITH THE NEWS

NO SHOW BY KABI-TINGDA CONG CANDIDATE

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 April: On the final day of filing nominations, there was early jubilation in the SDF camp, utter confusion in the Cong [I] office and general dejection among the Kabi-Tingda youth. The much-promoted Cong [I] candidate from Kabi-Tingda in north Sikkim, Palden Bhutia, the Upadhakshya [North] who had defected some time back from SDF to the Congress and was awarded the ticket to contest from Kabi-Tingda, failed to file his nomination today, the last

SDF ARE ONE UP EVEN BEFORE ELECTIONS, PALDEN "FAILS" TO FILE NOMINATIONS

date for filing nominations. SDF is already one up without even the scrutiny and withdrawal of the nominations process being over. Mr. Bhutia, if he had contested, would have gone up against incumbent SDF MLA and minister UD&HD in the outgoing government. Thinley Tshering Bhutia.

The DC, North, PS Targain, who is also the returning officer for

WE DESERVED IT, SAYS KAZI SUPPORTERS CONVINCED LEADER SOLD OUT

the district, confirmed over phone that since no other party or independent candidates had filed nominations from the constituency, the SDF has won the seat uncontested.

As the news spread, there was jubilation at the SDF camp. A senior SDF leader told NOW! that while they had received the news "with great happiness," they were still wait-

ing for the formal announcements. "We had no doubts that our candidate, TT Bhutia would win, but we had never expected that he would win uncontested," he said. In the meantime, there was utter confusion in the Congress [I] camp. While senior Congress leaders themselves admitted that this was a result of utter lack of organisation or coordination to go to the polls, the

turn to pg 6

SDF's Sangha ticket for Namkha

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 April: The decision of the ruling Sikkim Democratic Front [SDF] to field a candidate for the Sangha seat at the eleventh hour was more based on the "need of the hour" to "go with the aspirations of the people and uphold the sanctity of Article 371F of the Constitution."

Yesterday, sitting Sangha MLA, Palden Lachungpa had filed his nomination papers both as a SDF and as an independent candidate. Today, the party officially nominated former Sangha MLA Namkha Gyaltsen as its candidate for the Sangha seat, superseding the candidature of Mr. Lachungpa.

"The party decided yesterday that we would contest the Sangha seat, even if we still firmly believe that politics should not be mixed with religion. We had to go in accordance with the aspirations of the people and also dismiss the Opposition's allegations that we are against the provisions of Article 371F. Therefore, we nominated Mr. Gyaltsen as our candidate for the seat today," confirmed BB Goroong, political advisor to the SDF president.

While this decision of the party may upset Mr. Lachungpa to some extent, he will have to accept the judgement of the party high command.

"It is only natural for Mr. Lachungpa to be upset. It is only natural for Mr. Lachungpa to be upset. It is only natural for Mr. Lachungpa to be upset."

turn to pg 5

I HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE: CHAMLING Chamling files nomination, predicts "clean sweep"



Traditional minstrels lead the way as Chamling walks to the DC [South]'s office to file his nominations for Damthang constituency on 23 April

PURAN TAMANG

NAMCHI, 23 April: One poll result that does not require a psephologist to predict is who will win from Damthang. Chief Minister and SDF president, Pawan Chamling, has been representing this constituency in south Sikkim since 1984 and has posted record winning margins in every elections. In fact, word has it that for one election, he sponsored an Independent candidate to contest against him when none from the political parties thought it worthwhile to even

try and break this bastion. Today, Mr. Chamling completed the formalities for representing Damthang for the fifth time as he filed his nomination paper's at the DC [South]'s office. A huge procession of some 2,000 supporters followed him as he walked to the DC's office with a group of traditional minstrels leading the way with their brand of folk music.

Speaking to journalists after filing his nominations, Mr. Chamling said he was confident of winning the seat. He said he was confident of winning the seat. He said he was confident of winning the seat.

turn to pg 5

GNLF fails to file nominations on last day; sparks fear of poll boycott

BIRENDRA S.

DARJEELING, 23 April: The GNLFF failed to turn up for nominations today, the last date and has drawn considerable flak from the opposition. On top of this the GNLFF leadership remained tight-lipped, failing to make public their stand for the forthcoming MP elections stating that Subash Ghising was likely to announce the GNLFF stand in a day or two.

"This time the GNLFF will not go in for a direct confrontation with the Election Commission by calling a boycott but they will try to do the same thing through their frontal organizations" said Madan Tamang, Chairman of the PDF. What has given rise to this anticipation is the

turn to pg 5

HONG KONG BAZAAR EXPO 2004
Any Item Rs. 90 to Rs. 150
Gift Items, Crochery & Other Attractive Goods!
HOTEL BAYUL, MG MARG, GANGTOK

FIRST TIME IN SIKKIM

NOW!

FIRST WITH THE NEWS

Idle hands

Finally the politicians are waking up to the fact that the youth can contribute more than just muscle to their plans for power. The 18-30 age-group makes up for nearly 40 per cent of the voting population. Since this group is also in the age when they are still quite idealistic and their outlook not yet coloured with scepticism, they are also more particular about using their votes. Both, the SDF and the Cong [I] have a healthy mix of young faces to support the older veterans in the fray for the elections. Both have also made promises for the young and there seems to be some genuine effort at trying to understand the needs and aspirations of Sikkim's youth.

Interestingly, almost every candidate, every party and every youth himself, has identified unemployment as the biggest problem. Everyone also has a solution to offer, but while most are going the easy way of promising more jobs, only the SDF manifesto takes the solution-finding process a step further by announcing plans to introduce vocation training in school from the next session. Whether they can pull it off or not, we will have to wait and see. To create more posts in the government and appointing more people on government largesse is definitely not the solution. There is something intrinsically paradoxical about the term, "educated unemployed." If a person is really educated, then there is no way he/she can remain unemployed. And yet they do. The problem is thus not one of enough jobs, it is of incomplete education. Education, after all, should mean more than just a degree or a certificate, it has to mean empowerment with the right attitude, skills and drive.

When an educated person remains unemployed it reflects more on the system that educated him/her than the person's own aptitude. If the seventeen years one spends on education [till graduation] don't equip the person with even the most basic of skills to be at least gainfully self-employed, then there is something drastically wrong with the whole education system. Sikkim's problem with unemployment is not unique, the whole of India is paying the price of continuing with a system put in place by the colonial master to produce babus, not masters. Educating India, for the British, meant making the natives literate enough to take and follow orders, not think on their feet and despite all the great thinkers India produced post-Independence, the nation persisted with the same format of education. Today, everyone is paying the price of having generations upon generations of "educated" people who can't find work. The time has definitely come for an overhaul and if India continues to dither, perhaps Sikkim should lead the way. Like is oft-repeated, given the small population, the impact of a policy decision will manifest much quicker here and could perhaps save the State from having too many idle hands with frustrated minds.

GAY-DOLF HITLER

WAS Hitler gay? Hard to know, but one thing's for sure - here's one historic figure that gay groups aren't looking to lay claim to - and neither is anyone else aside from, say, the KKK and the Neo-Nazis

Tonight's riveting Cinemax reel, *"The Hidden Fuhrer: Debating the Enigma of Hitler's Sexuality,"* is a documentary that explores areas of the Fuhrer's life that, for whatever reason, the Nazi Party chief wanted to keep hidden.

With information from a best-selling book, *"The Hidden Hitler"* by Lothar Machtan, as well as footage and readings from letters and documents of the era, the filmmakers, Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato, explore the private life of *der Fuhrer*. And they come away with some quite compelling information.

Like?

Like the fact that from the age of 16 through 19, Hitler's best buddy, August Kabizek, received letters from the future Fuhrer with demands like this: "I cannot endure it when you consort and converse with other young people. I demand exclusivity!"

He got it when Kabizek went to join art student Hitler in Vienna and was greeted at the train with "joyful excitement," and a big old kiss, according to Kabizek's book in the 1940's.

They were roomies and frolicked around, occasionally having strange men buy them dinner and cavorting together in the great outdoors, once getting caught in a storm.

Wrote Kabizek of the incident, "He lay down naked on the cloth. And I wrapped him up. He was greatly amused by the adventure -

the whole romantic conclusion pleased him greatly."

Of course, there was the whole male homoeroticism of the idealized giant nude statues which Hitler, er, erected all over Germany.

Then there was Hitler's conclusion that his experiences in WWI showed him the "meaning of a glorious male community." This is what he concluded from several years on the front of one of the most horrific wars of all time?

When Hitler

was

rested early on in his career, he shared a cell with Rudolph Hess [known at the time as "Frauline Anna"], who became one of his closest allies.

They were reprimanded by the prison warden for running around naked and not maintaining decorum. One scholar maintains that they were merely shirtless.

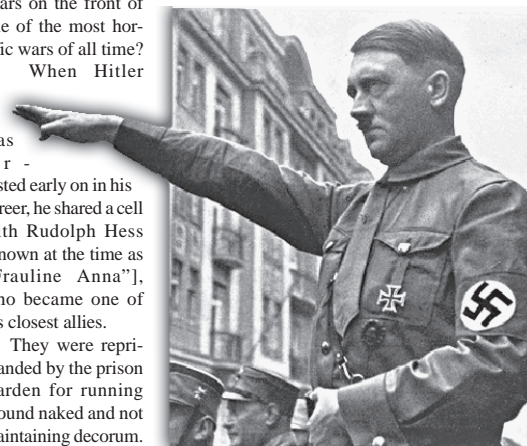
There's also evidence that Hitler spent part of his art school years living in a men's shelter that was widely known as a chicken hawk locale for rich businessmen and young men, although this remains suspect info.

Eva Braun, his "mistress" who tried twice to commit suicide, wrote that Hitler believed "physical contact with me would be to him a contamination of the mission."

So was Hitler gay - and was fear of exposure the reason he pros-

ecuted gays with a coinciding directive that it should remain secret?

Was fear of being outted the reason Hitler had thousands and thousands of gay men thrown into concentration camps after he had his close [openly gay] friend, a private army commandant, Ernst Rohme, murdered in cold blood along with 150 witnesses at the hotel where Rohme was staying?



All fascinating stuff. Is it merely lurid tabloid fodder based on shoddy research by the book's author or serious history? It's too late for anyone to know for sure, because Hitler's minions destroyed all his private papers, and the German government built housing over his bunker - refusing to open it up and reveal its contents first.

But it does make for good, interesting television. Is it necessary to know what his sexuality was all about? It's probably good to know as much as we can about anyone who's made such a dent in history.

-37-

Every night my master had to dance twice and each time I had to attend to him and help him to dress. After each dance his whole body would be perspiring and his clothes would become moist. He had therefore a special shirt for his dancing, easy to put on and easy to take off. It consisted of only a front without any back at all, fastened with strings around the waist. After his first dance my master would come up to his room to change his clothes and then would go down again for a second dance.

Sometimes, but rarely, he danced three times in one evening. I had to follow him with a towel and when he came off it after a dance he would at once lean back in a chair and I would have to wipe his face, neck and hands. Behind the stage there was a kind of general waiting room for all the artists. When I entered it with my towel all the other dancers looked at me very carefully and soon began to ask me where I had come from with this sahib. I told them a story which was not altogether true and said that I had come from Shanghai. Then a girl dancer whose name was Valencia said, "Oh, China is a very good country and a very great place," and asked me whether I knew a certain hotel in Shanghai. It was difficult to give a suitable reply but very quickly I turned my tongue into a protector of

Planning a future with tap dancing

lies by saying, "Oh, madam, I left Shanghai when I was a child and so I do not any longer know much about the hotels there."

The lady who asked me this was a German girl who danced alone and was very smart in doing Spanish and Mexican dances such as the Cucaracha. I often helped her with her work when she asked me to do so. Gradually I became accustomed to knock at her door and ask whether she had any work for me. Sometimes I cleaned her shoes and sometimes I cleaned and tidied up her room. She was very kind to me, and one day she asked me whether I would like to come and work for her and travel all over the

world with her. I said, "No, madam, I cannot do that because I have a good master whom I do not want to leave. It is very kind of you to ask me this but I do not want to go." I said this in a very simple English, and I knew that she had meant to do me a kindness.

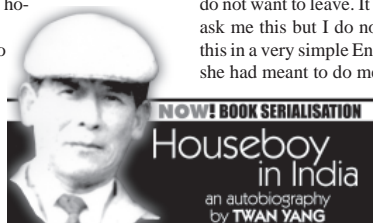
She left the hotel after having danced there for about a month. She told me that if at any time in the future I should have no work and if she should be in Calcutta, then I should certainly try to find her and she would give me work.

One day an American sahib came to the Continental Hotel. He was a sailor, and perhaps he came to see my master's dance. Anyhow, my master made friends with him and took him up to his room, and they sat talking

together like brothers, as they were both Americans. After that time these two met often. One day that gentleman said that my master should teach me some dancing and he also asked me, "Would you not like to learn to dance?" I replied as well as I could, something like this, "Me, sahib, like; but sahib maybe no like teach me."

However, this idea of making a living in the future by stage dancing had sunk into my brain and I thought to myself. Why should I not try once to beat my feet on the floor to the tunes I have learned? It must be possible as I have been able to play the songs on my harmonica. So I indeed spoke to my master about my desire and he very kindly agreed to teach me. He said that he was willing to make a big man of me in the future to earn money for myself this way. I had to begin by learning to make the tap very regular, quite exactly to the tune of a German song called "Ach, Du lieber Augustin," very suitable to start learning the tap dance. I regularly practiced these beats, beginning very slowly and then increasing the speed. It took me exactly three months to master this first dance together with the song. My master taught me for about a week and after this first dance I practiced in the room when he was not there.

-to be continued



Artist, filmmaker, keen photographer, columnist with international magazines... It's hard to pin Twan Yang down. Born to a Chinese father and Tibetan mother, he grew up in Kalimpong and worked in Sikkim. NOW! serializes Twan Yang's autobiography, *Houseboy in India*...

SDF opens branch office in Arithang

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 April: The Sikkim Democratic Front opened a party office in Arithang on Friday 23 April. KB Gurung, SDF candidate for the Gangtok constituency in the last elections was the Chief Guest. Today, he was here to support area MLA and SDF candidate NK Pradhan. Also present at the occasion were Sonam Dorjee, Anand Lama, and former Zilla Panchayat Chumzey Dorjee.

All ward Panchayats, Zilla Panchayats of Arithang, as well as Cheli Morcha and youth of Arithang were present for the inauguration.

All the members present vowed to work hard to win the Gangtok seat for SDF and expressed full support for Mr. Pradhan. This is the first time that an SDF party office has been opened in Arithang, which is generally considered to be an opposition bastion.

State TT tourney at St. Xavier's

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 April: The 9th State Table-Tennis Inter Department Championship 2004 will be held at St. Xavier's School, Pakyong from June 10-13. State coaches are to organize coaching camps accordingly and give wide publicity of the Championship.

This was announced at the Executive body meeting of Sikkim Table Tennis Association (STTA), which was held on 17 April at Hotel Dew Pond, Gangtok. All the members were welcomed by CK Basnet, President, STTA. He began the meeting by placing before the members the statement of accounts, which was certified by the members present.

The President also informed the Executive members that the term of the present members of the Association expired on March 2004 and needs to be dissolved. The Committee discussed at length and decided to dissolve the same only after completion of the 9th state TT Championship, 2004.

It was also decided to collect Membership fee in the next meeting. Karma Bhutia, General Secretary of the association has been entrusted with the task.

It has also been decided that the General Secretary would function as Treasurer till the next election of the Association.

Next date of meeting of the Association will be on 3 May. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

AVAILABLE FOR LEASE A running restaurant in good condition at Gangtok Bazaar. For details, contact: 03592-202741

CET reset for student convenience

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 23 April: The dates for the Common Entrance Examination [CET] have been changed by the Department of Education. This is being done for the convenience of the students, inform department officials. The exams for Physics and Chemistry have now been fixed for 23 May between 11 AM to 12:30 PM and for Mathematics and Biology on 24 May. While the Maths test will be held between 11 am-12 pm, the Biology test will be held between 1 pm-2 pm. The examination will be held at the TNHS School.

Some other changes have also been put into place. Earlier, the department had planned to hold sepa-

rate exams on Physics and Chemistry for MBBS and BE tests, now the students will have to appear for only one Physics and Chemistry test for both disciplines along with Mathematics or Biology, as the case might be. This is to avoid making students appear twice for the Physics and Chemistry tests, reveal officials.


The Physics and Chemistry test will comprise of 60 questions with 30 questions from each subject where as Mathematics and Biology will have 40 questions each.

All the questions offer multiple choices and according to department sources there will be no negative marking. Students will be wise to attempt all answers even if they are just guessing.

The department has also extended the last date of submission of forms to 30 April. The admit cards will be dispatched from 3 May. All the admit cards are being sent by registered post and in the event any candidate does not receive the card by 20 May they should contact office of Deputy Director, Education, on 21 and 22 May to collect the admit card.

The change in the examination dates will also be a relief for students who were appearing for the Armed Force Medical College Entrance Examinations. Earlier this exam was clashing with the Common Entrance examination [CET] scheduled for 2 May.

Tempestuous Gangtok



Gale-force winds lashed Gangtok late on Thursday evening causing much damage along the roadsides as trees collapsed blocking the roads and disrupting traffic. The above pic shows monks on Friday morning clearing up the road to the Secretariat across which a tree had fallen the previous evening. The tempestuous winds were accompanied by heavy showers and minor slides were also reported at Nam Nang and Deorali. The one at Deorali disrupted phone lines and blacked-out several parts of the capital. The present weather system is caused by the low pressure building up over Bay of Bengal which is causing torrential thunderstorms in the hills.

Lightning strikes family, kills three

a NOW REPORT

NAYA BAZAAR, 23 April: Januka Rai and her two sons Geeta and Vinod Rai were killed by lightning yesterday at Dokhung, Mangalbaria in West Sikkim. According to the information filed by the police lightning killed the three during the course of a sudden thunderstorm.

Apparently the incident occurred around 4 PM. At that time Januka Rai and son Vinod were in

the kitchen while Geeta Rai was in the main house. The heavy rain which followed the lightning also damaged the wall of the house.

The two boys Geeta and Vinod were students of class VI and IV and were studying at Mangal Bariya Senior Secondary School and Upper Chuchen Primary School. They had just reached home from school when this unfortunate incident happened.

The dead bodies of the three have been sent to the hospital at Geyzing for autopsy.

TO-LET Flats available in Quiet and Decent environment exactly opposite Kanchen View Hotel [Pani House]. 24 hours running hot and cold water.

contact: Tseten Kutsabpa. ph: 280271

Because Election Mail is Urgent Mail

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 April: Special arrangement has been made for delivery of election mail for the upcoming simultaneous polls in Sikkim.

The Postal Department has decided to launch "Election Urgent Mail" services for delivery of election mail. This was decided at a meeting held in the chamber of Chief Electoral Officer TT Dorjee in Gangtok on 21 April.

Informed by the CEO that Election Urgent Mail received from Election Commission of India, New Delhi was taking a long time in transit and was being held up at Siliguri for a day, the Post Master General, North Bengal & Sikkim Region, John Samuel, offered to airlift Election Urgent Mail to avoid any delay.

The helicopter service provided by Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation will airlift the mail to Gangtok. The modalities worked out between the two parties lists the way the mail is to reach Gangtok.

The election special camp mail bag from the ECI addressed to the CEO, Sikkim, will be delivered by the mail guard SG-45 Section to Gopal Chettri or Nima Yolmo of the Helicopter Service with proper receipt.

Nima Yolmo or Gopal Chettri will ensure proper loading of the postal bags in the helicopter and immediately inform John Shanker at Gangtok Helipad, who, in turn, will receive the postal bags at Gangtok helipad and immediately rush to the Head Post Office, Gangtok and hand over the bag to Arjun Sewa, Assistant Post Master, Gangtok HO.

This arrangement will be in operation from 23 April to 16 May and will be enforced on Sundays and other holidays too.

If the land-lines let you down, NOW! can also be reached at

editorial:
98320 80753
98320 17202

business:
98320 42096
98320 80838

AVAILABLE FOR LEASE

A running restaurant in good condition at Gangtok Bazaar. For details, contact: 03592-202741

Calling all involved in the Travel Trade

NEW Horizons
THE NORTHEASTERN TRAVEL MAGAZINE

New Horizons, the first Travel Magazine from the region, is now ready to go to print with its second edition. The inaugural issue continues to impress the policy-makers and bigger players of the Trade and this is your chance to reach out to that select audience. New Horizons is presently booking ad-space for the second edition and has made available special discounted advertisement rates for those in the Tourism Industry in the region.

For further details call: 03592-229216, 227618, 098320 89889. or email: sikkimnewhorizons@yahoo.co.in

Ad-bookings close 13th May, 2004

SHOP NO. 14, SUPER MARKET, GANGTOK 737 101

The last day maybe, but not the least of all

RANJIT SINGH

GANGTOK, 23 April: Today was a curiously interesting day at the DC East's office. The Sangha seat saw another SDF candidate filing his nomination from the constituency reserved for the monks when earlier the party had made it clear that it would not contest from there.

Said Mr. Srinivasulu on the matter to the media, "There is something called the 'Form A and Form B' which is submitted by the party high command. It is this document which will specify which candidate is standing from the Sangha seat. The other nomi-

nation will be rejected."

Santosh Bardewa, Congress candidate from Khamdong filed his fourth nomination from the same constituency amidst whispers of its utility.

"He probably feels his nomination papers might be rejected so he is filing the maximum number allowed," whispered one of the Assistant Returning Officers.

Mr. Hem Lall Bhandari too made an appearance to clarify the fiasco of 22 April regarding the improper filing of nomination papers of one of the Congress candidates.

Unkind whispers abounded on how a particular candidate, had, on

the rebuke of the DC quickly produced the right papers.

"He was probably carrying several nomination papers," said a media person present, "as one of them was sure to fit the bill."

More 'unkind' persons around made the 'observation' that Mr. Bhandari was cocksure of other parties' nominations being rejected on the ground of not corresponding with the law oblivious of the fact that the EC's notification superseded it or so the DC maintains.

"Ignorance sure is bliss," said a senior official present referring to the Congress lawyer's excuse of not being aware of the EC's noti-

fication.

Most curious feature of the day however was the 'Nil' factor playing a dominant role in the property/assets affidavit handed over by five SHRP candidates. The five concerned claim not to be in possession of even a penny.

"Surely you have 50 paise in your pocket," the DC said in a light moment. But even that was denied. This is probably the first time in the history of elections in Sikkim or even the country that someone has made so much out of 'Nil'.

"This is not right. They should have at least mentioned something," the DC said later.

And at the fag end of the day just when everybody had given up hope of seeing an SSP candidature for the assembly elections, in walks a thin gentleman with a big smile on his face and introduces himself as the SSP candidate from Gangtok. And when the mobile in his pocket rang his smile was really stretching his face like he'd pulled off a coup. A very well-timed call, one would say, to someone just given a party ticket just as the clock struck three.

"He's a farmer," Mr. Upreti revealed. That's fine but one wonders where he found a farmer with a mobile on 23 April.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE, 88 HOPEFUL IN THE FRAY FOR 33 SEATS

13 NOMINATIONS FILED IN EAST ON FINAL DAY

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 April: Today, with the clock striking 3 PM, curtains came down on the filing of nominations for the Lok Sabha and State Assembly polls to take place on 10 May. Scrutiny of the nomination papers filed will take place on 24 April and on 27 April all the candidates who have filed their nominations here in Gangtok have been asked to gather at the DC East Mr. Srinivasulu's office for a briefing.

At the DC East's office a relay of candidates made the day seem short with the deadline over before anyone could even realise they were hungry.

The Sikkim Sangram Parishad [SSP] made its debut at this term's nomination filing with party president Rajendra Prasad Upreti opening the account with the DC for the day. Mr. Upreti is contesting the Lok Sabha polls. The SSP filed just one more nomination with a young, 30-year-old Devi Prasad Dahal being selected by the party to contest the assembly polls from Gangtok. In fact, the SSP was still vague and undecided on the last day on the question of which candidates and constituencies it would contest.

On asking Mr. Upreti around 11 AM as to which other candidates his party would field, his reply was, "We are still deciding, by the late afternoon you will come to know."

Mr. Dahal scurried in just about half an hour before the deadline. According to Mr. Upreti, his Gangtok candidate has been in SSP for years now, "...from the time of Mr. Bhandari".

"He represents the educated unemployed youth," were Mr. Upreti's



DC [East], K. Srinivasulu [left] discusses the confusion over the format in which Cong [I] candidates filed their nominations with the party vice-president and legal advisor, Hem Lall Bhandari [second from right]

words of introduction of the candidate who resides in 2nd Mile Gangtok and contests his first elections.

The inclusion of Mr. Upreti in the contest for the Lok Sabha seat takes the total number of parliamentary candidates to four with the Sikkim Himali Rajya Parishad also jumping into the race for Delhi. The registered but unrecognised SHRP has lodged Tara Kumar Pradhan in the Parliamentary quadrangle.

In fact, the SHRP made an intimidating entry with all their eight candidates from the east making a collective appearance.

Tara Pradhan, on his party's programme said, "We will be bringing out our manifesto during the first week of May. Everything will be mentioned in it."

He further said that his party was expected to perform well in Soreng, Tashiding, Yuksom and Rinchenpong.

Other candidates to file nominations from the SHRP include - Bhim Chettri from Gangtok, Tashi Tobgaye Bhutia from Ranka, Dil Kumari

Darnal from Khamdong, Karson Sherpa from Pathing, LB Lepcha from Assam Lingzey, Amrit N. Giri from Central Pendum and BS Mangar from Loosing Pacheykhani.

One interesting feature of the SHRP candidates is that five of them have absolutely no property returns to file. Even the cash-at-hand to be shown by them has been indicated as Nil.

The Sangha seat, too, has evoked interest and intrigue with two SDF candidates claiming to be the party candidates for the constituency. While yesterday Palden Lachenpa presented himself as the SDF candidate from Sangha, today it was the turn of Namkha Gyaltsen to lay a claim on the party ticket. Later, on behalf of the SDF party, its general secretary BS Pant made an appearance and dispelled all doubts as he identified Mr. Gyaltsen as the official candidate from Sangha.

"Both were ticket hopefuls but Palden will now have to run as an independent," said Mr. Pant.

The only other SDF party candidate to file his nominations here today was DT Lepcha who is contesting from the constituency of Sang Martam.

From the main opposition party, the Cong [I], Kunga Nima Lepcha filed his nomination from Assam Lingzey.

"I am a very religious person," he explains on his appearance on the final day of the nominations. "My brother is a lama in the Enchey monastery and he decides for me the auspicious day for important work. Besides Friday has always been a good day for me."

He also reveals that his campaign at Assam Lingzey is already underway with house to house meetings with the locals. "Around 500-1000 people come to my house every day," he says of his mass contact programme.

With this the total number of contenders for Elections-2004 for Sikkim stands at 86 for the 32 Assembly constituencies and one Lok Sabha seat.


girls wear
only at
REEBOK SHOWROOM
Below Bank of Baroda
MG Road, Gangtok


EST. 1851
Summer
Collection
STYLE
Hotel Golden Pagoda
MG Marg, Gangtok

ESTEEM FOR SALE!!
A Black Esteem Velocity for sale. Five months old, with all accessories including a Sony X-Plod CD system. Extremely reasonable.
Contact: 94342 41116

Mobile offer from Amber

Motorola C200	- 2990/-
Motorola C201	- 2990/-
Samsung R220	- 3790/-
Samsung N500	- 4790/-
Samsung C100	- 6290/-
Nokia 3310	- 3490/-
Nokia 3315	- 3690/-
Nokia 1100	- 4490/-
Nokia 2100	- 4990/-
Sony-Ericsson T10S	- 3690/-
Motorola E365 [Camera]	- 10250/-

Limited period OFFER VALID FROM 19TH TO 30TH APRIL

2yrs warranty & 1yr Insurance on all NOKIA phones
1yr warranty on all other handsets

FOR DETAILS CONTACT: **Amber Enterprises**
MG Marg, Gangtok. ph: 205116, 228849

POLL BOYCOTT WILL NOT HELP, PDF TELLS CINCHONA WORKERS

a NOW REPORT

KALIMPONG, 23 April: The People's Democratic Front [PDF] today held a rally in the Cinchona Plantation of Munsong and Kashyom. This was to oppose the Himalayan Plantation Workers Union [HPWU] decision to boycott the forthcoming polls in the plantation areas. It was also the PDF's way of relaying the message to the workers of the plantation that boycotting the elections would not solve any of their problems.

Col. DK Pradhan and Norden Lama were representing the GNLF-C, while CPRM and Congress [Hills] were represented by Mohan Poudyal and Hem Rai respectively. "They are just misleading the people, for what has the DGHC done for the improvement of the plantation? Their President Subash Ghising has never taken up the matter at the highest level and if they are so interested in boycotting the elections they can do so as regards of Council and Legislative elections," said the GNLF-C and

PDF [Kalimpong Branch] convener Col. Pradhan. "The United Forum," a Trade Unit of Govt Cinchona Plantation will also conduct campaigns from the 27th of this month in Latpanchar, Munsong and Mungpo. The forum was formed in the year 2000. They will campaign for the conduction of polls in the plantation areas in favour of Dawa Norbula of Congress [Hills], as according to them it is he who supported the plantation workers.

SDF's Sangha ticket for Namkha

Contd from pg 1

Lachungpa to be disappointed, but he has to respect the decision of the party and now support the new candidate," former minister and general secretary of the party, BS Pant said while speaking to NOW!

Mr. Gyaltzen filed his nomination papers today at the Office of the District Magistrate, East. Mr. Pant had accompanied him.



The time's obviously right for Namkha Gyaltzen

Management lifts Tukdah lockout

BIRENDRA S.

DARJEELING, 23 April: The lockout called by the Management of the Tukdah Tea Garden was lifted today. After three days of bipartite meetings, the stalemate between the Management and the workers came to an end yesterday at 11 pm.

In a notification issued on 17 April by the General Manager of the Garden,

it was alleged that the workers had embarked on a deliberate "Go Slow," non fulfillment of task and were also stopping the casual workforce from joining duties, thus forcing the Management to call a lockout.

NK Kumai, President of the Himalayan Plantation Workers Union (HPWU) said that the problem had cropped up with the curtailment of certain facilities by the Management. "We demanded that Manage-

ment should provide at least minimum facilities as per the Labour Act" stated Kumai.

Tukdah Tea Estate run by B.D. Tea Estates Pvt Ltd. has a cultivated area of 270 hectares and a worker strength of around 700. Sanjeev Seth, Secretary of Darjeeling Planters' Association (DPA) of which the Tukdah is a member said "Basically we want that work irregularities should be done away with."

GNLF fails to file nominations on last day; sparks fear of poll boycott

Contd from pg 1

recent "Vote Boycott" called by the Himalayan Plantation Workers Union (HPWU), a frontal organization of the GNLF, in all the cinchona plantations if their given charter of demands is not fulfilled by the concerned authorities by 1 May 2004.

The PDF was quick to react to this call vehemently opposing it and have planned to give a deputation to the three election observers who are camping in Darjeeling.

"We demand that anyone calling a boycott should be arrested," retorted Tamang. The PDF had given a memorandum to Aafzal Amanullah, the special observer for the state, during his visit to Darjeeling on 16 April stating that the Election Commission ensure free and fair elections by ensuring that the GNLF like in the past didn't resort to a boycott call to silently help the CPI(M).

Incidentally in 1998 the GNLF had boycotted parliamentary elections stating that Darjeeling had not been incorporated in the Indian mainland and that the case was pending at the Hague International Court of Justice and again in 1999 demanding that Mal and Metelli be incorporated in the Darjeeling Parliamentary constituency and that Islampur and Chopra be separated from it.

"Repackaging the same boycott they are this time using the Cinchona plantation, but we are sure that the public will not buy it this time" retorted Tamang. He added that if such a thing comes through it would lead to the exposure of both the GNLF and the HPWU.

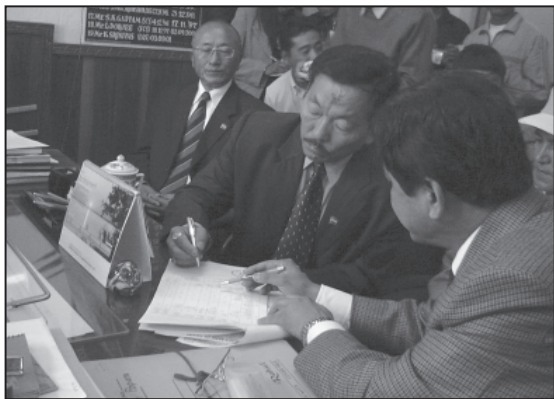
"The condition of the tea gardens and the cinchona plantations started deteriorating after the DGHC came into existence and in the 16 years of their rule they have not done a single thing to improve the plantations. On the contrary it is shocking that in 16 years Ghising has not uttered a single statement regarding the plantations," added Tamang.

Comparing the HPWU to Rip Van Winkle, Tamang stated "On the eve of the elections they have woken up from their deep slumber and have suddenly realised the condition of the plantations."

Tamang also claimed that the GNLF "monopoly" was on a steady decline as the Opposition this time was very strong, the public was disillusioned and the GNLF was now a divided house riddled with infighting after the assassination of 3 sitting Councilors and the sitting Darjeeling MLA who had resigned from the GNLF. He also added that the PDF had already started campaigning in the cinchona plantation areas against the Vote Boycott call.

S.B. Zimba a PDF leader stated that the Police had earmarked 341 polling booths in the Hills as highly sensitive. "With the recent boycott call of the HPWU the district administration will have to reconsider this list and should concentrate more in the plantation areas where the HPWU cadres may use strong arm tactics to prevent people from exercising their voting rights" said Zimba. He also said that the PDF would demand a re-poll in all booths where the votes cast were abnormally low, thus revealing a hint of intimidation.

Chamling files nomination, predicts "clean sweep"



Chamling files his nomination papers at the DC [South]'s office on 23 April

Contd from pg 1

said he was looking at the next term in office as one in which he will convert Sikkim into a "model state" of the country.

When asked to share his poll predictions, a confident Mr. Chamling said, "The SDF will make a clean sweep. As things stand, we will win 32 out of 32."

Speaking to NOW! later on the impact recent defections from the party into the Congress [I] fold could have on the elections, Mr. Chamling said: "Just like in journalism you have yellow journalists who follow no ethics or principles, so in Sikkim we are seeing a trend of yellow politicians who stand by no ideology, have no issues and thus no commitment either. Speaking of DB Gurung

and Sherhang Subba, these are two such politicians. When SDF decided the tickets, we tried to balance political maturity with youthful vigour to give Sikkim the best government as the first for the 21st century. DB Gurung and Sherhang Subba could find no place in these plans. Although they were with SDF, they did not share our ideology. In fact, while we were trying to make Sikkim model state even in politics, these two were criminalising it. So they were denied. They have now found the perfect shelter in Cong [I] which seems to be fast becoming the collection centre for political rejects and those who are in politics only for personal reasons."

"We wanted to start grooming the next generation of leaders for Sikkim which is why we balanced

youth with experience in our final list of candidates," he added.

In an upbeat mood, Mr. Chamling went on to comment on what he sees as the "moral corruption" in the Opposition camp.

"While making the disclosure of assets, I have revealed all. I have nothing to hide. I did well as a first class unlimited government contractor before I joined politics full time and don't feel the need to hide any of my assets. The same cannot be said about some in the Opposition camp who are the laughing stock of Sikkim at present for having so blatantly under-reported their true financial standing," he said.

Dismissing suggestions that there was a wave building in favour of the Opposition, Mr. Chamling said, "What wave? There can be no wave without an issue and the Opposition is groping at straws to create an issue. They don't even have any grassroots support so who will provide the ground-swell required to power a wave. Such claims are typical of the Opposition leaders in Sikkim. Their problem is that they have too many leaders and no janta."

Confident that his party will roll into the next term with a landslide victory, Mr. Chamling said that the focus and commitment remain unchanged. "The whole idea behind SDF was to bring real development and democracy to Sikkim. We have done that. Now we will take it to the next level and make Sikkim a model State for the rest of India to follow."

Live band & Buffet Dinner

a Fun-Filled Evening of
Live Music Performance by

Index Triangle

& Buffet Dinner to follow

on 24th April

Tickets available at **Little Italy, The Square**
tel: 270130, 9832092319

FUSION, CONVOY GROUND, TADONG

No show by Kabi-Tingda Cong candidate

Contd from pg 1

dination in the party's working in Sikkim, the dejected looks on the faces of some 300 party-workers who had driven down from Kabi to meet the leader who had let them down was genuinely heart-rending.

While the Cong [I] office did not have a clear idea of what had transpired in Mangan, Mr. Bhutia's former supporters, while speaking to NOW! presented a clearer picture.

"We accompanied our candidate to the DC [North]'s office this morning. He came out after some time and told us that he needed to submit some more documents which were at home and asked them to wait while he fetched them. After some time we got a call from him telling us that he was leaving for Gangtok and that we should all come down and meet him at Hotel Tibet at 4 PM where he would explain what had happened," told a supporter to NOW! It was 8:30 PM when NOW! caught up with them. Their leader had not shown up.

Other supporters came forward and complained that they were government



Former supporters of Cong [I] candidate for Kabi-Tingda, Palden Bhutia, mill around Hotel Tibet awaiting their leader and his explanation for having failed to file his nomination papers. They had already waited for more than four hours for an appointment that was fixed for 4PM on 23 April

servants who had risked all by coming out in the open with their support for Mr. Bhutia and that now they had no where to turn to. "That is the amount of faith we placed in him and look how he has let us down," said a supporter working with the fire services.

By then, even the restive crowd

was losing interest and appeared resigned to the anticlimax that all their aspirations had ended in.

The suggestion that the Cong [I] is approaching the elections in a highly disorganised fashion in underlined by the fact that no one at Congress Bhavan was aware that

300-400 of its supporters were in Gangtok barely a kilometre away from the party head office.

When asked to comment on the development, Cong [I] spokesperson, Jigme N. Kazi, who had only yesterday predicted a clean sweep for the Congress in north Sikkim, admitted that the party had no idea where its candidate was or what prompted this turnaround.

"We deserve what we got," Mr. kazi admitted while explaining: "We have for long been aware that there were some senior Congress leaders who have been consistently working against the party interest. These are leaders who have sold out to the SDF. They obviously had a hand in what happened. We should have done something about such leaders earlier."

Mr. Kazi went on to state that if the ruling party had any hand in engineering Mr. Bhutia's last-minute ditch then such blatant "flouting of norms" needs to be condemned.

Details on what prompted Mr.

Bhutia to do [or not do] what he did are however still sketchy.

The rest of the Congress camp is understandably taking the news with suspicion and scepticism. The grapevine has it that the Congress is at "wit's end" trying to figure out what had actually happened up North on this crucial day.

Cong [I] Lok Sabha candidate, Biraj Adhikari, when asked to comment on the incident said: "I have been informed about today's incident. We are trying to get to the bottom of it. The youth supporters with Mr. Bhutia believe that he might have been kidnapped since he did reach the DC's office with them."

The supporters who had trooped to Gangtok, however, did not suspect kidnap. They are convinced that their leader sold out. With an event this big, conspiracy theories are bound to surface, the records, however will show a walkover for SDF.

Humanistic Buddhism

GANGTOK, 23 April: Venerable Chuehmen of Buddha's Light International Association, Taiwan is visiting Sikkim in connection with the propagation of Humanistic Buddhism on April 26. BLIA Sikkim Chapter has organized a function to welcome the Venerable Bhikshuni. The welcoming function will be held on the same day at 1 pm in the Conference Hall of Nepali Sahitya Parishad Bhawan, Gangtok. A progress report on the activities of BLIA will also be presented on the occasion. All are welcome to attend the function.

AFFIDAVIT

I Sudhir Kumar Singh, son of Shri Rajeshwar Singh, aged about 43 years, by faith Hindu, by occupation Service in NHPC, permanent resident of village and P.O. Amardah, P.S. Ichuapur, District Chapra, Bihar, presently residing at NHPC, Singtam, P.O and P.S Singtam, East Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:

1: That Miss Bittu Kumari, a student of class ix of NHPC Kendra Vidyalaya, Singtam, East Sikkim whose date of birth is 07/12/1990 is my own natural daughter.

2: That the correct and actual name of my said daughter is Neelam Kumari but at the time of her admission in School her nick name i.e. Bittu Kumari has wrongly been recorded.

3: That the person by names Neelam Kumari and Bittu Kumari are the names of one and the same person i.e. my said daughter.

4: That by virtue of this affidavit the correct and actual name of my daughter i.e. Neelam Kumari be recorded henceforth for all intents and purposes, whatsoever including in her School Admission Register.

I do hereby verify and state that the declarations made in paragraphs 1 to 4 hereinabove are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have signed this affidavit on this the 23rd day of April, 2004 at Gangtok, East Sikkim.

Deponent
Sudhir Kumar Singh



KAILASH-MANSAROVAR

Puja Morari Babu is reading the Ram Katha at Rakshastal from 5th to 13th June, 2004.

For details on attending this historic recitation, contact:

**SIKKIM HOLIDAYS/
EXPEDIA NEPAL**

ph: Ms. Pema @ 03592 237145, 9832015445

FIRST TIME IN SIKKIM
fully computerised
mobile repairing centre

**Ramola
CELLULAR**

SALES & SERVICES

Tharo Line, Lal Market
Road. Ph: 201062,
Mobile: 9832062684

DEALS IN ALL
TYPES OF
MOBILE
PHONES
AND
ACCESSORIES

AVAILABLE FOR LEASE A running restaurant in good condition at Gangtok Bazaar. For details, contact: 03592-202741

CLASSIFIED

ADMISSION OPEN In St. Mary's Convent School (Co-ed), Geyzing, West Sikkim - 737 111 for Class XI (Commerce only). Admission forms are available in School office from 24.04.04. For further information, contact the Principal, ph: 250706 Boarding facility is available for girls only

JOB An MNC needs 40 Freshers, Graduates/ Under-graduates for Management Training with Good Salary and Future Prospects. Walk-in-Interview at Ground Floor, Oberoi Building, New Market, Gangtok, between 11AM to 3PM

TO-LET

Flats available in Quiet and Decent environment exactly opposite Kanchen View Hotel [Pani House]. 24 hours running hot and cold water.

contact: Tseten Kutsabpa.
ph: 280271

ESTEEM FOR SALE!!

A Black Esteem Velocity for sale. Five months old, with all accessories including a Sony X-Plod CD system. Extremely reasonable.

Contact: 94342 41116

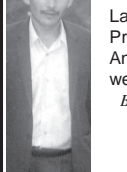
Antyesthi Kriya



The Antyesthi Kriya of Late Tikaram Karki (Kazi) falls on 24th April 2004. All the relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join the family at their residence to offer prayers to the departed soul. The family also takes this opportunity to thank all those who stood by us at our time of bereavement.

Kebar Singh Karki (father), Setipool, Ranipool, East Sikkim. Ph no: 251722/ 251569. Mobile: 9434103185

Anthyesti Kriya



Late Narendra Khatiwada, 37, Headmaster, Ramitey Primary School passed away on 13 April 2004. The Anthyesti Kriya falls on 25 April, 2004. All relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the Anthyestiya Kriya.

Budbilal Khatiwada [Father], Pabitra Khatiwada [Mother], Durga Khatiwada [Wife], Abinab Khatiwada [Son]
Lower Onglep, P.O. Sakyong, Gyalshing, West Sikkim.
ph: 03595 250127, 250137

SURABHI RAI SPEAKS TO NOW!

No substitute for hard work, says Kpg's IFS topper

KARAN SHAH

Stick to your dreams because lives without dreams are like broken winged birds," states Surabhi Rai.

She should know. Having just recently topped the Indian Forest Service [IFS] examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, in July last year, Surabhi has become the first girl from the hills to achieve this distinction. Surabhi's interest in the environment has been spurred by her family members, many of whom have achieved distinction in the field of Agriculture.

So did she always want to be in this field?

"No, I initially wanted to study medicine but did not secure enough marks to take it up, then I wanted to do journalism, but somehow that did not work out either. Initially when I took up Agriculture I thought that I would be a misfit but it was just a temporary feeling," she narrates frankly.

Surabhi is at present doing her PhD from the Indian Institute of Agriculture at Pusa near Delhi and puts the reason for her success to hard work and diligence.

"Hardwork is necessary to

achieve anything in life. For these exams I put in a lot of work. It took months of effort besides regular study of various magazines and group discussions. Intensive reading habit is also very essential," she informs.



So how did she react to the news? After all it's not everyday that someone from the hills comes first in national competitive exams.

"At first I could not believe it and logged on to the Internet to confirm the news. I never expected

such good results and at the same time I was missing my dad who has taught me a lot in life. I would have been so much happier if my father was there with me," she says wistfully.

Surabhi's father passed away last year. Her interest in nature and the environment grew because her father loved the elements.

Surabhi, who is from Kalimpong appeared for her class X examination from St Josephs Convent. She completed her Plus -2 from St Xavier's School, Pakyong. She then joined Bidhan Chandra Vidhalaya at Cooch Behar where she studied Agriculture.

She later switched base to Delhi to pursue higher studies. She went on to do her MSC in Horticulture from Indian Institute at Pusa and is currently doing her PhD from the same institute.

So what would be her advice for the people of the hills?

"The teachers and parents should help the youth and support them all the way while the young should obey the elders and they should remember that heights by great men were reached and kept but they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night," she concludes.

enquiring about the Polling Stations where they are registered as voters, may kindly ring up this number and request the Attendant online for help in obtaining the information. While seeking help from the Attendant at the Helpline, the electors are requested to kindly indicate their full name

and their father's name to facilitate the search. The Election Department has also hosted the Electoral Rolls in the Chief Electoral Officer's Website whose url is / <http://ceosikkim.nic.in>

Pawan Chamling [SDF], Damthang

Movable properties:

- Liquid cash: Rs. **1,70,000** (self) and Rs. **26,000** with his first wife, Dhan Maya Chamling and Rs. **2,69,498** with his second wife, Tika Maya Chamling
- Bank Deposits
Rs. **23,14,379** in his Central Bank account
Rs. **1,651** in his SBI Gangtok account
Rs. **28,42,762** in his SBI Namchi account
Rs. **10,11,693** in Tika Maya's personal UTI, Gangtok account
Rs. **3,18,929** in her SBI Namchi account
Rs. **8,11,248** in her SBI Gangtok account
Rs. **11,90,521** in SBI Gangtok, account of Nirman Prakashan,
Rs. **23,88,404** account of Mainam Nursery
Rs. **9,43,669** Cheque in hand received against the supply of books all in Tika Maya's name
Rs. **83,008** in the Savings account of daughter Komal Chamling
Rs. **85,172** in the Savings account of son Vivek Chamling
- National Insurance Company Ltd. Personal Accidents Insurance of Rs. **10,00,00** in his name
- Mahindra Scorpio worth Rs. **7,25,000** in Dhan Maya's name
- Three tolas of gold worth Rs. 21,300, precious stones worth Rs. 48,000 in his name. Total Rs. **69,3000**
Ten tolas of gold worth Rs. 71,000 in Dhan Maya's name, 22 tolas of gold worth Rs. 1,56,200 and precious stones worth Rs. 23,000 in Tika Maya's name. Total Rs. **1,79,200**
Two tolas of gold worth Rs. **14,200** in dependent Suneeta Chamling's name; 3 tolas of gold worth Rs. **21,300** in Komal Chamling's name; two tolas of gold worth Rs. **14,200** with dependent Sheela Chamling and two tolas of gold worth Rs. **14,200** with dependent Sushila Chamling
- Other assets:
Receivable claims from M/s Nirman Prakashan Rs. **8,73,294** (self), Recievable amount for supply of orchids by Mainam Nursery, Namchi to Tika Maya, Rs. **26,85,000** receivable amount from Sign Sikkim Pvt. Ltd Rs. **5,00,000** to Tika Maya and receivable private loan from Bijoy Chamling Rs. **8,00,000** to Tika Maya

Immovable properties:

- Agricultural land: Plots at Namphok worth Rs. 1,00,879; plots at Bumtar worth Rs. 1,74,083; plots at Gangchung worth Rs. 3,95,422; plots at Salleepong worth Rs. 3,95,422; plots at Kopchey in his name. Total Rs. **7,51,170**
Plots at Tinik, Gumpa Ghurpisey and Kopchey (Kamdaley) worth Rs. **5,36,185** in Tika Maya's name
- Non-Agricultural Land: Plot at Tadong worth Rs. **1.5 lakhs** in Dhan Maya's name
- Buildings (commercial and residential): RCC residential building at Gumpa Ghurpisey, Namchi worth Rs. **15,05,434** and RCC out-house at Gumpa Ghurpisey, Namchi worth Rs. **9,00,000**
House at Tadong, Gangtok worth Rs. **13,48,042** in Dhan Maya's name
- Houses/Apartments: House at Yanggang bazar worth Rs. **3,06,800** in his name
Book stall at super market in name of Nirman Prakashan worth Rs. **3,62,769** under Tika Maya; Flower shed at Ghumpa Ghurpisey worth Rs. **6,48,979** in Tika Maya's name and livestock shed at Ghumpa Ghurpisey worth Rs. **1,48,885** also in Tika Maya's name.

TOTAL WORTH - Rs. 2,41,48,486

EC HELPLINE FOR VOTERS

A Helpline has been set up in the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim bearing the following telephone number - **10780**

Anyone having difficulty in trying to trace his name in the Electoral Rolls / Voters List or

INTRODUCING SIKKIM TO SERVICE @ ITS BEST

Launching
Shortly
in Gangtok
in Association
with **NOW!**

Northern Lights™
Services
Service @ its best

We give you Service on Call;
All Bill Paying Assistance;
Airline Bookings; Car Finance;
General Insurance; Life Insurance; Issue of Privilege Cards; 24-hr Paramedic Service; Prepaid Taxi Service
Offices @ Kalimpong & Siliguri already operational.
OUR SERVICES BEYOND YOUR IMAGINATION
We undertake any service as desired by you
As we again say, "Service @ its best awaits your call."

for further information, please contact:
94341 43290 [Rishi]; fax: 03592 222707
northernlights@1netdrive.com

Compaq Presario SR1030IL

Quick Specs

- ◆ Intel Pentium® 4 Processor @ 2.6 GHz
- ◆ Turbo Linux Workstation Release 10.0
- ◆ 400 MHz Front-side Bus Speed
- ◆ 128 MB PC2100 DDR SDRAM (266 MHz); 2 DDR DIMM Slots [Expandable to 2GB with discard]
- ◆ 40GB* Ultra DMA ATA Hard Drive at 7200 RPM
- ◆ 48X/24X/48X/ CD-RW Drive
- ◆ ITU V.90 K56 Flex Data/ Fax Modem
- ◆ Intel® Extreme Graphics; up to 64 MB Dynamic Allocation
- ◆ Integrated AC'97 Codec - RealTek ALC658; JBL Platinum Speakers.
- ◆ **MV7500** [17"] Digital Colour Monitor
- ◆ Compaq Easy Access Internet Keyboard; Presario Optical, PS/2 Scroller Mouse.
- ◆ Two 5.25" External Bays [one available], Two 3.5" External Bays [one available], Two 3.5" Internal Bays [occupied], Three PCI Slots [two available]
- ◆ Front Access Ports: Two Hi-Speed USB 2.0, One IEEE 1394, One Line-in, Headphone, One Microphone
- ◆ Rear Access Ports: Four Hi-Speed USB 2.0, One IEEE 1394, One serial, One Parallel, One RJ-11, One RJ-45, Two PS/2 ports, Line-In, Line-Out, One Microphone, One external VGA Port

Rs. **36,400**
all inclusive



Amber Enterprises

MG Marg, Gangtok. ph: 220817

Amber Enterprises

Tadong. ph: 232881, 9434144124

today in
History

24th April

- 1704:** Boston News-Letter, 1st successful newspaper in US, established
- 1731:** Daniel Defoe English novelist (Robinson Crusoe), dies
- 1888:** Eastman Kodak forms
- 1897:** First reporter, William Price, assigned to White House
- 1898:** Spain declares war on US rejecting ultimatum to withdraw from Cuba
- 1915:** Massacre of Armenians by Turks (Armenian Martyrs Day)
- 1944:** 1st Boeing B-29 arrives in China "over the Hump"
- 1953:** Winston Churchill knighted by Queen Elizabeth II
- 1961:** JFK accepts "sole responsibility" following Bay of Pigs
- 1962:** MIT sends TV signal by satellite for first time

KOURNIKOVA SUED BY PARENTS OVER HOME

MIAMI: Anna Kournikova is being sued by her parents, who say the 22-year-old tennis starlet has taken over the waterfront home the three jointly own.

Sergei and Alla Kournikova filed the lawsuit last week in Miami-Dade Circuit Court. They want the seven-bedroom home "partitioned," meaning they want money for their share of the home. It was purchased for \$5 million in 2000.

Her agent, David Schwab, said Thursday he was unaware of the lawsuit and had no immediate comment.

Kournikova, who has never won a tournament and is known mostly for her supermodel looks, has not played competitive tennis in more than a year because of injuries.



DIANA FAMILY 'SHOCKED AND SICKENED' BY CBS PHOTOS

CBS broke what Britain's own media had long considered the ultimate taboo on Wednesday by showing photocopies of pictures of the much-loved princess at the scene of her death at 37 in a 1997 car crash.

The copies came from a file held by French authorities, who seized the pictures from paparazzi photographers racing behind Diana's Mercedes, the TV show, "48 Hours Investigates," said.

"Lord Spencer and his family are shocked and sickened by CBS's actions," said a statement released on behalf of Diana's brother, Earl Charles Spencer.

Asked about the program at his monthly news conference, Blair said: "I think everyone finds it distasteful that there are pictures which can cause distress to the family."

Many photographers arrived quickly at the scene of the crash and similar pictures appeared on Web sites and in European magazines shortly after Diana's death. But mainstream English-language media have until now opted not to show them.

Buckingham Palace, which speaks on behalf of Diana's sons William and Harry, said it would not comment on the CBS pictures, but did not hide its displeasure.



CHEF KILLS FRIEND, COOKS HIM

MEXICO CITY: A Mexican cook killed his drinking buddy, cut up his body and boiled him in herbs, according to police who fear he may have been turning him into tamales

Prosecutors said on Wednesday they had arrested Carlos Machuca, a tamale-maker, at his home in the western city of Morelia on Tuesday, after receiving an anonymous phone tip.

Officers found a man's mutilated corpse in the living room and body parts simmering in aluminum saucepans on the patio, state prosecutors revealed.

"We saw the flesh and the tamales, and our first impression was that he was making tamales with the flesh of the deceased, although it has yet to be confirmed," Lorena Cortes, a spokeswoman for Michoacan state prosecutors, said.

She also admitted that Machuca, 56, may just have been trying to dispose of the body. Police say he stabbed the man through the heart in a fight after they had drunk together.

Tamales are made of packets of maize dough with a savory or sweet filling, typically wrapped in corn husks or banana leaves. They often contain pork or chicken.

THE FUTURE, NOW!

ARIES: Your thoughts turn to love and this is a favorable time to bring out any concerns you have in your personal relationships. Agreements and cooperation can be achieved easily now.

TAURUS: You are contentious, argumentative, and impatient now. Disagreements erupt because you aren't willing to overlook minor irritations as readily as usual.

GEMINI: You feel quite amorous and affectionate now and will very much want to share this time with someone you love or at least with congenial company. Your creative or artistic inclinations are also stimulated.

CANCER: Your desire for love, companionship, and affection predominates at this time. A new friendship or romance could begin, or an established relationship can be revitalized and enhanced.

LEO: You feel love, affection, harmony with others, and a need for

beauty in your surroundings. Doing something to add to the attractiveness of your environment or appearance will make you happy.

VIRGO: Your usual routine is likely to be disrupted now, either by "freak" accidents beyond your control or by your own impatience with the status quo.

LIBRA: This is an excellent time to make decisions about your financial affairs, as your judgment is sound and reliable, though a bit conservative. Investing in beautiful things which are likely to increase in value over time (such as jewelry or fine art) is favored.

SCORPIO: Exchanging information, ideas, and opinions plays an important role in your life now. A significant conversation with someone who has a very different attitude or

perspective than your own is likely.

SAGITTARIUS: You are impulsively affectionate and flirtatious at this time, and you feel quite restless if you are in a stable, predictable relationship that offers little excitement.

CAPRICORN: Your vitality and courage are strong now and you are eager to meet challenges. You can accomplish a great deal of work, especially if it involves physical effort.

AQUARIUS: You are contentious, argumentative, and impatient now. Disagreements erupt because you aren't willing to overlook minor irritations as readily as usual. Confrontations with others may be fruitful if you don't allow your anger to get out of control.

PISCES: Underlying or previously hidden aspects of a situation come to light now.

RAMPANT RHINO GETS AMOROUS WITH CAR

LONDON: A rampant rhinoceros gave a group of visitors a glimpse of nature in the raw at a British safari park when he tried to have sex with their car.

Sharka, a two-ton white rhino, got amorous with Dave Alsop's car when he stopped with three friends to take pictures of the animal mating with his partner Trixie at the West Midland Safari Park.

The 12-year-old rhino tried to mount the Renault Laguna from the side, denting the doors and ripping off the wing mirrors before Dave drove away with a puffing Sharka in pursuit.

"He was a big boy and obviously aroused," Alsop told the *Sun* newspaper on Thursday. "He sidled up against us. The next thing I know he's banging away at the car and it's rocking like hell."

A spokeswoman for the park, which says "rhinos are not particularly intelligent animals" on its Web site, said Sharka was a hit with the female rhinos and had fathered two calves in the last five years.

"He's got a bit of a reputation this lad and he was obviously at it again," she added.

HELPFUL IN PAINFUL MENSTRUATION

Get Free from all anxieties by having just one CLEAR Tablet, 1-2 days before M.C. date

WARNING Herbal CLEAR may cause **ABORTION** if taken during PREGNANCY

SINGLE DOSE TABLET HAVING NO SIDE EFFECT

Available at all leading Medical Stores
E-mail: yosuraherbals@rediffmail.com

MOULD YOUR CAREER !!!

SPOT ADMISSIONS FOR:

BE, MBBS, BBM, MBA, BCA, MCA, BDS, BSc, MSc (Microbiology, Biotech,...), BPT (Bachelors in Physiotherapy) BA (Journalism, Mass Comm., Fashion Designing,...) and many more.

IN THE TOP RANKED COLLEGES OF :

Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh,...

CONTACT FOR APPLICATION FORM AT:

ACCESS CAREER SOLUTIONS

BYMSA Bldg, Opp. Central Bank, Bagdogra, Bihar More
Mobile:- 98320-96745

INDIA'S BEST SELLING PCs, NOW AVAILABLE AT MIND-BLOWING PRICES.

STARTING @ Rs. 18,000/-* WITH COLOUR PRINTER

HCL EzeeBee: - Intel® Pentium®4 Processor, 2.0 GHz, 128MB DDRAM, 40 GB HDD, 52 X CD ROM, 1.44 FDD, Internet Keyboard, Scroll Mouse, 10/100 Mbps NIC, Internal Modem, Speakers, 15" Color Monitor, Linux 10.0® **Rs. 24,500/-***

HCL Beanstalk:-Intel® Pentium®4 Processor 2.5 GHz, 128 MB DDRAM, 40 GB HDD, CD Writer, 1.44 FDD, Multimedia Keyboard, Optical Mouse, 10/100 Mbps NIC, Internal Modem, Altec Lansing Speaker with Super Woofer, 17" Dyna Flat Monitor, Joy Stick, Head Phone with Microphone, 41 Thunder CD Pack, Windows XP Home @ **Rs. 36,000/-***

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS NEVER AGAIN OFFER AND GET ONE HOME TODAY

GO BRANDED GO HCL

HCL Desktop PCs Rated No 1 by Dataquest - IDC Customer Satisfaction Audit 2004

Sole authorized dealer in Sikkim:
NAYUMA INFOSYS, SSI EDUCATION, NEAR KRISHI BHAWAN, TADONG, GANGTOK, PHONE: 270876, CELL: 9832097317, 9832089970
* Freight & Local Taxes extra